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| **Explorer/**  **Conquistador** | **Dates** | **Accomplishments** |
| **Hernando Cortes** | 1521 | Spanish conquistador who defeated the Aztecs with the help of the Native Americans.  Destroyed city of Tenochtitlan, replaced temples with Catholic Churches |
| **Francisco Pizarro** | 1530 - 1535 | Spanish conquistador who conquered the Inca empire and their leader Atahualpa. Destroyed temples and Inca cities. |
| **Juan Ponce de Leon** | 1513 | First governor of Puerto Rico  Discovered the peninsula of Florida and claimed it for Spain  Searched for the Fountain of Youth |
| **Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo** | 1542 | Searched for gold along the Pacific coast and claimed Oregon and San Diego Bay for Spain |
| **Marcos de Niza** | 1539 | Priest who searched for Cibola - 7 cities of gold  (it did not exist)  He exaggerated that he did see it |
| **Hernando de Soto** | 1539 | First European to cross the Mississippi River |
| **Francisco Vasquez De Coronado** | 1540 | In his search for the golden cities (Cibola), his expedition came across the Grand Canyon |
| **Panfilo de Narvaez** | 1527 | Explored Florida’s West coast in search of gold. He was killed at sea while sailing across the Gulf of Mexico |
| **Cabeza de Vaca** | 1535 | Survived captivity of Native Americans and later explored by foot from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific coast |
| **Juan de Onate** | 1598 | Wanted to find riches (gold) and establish colonies  Started the settlements of El Paso, San Juan and Santa Fe (Texas) |
| **Explorer/**  **Conquistador** | **Dates & Country sailed for** | **Accomplishments** |
| **Amerigo Vespucci** | **Spain 1499**  **Portugal 1501** | His first name was used to name the New World  America because of several trips and maps he made |
| **Pedro Cabral** | **1501 Portugal** | Claims land east of the Line of Demarcation in South America in present day Brazil |
| **Vasco Nunez de Balboa** | **1513 - Spain** | Names the Pacific Ocean the South Sea |
| **Ferdinand Magellan** | **1519 - Spain** | His crew was first to circumnavigate the earth, he died on the voyage |
| **John Cabot** | **1498 - England** | Claimed the northeast coast of North America (which would become the 13 colonies) for England |
| **Giovanni da Verrazano** | **1524 – France** | Searched for a Northwest Passage to Asia. He never found the passage and returned to France. |
| **Jacques Cartier** | **1535 - France** | Discovered and claimed the St. Lawrence River for France. Failed to find a Northwest Passage, but did pave the way for the French fur trade. |
| **Samuel de Champlain** | **1608 – France** | Founded a fur trading post on the St. Lawrence River that became the first French settlement in America - named it Quebec |
| **Henry Hudson** | **Dutch - 1609**  **England - 1610** | Ship named the Half Moon  Claimed Hudson Bay and Hudson River |