



Lesson #1: Timeline

Turn it into a mobile, hanging from the ceiling.

Or wide timeline (using 8x11 sheets of paper) that stretches across the classroom wall.

# TIMELINE: The Age of Exploration

Ten to remember . . .

- 1453 The Ottoman Turks captured Constantinople.  
From then on, the land route to Asia was closed.  
So Europeans tried to find a sea route to Asia.
  
- 1492 **Columbus** - Sailed westward to reach Asia. Instead, he landed in the Americas\*. **ITALY**  
Columbus was significant for two major reasons:  
1. He landed on two continents that Europe did not know *existed*.  
2. He was the first person to establish a long-term relationship between Europe and the Americas.  
The sharing of goods and ideas between the New World and the Old World is known as  
the *Columbian Exchange*.  
  
\*In 1501, **Vespucci** sailed along the coast of Brazil. He went home to Italy and told folks that this was not Asia.  
In Florence, he sought out Lorenzo de Medici, Europe's richest banker. Medici popularized Vespucci.  
Both continents - North America and South America - were named after his first name, "Amerigo. "
  
- 1497 **John Cabot** - Explored eastern Canada. **FROM ITALY, SAILED FOR ENGLAND**  
From then on, England claimed the mainland of North America.
  
- 1498 **Vasco da Gama** - Sailed east to Asia. **PORTUGAL**  
Went around Africa and sailed across the Indian Ocean to India. Proved Asia could be reached by sea.
  
- 1513 **Ponce de Leon** - Sailed to Florida. **SPAIN**  
This led to the exploration and settlement of the U.S.
  
- 1513 **Balboa** - Sailed to Panama. **SPAIN**  
This was the narrowest piece of land between the Atlantic and Pacific.  
He walked across it and became the first European to see the eastern shore of the Pacific Ocean.  
His discovery led to Magellan's voyage west - across the Pacific.  
His discovery led to Pizarro's voyage south - to the Inca Empire in Peru.
  
- 1519 **Magellan** - Sailed around South America and across the Pacific Ocean, to get to Asia. **PORTUGAL**  
His expedition was the first to circumnavigate the world.  
His route was impractical for Europeans sailing to Asia.  
The Strait of Magellan was too far south and the Pacific Ocean too vast.  
As a result, Europeans followed Vasco da Gama's route around Africa - and then on to Asia.
  
- 1519 **Cortez** - Sailed to Mexico and conquered the Aztecs. **SPAIN**  
His victory opened North America to Spanish rule.
  
- 1532 **Pizarro** - Sailed to Peru and conquered the Inca. **SPAIN**  
His conquest of Peru opened South America to Spanish rule.
  
- 1535 **Cartier** - Sailed to Canada. **FRANCE**  
Sailed up the St. Lawrence River to Montreal.
  
- 1577 **Drake** - First Englishman to sail around the world. **ENGLAND**  
Took the same route as Magellan.