

LEQ: Sailors from what country were the first to sail from Europe to Asia?



This map shows the voyages of Pedro Cabral in 1500, including when he was blown off course and landed in what is now Brazil. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

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Portugal



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The Portuguese



This image shows Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama landing in Calicut, India on May 20, 1498. This watercolor by Luis de Camoes was produced in 1880. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Portugal was a leader in finding a water route to Asia.



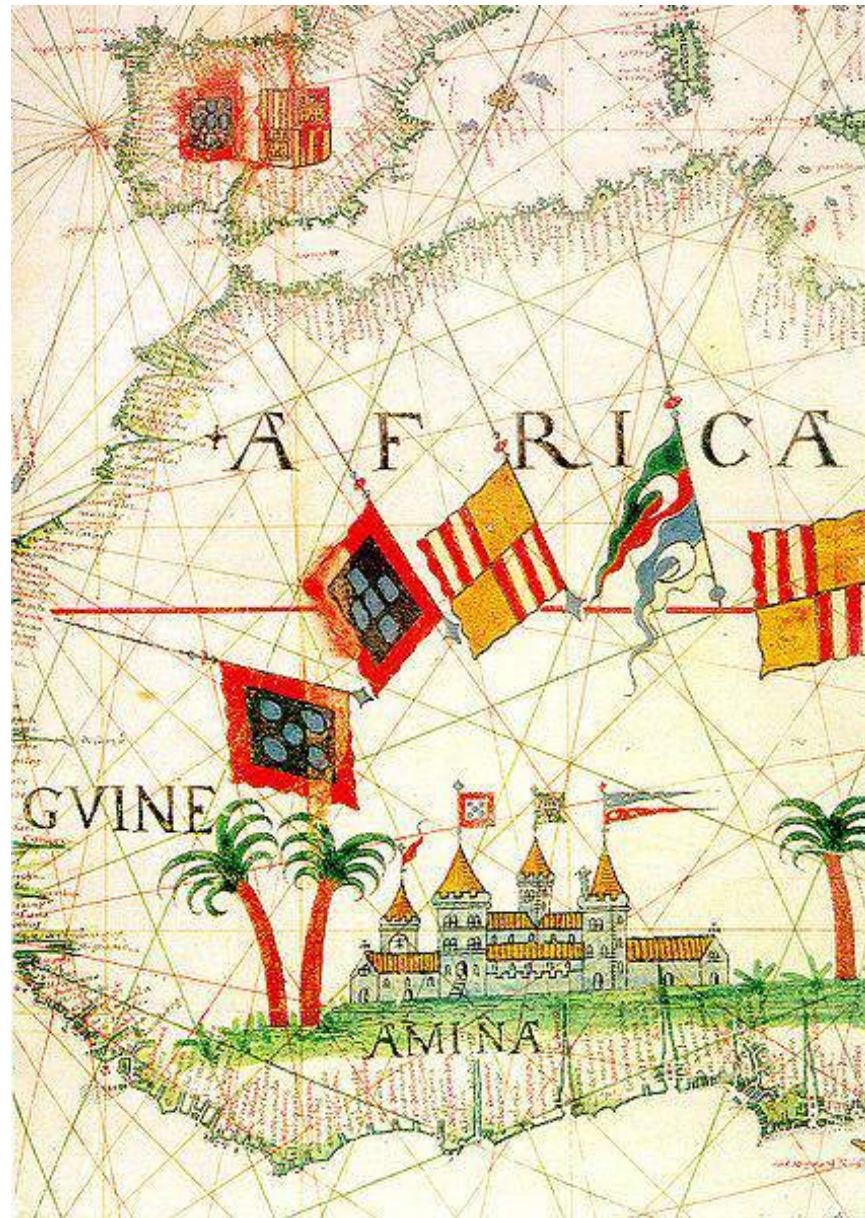
This painting is titled *Portuguese Carracks off a Rocky Coast*. A carrack was a sailing ship with three or four masts developed in the 1400s in Western Europe. It was built for use in the Atlantic Ocean. This painting depicts the carrack *Santa Catarina do Monte Sinai* and other Portuguese navy ships in the 1500s. It was produced circa 1540 by Joachim Patinir. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The Portuguese were led in their exploration efforts by an individual named Prince Henry the Navigator.



