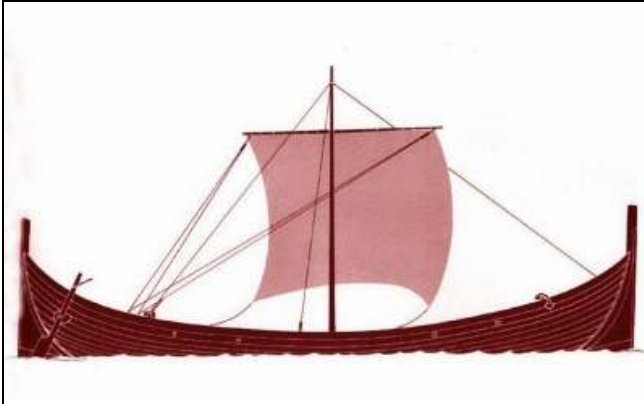


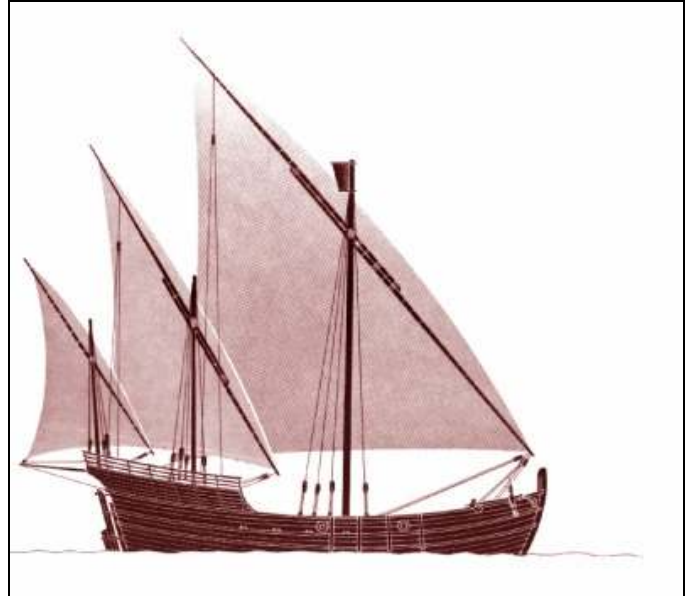
Early Attempts at Exploration

Activity #1: Create a T-chart to compare the following images. List the similarities in the left-hand column and the differences in the right-hand column.

Viking Ship (ancient era)

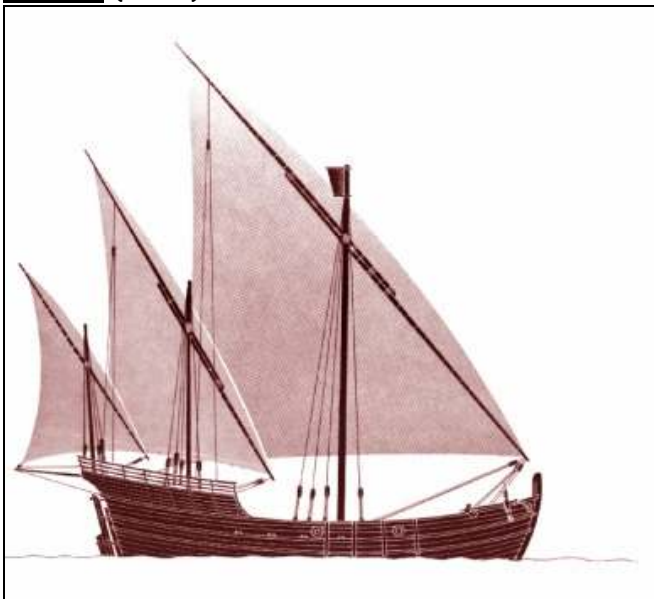


Caravel (1470)

