

"Epic **journeys**" refers to travel

Throughout history people have always wondered what was beyond the next mountain, ocean, river, or even planet.

The Age of Exploration

Exploration took place between the 15th and 17th centuries. During this time many countries in Europe sent out explorers to discover new lands, find trade routes, seek treasure, and gain territory for their country.



Why People Explore?

Most explorers certainly like the adventure of going to a new place, meeting new people and cultures, or taking on new challenges!

Trade - Many countries and rulers funded explorers in order to find new trade partners and goods. In some cases, they hoped to find new trade routes that would help them to transport goods cheaper than their competitors. This was the case of **Vasco da Gama** and **Christopher Columbus**.

Gold - Often explorers have been in search of riches and treasure. The **Conquistadors** were primarily searching for gold and silver when they conquered the Native Americans of the New World.

Science - In many cases, explorers are scientists hoping to learn about nature and new parts of the world. They may be hoping to find a new species of animal or type of plant.

Land - Many explorers claimed the land they found in the name of their country. Countries like Spain, Portugal, and Great Britain created huge empires during the Age of Exploration.

Challenge - Many explorers wanted to test their personal limits and be the first in the world to do

something. These types of explorers include the men who raced to be the first to the North and South Poles, the top of Mount Everest, and to the Moon.

At 11:30 a.m, on May 29 1953, Edmund Hillary of New Zealand and Tenzing Norgay, a Sherpa of Nepal, become the first explorers to reach the summit of Mount Everest, which at 29,035 feet above sea level is the highest point on earth.

Yuri Gagarin

1st human journey into space, April 12, 1961. Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin (photo) became the first human to travel into outer space and perform the first manned orbital flight in Vostok 1 on April 12, 1961.

I found out some interesting facts below:

Here are some of the oldest, continuously inhabited cities in the world today.

***Jericho, West Bank
Byblos, Lebanon
Athens, Greece
Plovdiv, Bulgaria
Sidon, Lebanon***

The Oldest City

Damascus *is widely believed to be the oldest continuously inhabited city in the world, with evidence of habitation dating back at least 11,000 years. Its location and persistence have made the city a nexus for civilizations come and gone.*

World Explorers

***Roald Amundsen
Neil Armstrong
Ibn Battuta
Nellie Bly
Daniel Boone
Christopher Columbus
Captain James Cook
Hernan Cortes***

Epic journeys of discovery

***Roald Amundsen's Northwest Passage expedition
Livingstone's travels through Africa
Shackleton's failed Trans-Antarctic Expedition
Cook's voyage aboard Endeavour
Lewis and Clark Expedition
Charles Lindbergh's first solo transatlantic flight
Burke and Wills' crossing of Australia***

THE PAST

Christopher Columbus was an Italian master navigator and admiral who completed four voyages across the Atlantic Ocean that opened the way for European exploration, exploitation, and colonization of the Americas. His expeditions, sponsored by the Catholic Monarchs of Spain, were the first European contact with the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.



On his famous 1492 voyage, Columbus had promised a reward of gold to whoever saw land first.

His famous ship, Santa Maria, was nicknamed “La Gallega” after Galicia where it was built.



PRESENT DAY

Largest Forrest Area

Is in Russia – 7,762,602 km (2,997,157 mi) which are 45.40% of the country's land area. Russia is not only the largest country in the world, but also the country with the largest forest area. The forest area of Russia alone is the size of the entire continent of Australia.

The Most Dangerous Forest

The Darién Gap, found between Colombia and Panama, linking Central and South America, the Darién Gap is one of the most dangerous jungles in the world, filled with deadly wildlife and guerrilla members. It is between 100 km and 160 km (60-100 miles) of lawless, hazardous wilderness.

THE BULLET TRAIN

The Shinkansen, colloquially known in English as the bullet train, is a network of high-speed railway lines in Japan. Initially, it was built to connect distant Japanese regions with Tokyo, the capital, in order to aid economic growth and development. The speeds increased over the years reaching the figure of 177 mph in 2015.