Infante Dom Henrique de Avis, Duke of Viseu, better known as Henry the Navigator (1394-1460), has been given credit for the early development of European exploration and maritime trade with other continents. This image was painted in the 1400s. This image is courtesy of the National Museum of Ancient Art and of Wikimedia Commons

The Portuguese began their journey to Asia by exploring the western coast of Africa.



This image is a 16th century map of a section of western Africa showing Portuguese claims: "Guine" (Guinea) and "Amina," (the Mina Coast along the Gulf of Guinea). This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Many ships that floated in the Mediterranean Sea during the 1400s were too slow and heavy to make an ocean voyage.



This image shows a model of a knarr, which was a type of cargo vessel. A knarr relied solely on a square rigged sail for propulsion. This model is in the Haithabu, Germany Museum and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Henry the Navigator, however, produced a lighter ship, the caravel, which could sail further and faster than any existing ships.



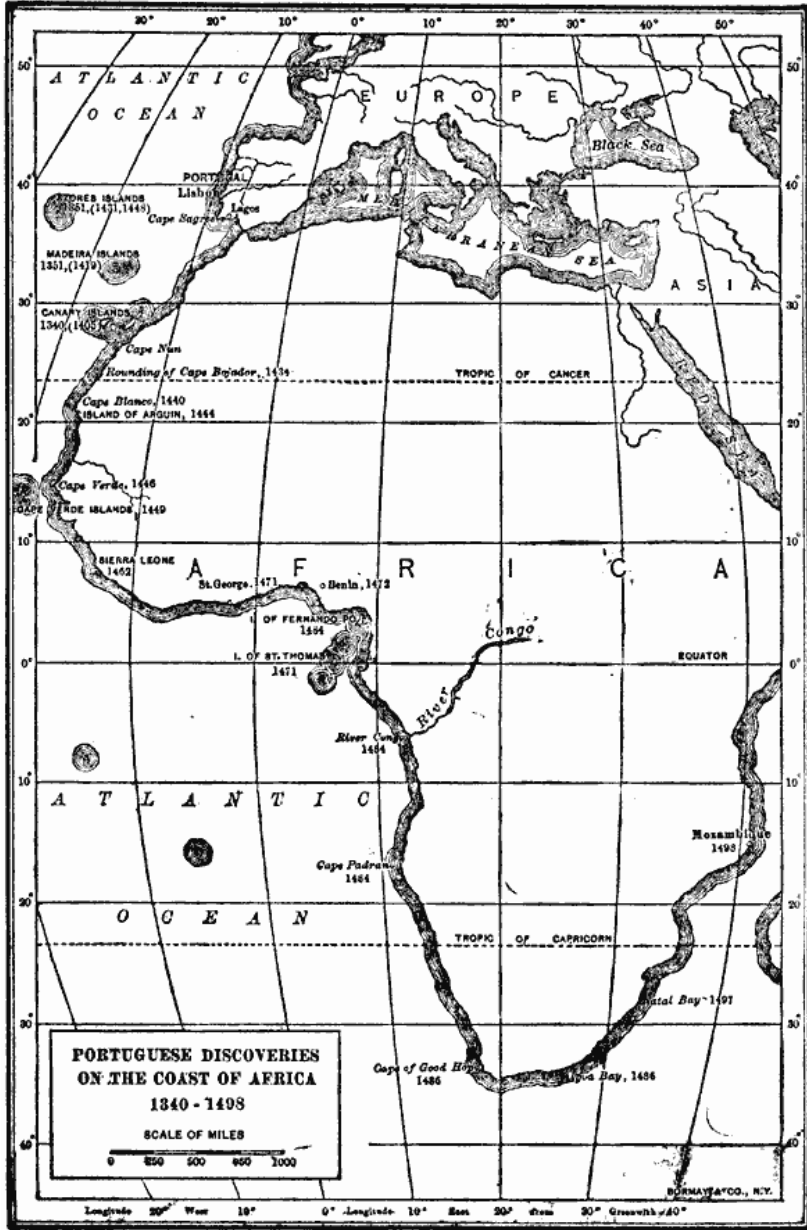
A caravel is a small, highly maneuverable sailing ship with lateen triangular sails. A lateen sail was suspended at a slanted angle from a mast. These sails gave her speed and an easier method of changing direction. This image was photographed at the Marine Museum in Paris, France, and is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The caravel was probably adapted from fishing vessels. Also the same type of ship was sailed long distances by the Phoenicians (600 B.C.E.). In Egypt they were called caravos.