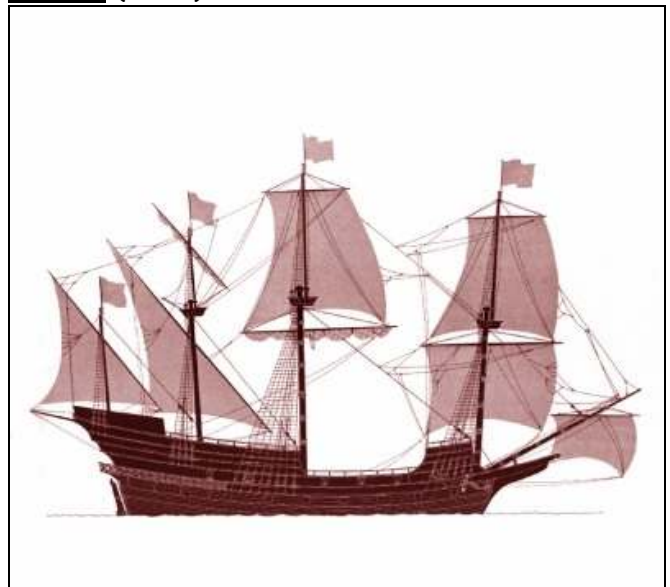


Activity #2: Create a T-chart to compare the following images. List the similarities in the left-hand column and the differences in the right-hand column.

Caravel (1470)



Galleon (1590)



Activity #3: Complete the following reading and answer the questions along the way.

In the early 1400s the countries of Europe began to improve their sailing technology and use it to explore the world around them. There were several reasons that motivated Europeans to spend the large amounts of money and time necessary to explore the world. In some cases, the motive was trade and profit. In other cases, the motive was the glory that would come with making new discoveries. A third motive was the desire to spread Christianity to other parts of the world.

Question #1: What were three different things that motivated Europeans to explore the world?

After the Crusades, Europeans developed a desire for luxury items that had long been traded from the East (Persia, India, China, etc.). The lure of profits from the cotton, silk, precious stones, exotic spices, and slaves that could be traded prompted Europeans to find a better way to get access to these items. Merchants had used land routes to trade for these exotic goods, but these routes were long and costly when compared to the possibility of trading by ships.

Question #2: What did Europeans' desire to trade have to do with exploring the world?

In the 700s, Muslim Empires conquered North Africa, the Eastern Mediterranean, and Spain. In the next few centuries, Europeans launched the Crusades and the Reconquista. This fighting led to anger between Christian and Muslim kingdoms, which cut off overland trade to the East.

Question #3: Why were Europeans unable to trade with areas in the East for hundreds of years?

By the 1200s Europeans traded using the Mediterranean Sea, but were still not able to cross oceans. However, trading across the Mediterranean Sea brought them into contact with cultures that had developed better ship technologies. The introduction of these new technologies to Europe was key to European adventurers who wanted to build ships that could carry people further across the seas.

Question #4: How did Europeans learn how to make better ships?

Experience with the outside world taught Europeans that most of the world's population was not Christian. Knowledge of this fact pushed many Europeans to try to convert people outside of Europe to Christianity. To protect the Church's influence in newly discovered areas, the Church sent missionaries to accompany many of the overseas voyages. Some European kingdoms, especially Portugal and Spain, argued that the spread of Christianity was the most important reason for exploring the world and conquering lands overseas.

Question #5: How did religion motivate Europeans to explore the world?

At first, private businessmen (not the government) paid for small-scale voyages. These early voyages were organized to trade with people outside of Europe. Ships were sent along the coast of Africa to find areas where Europeans could trade or raid goods and slaves. These early voyages by merchants and adventurers proved that exploration could make money and eventually European kings/queens began to take a greater interest. The kingdoms of Portugal and Spain were early pioneers that sponsored many voyages of exploration. The Portuguese focused mostly on creating an overseas trading empire while the Spanish sought to conquer land and create colonies.

Question #6: Who paid for the first attempts at exploration? Why?

Question #7: What changed once governments became involved in the exploring business?