

FERDINAND MAGELLAN

Magellan was born in Portugal. He grew up in a wealthy family and served as a page in the royal court. He enjoyed sailing and exploring and sailed for Portugal for many years.

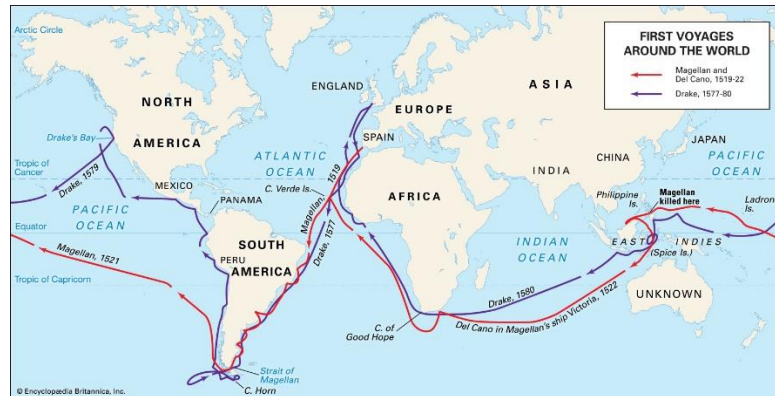
Magellan had travelled to India by sailing around Africa, but he had the idea that there may be another route by travelling west and around the Americas. The King of Portugal did not agree and argued with Magellan. Finally, he went to visit King Charles V of Spain who agreed to fund the voyage.



In September of 1519 Magellan set sail his attempt to find another route to Eastern Asia. There were over 270 men and 5 ships under his command. The ships were the Trinidad, the Santiago, the Victoria, the Concepcion and the San Antonio.

They first sailed across the Atlantic and the Canary Islands. From there they sailed south to Brazil and the Coast of South America. Soon he found the passage he was seeking. He called it the All Saints' Chanel, today the Straits of Magellan.

Finally, he entered into a new ocean on the other side of the new world. He called the ocean the Pacific. It took four months for the ships to make it to the Mariana Islands.



Then the ships headed to the Philippines where he and 40 men were killed in a battle in 1521.



Elcano

He was born in 1476 in Getaria, Gipuzkoa in Spain. From his childhood he was a sailor and a fisherman.



Charles V had selected Magellan to lead an expedition made up of 5 ships and 239 men to find out a shortcut to the Far East by going around the tip of South America. Elcano was selected as Magellan's second-in-command. When Magellan was killed in 1521, Elcano commanded the last ship in the expedition. They left the Spice Islands in December. On September 8, 1522.

Elcano and his crew reached Spain completing Magellan's expedition. The King gave him his Coat of Arms. He died in 1526.

The voyage proved that the Earth was round.