This Phoenician ship was carved on the face of a sarcophagus around 100 C.E. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The Portuguese mapped the coast of Africa.



This image is a map of Africa showing Portuguese discoveries along the coast from 1340 to 1498 C.E. This map was created circa 1906 for the textbook *The American Nation Volume 1* by Albert Bushnell Hart. Page 71.

The Portuguese captured slaves.



This image shows the Portuguese presenting themselves before the King of the Kongo (Congo). The Portuguese initially fostered a good relationship with the Kongo, but civil war within the Kongo led to many of its subjects ending up as enslaved people by the Portuguese and other European countries. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The Portuguese found gold.



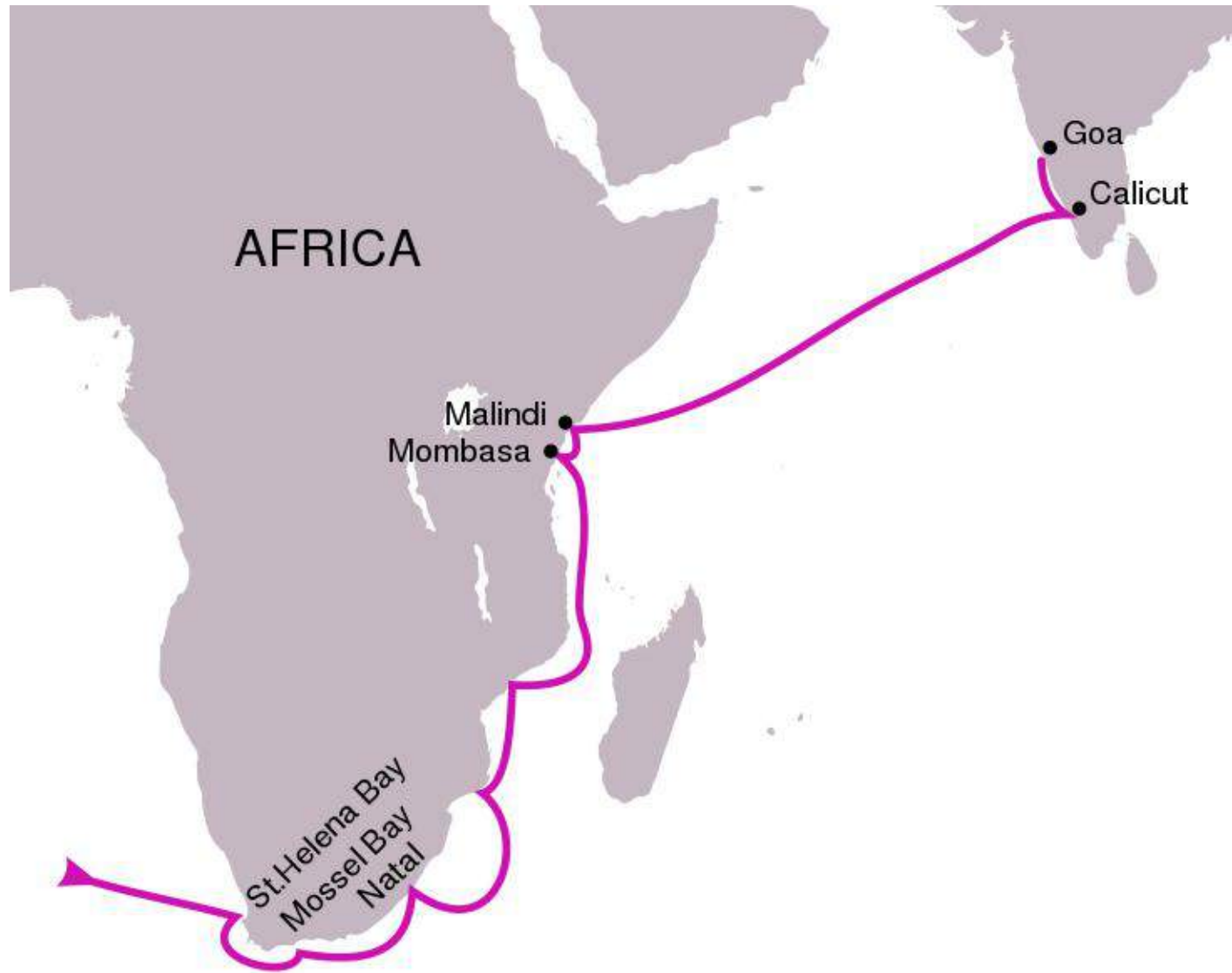
This image shows the arrival of the Portuguese along the shores of the Senegal River in 1445. This image is from 1795 and is courtesy of the National Museum of African Arts and of the Ocean.

In 1488, four years before Columbus made his first voyage to the Americas, Bartholomeu Diaz skirted the southern coast of Africa.



This map shows the route of the voyage of Bartholomeu Diaz around the southern coast of Africa in 1487-1488. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

By 1498, six years after Columbus' first voyage to the Americas, Vasco da Gama reached India.



This map shows the route followed in Vasco da Gama's first voyage to India (1497-1499). This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The Portuguese eventually established profitable markets in Africa and Asia.



Elmina Castle in Ghana was erected by Portugal in 1482. It was the first trading post built on the Gulf of Guinea. First established as a trade settlement, the castle later became one of the most important stops on the route of the African slave trade. This photograph by Dave Ley, taken in the Fall of 2003, is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

Vast riches began arriving in Portugal as the travel by water was faster than traveling by land, and the Arab “middle men” were cut out of the trading.



This photograph is of a replica of the *Flor de la Mar*, a Portuguese carrack of 400 tons. For nine years she participated in decisive events in the Indian Ocean until she was sunk in 1511. It was returning from sacking Malacca, Malaysia with a huge amount of treasure for the Portuguese King when it sank off the coast of Sumatra. This replica is at the Maritime Museum in Malacca. This image, taken by Felix Andrews on January 27, 2006 is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

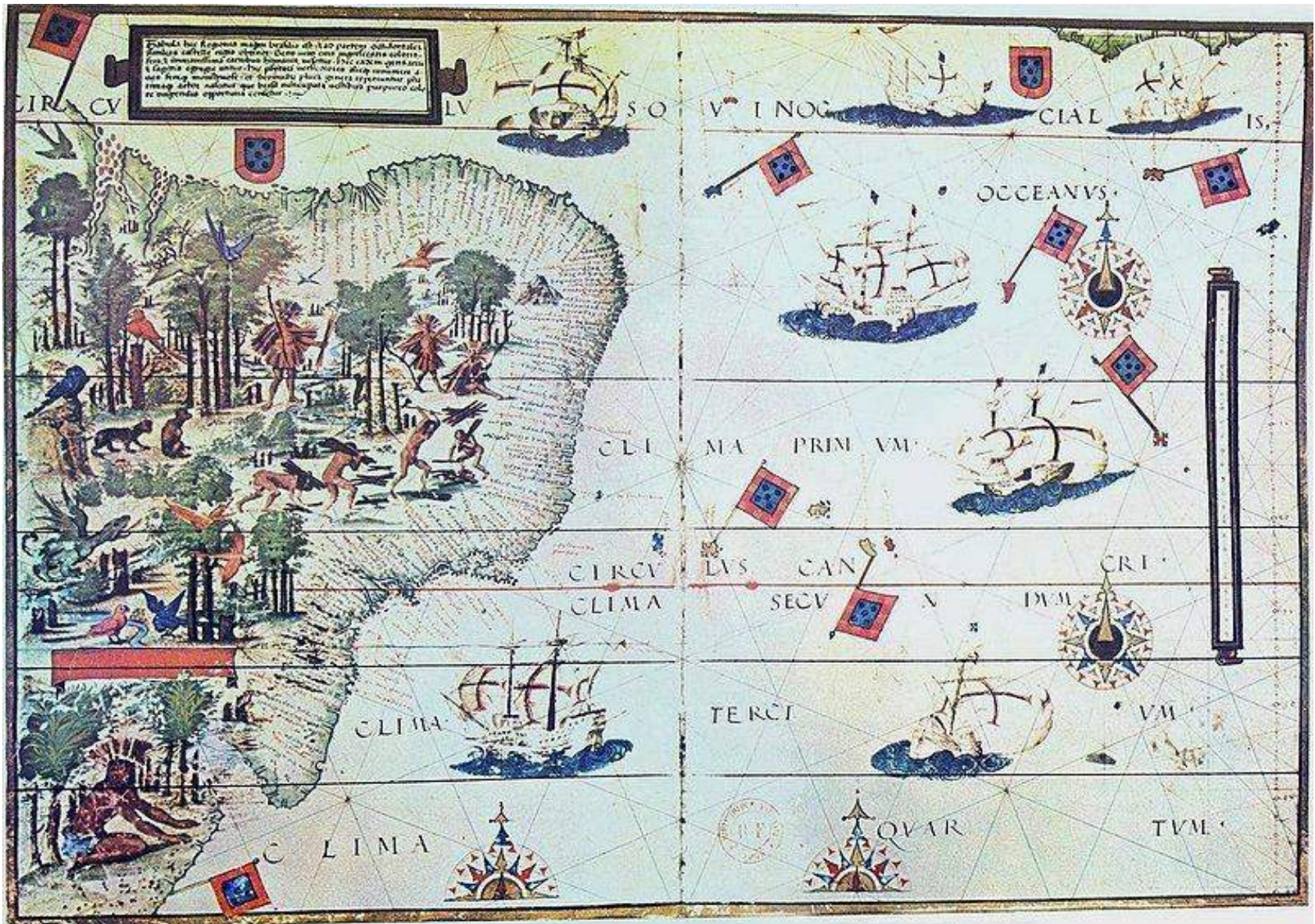
Brazil was discovered by chance in 1500 when a Portuguese explorer was blown off course on his way to Asia.



Cabral's voyage to Brazil and Calicut, 1500

This map shows the voyages of Pedro Cabral in 1500, including when he was blown off course and landed in what is now Brazil. This image is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

The Portugese established a colony in Brazil.



This image is a Portuguese map by Lopo Homan showing the coast of Brazil and natives extracting brazilwood. Brazilwood is most frequently used for making bows for string instruments from the violin family. Portuguese ships are also shown. This image, created circa 1519, is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

However, the profits that the Portuguese made from their efforts in Brazil were small compared with their trade with Asia.



This painting shows a Brazilian sugar making plantation. This oil on canvas painting depicts a sugar mill and a chapel at the top of the hill. This image, painted circa 1557, is courtesy of Wikimedia Commons.

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