

Explorers

Vasco da Gama: The Pioneering Portuguese Explorer

Vasco da Gama, a renowned Portuguese explorer of the 15th century, is often celebrated as one of the most influential figures in the Age of Exploration. His remarkable voyages and tenacity in seeking a direct sea route to India



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Vasco da Gama's most renowned expedition began in 1497, when he embarked on a journey that would change the course of history. He was commissioned by King Manuel I of Portugal to find a sea route to India, bypassing the dangerous and costly land routes dominated by Arab and Venetian merchants. With a fleet of four ships, including the flagship São Gabriel, Vasco da Gama set sail from Lisbon. This daring voyage would take him around the southern tip of Africa, a region known as the Cape of Good Hope, and into the Indian Ocean.

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The journey was fraught with peril, as the uncharted waters and fierce storms tested the resilience of Vasco da Gama and his crew. After more than a year of hardship, on May 20, 1498, they finally reached the shores of India, landing in the city of Calicut (locally known as Kozhikode). This historic achievement marked the first direct sea route from Europe to India, opening up a new era of trade and exploration.

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Vasco da Gama's discovery of the sea route to India was a pivotal moment in world history. His far-reaching voyage, driven by the quest for spices and trade, opened up a new world of opportunity for Europe. This achievement paved the way for the Age of Exploration, leading to the discovery of the Americas and the establishment of global trade networks. Vasco da Gama's legacy is one of courage and discovery, and his journey continues to inspire us to explore the unknown. His discovery of the sea route to India was a pivotal moment in world history. His far-reaching voyage, driven by the quest for spices and trade, opened up a new world of opportunity for Europe. This achievement paved the way for the Age of Exploration, leading to the discovery of the Americas and the establishment of global trade networks. Vasco da Gama's legacy is one of courage and discovery, and his journey continues to inspire us to explore the unknown.

In conclusion, Vasco da Gama's pioneering spirit and determination to find a sea route to India reshaped the world in important ways. His legacy lives on as a testament to the power of exploration and the enduring impact of those who dare to chart new horizons in the pursuit of knowledge and prosperity.

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- 1) What was Vasco da Gama's primary objective during his famous expedition in 1497?
 - a) To explore the coast of Africa
 - b) To establish Portuguese colonies in India
 - c) To find a direct sea route to India
 - d) To search for hidden treasures in the Atlantic Ocean

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b) The discovery of new trade routes to China
c) The colonization of South America
d) The exploration of the Arctic region
- 5) When did Vasco da Gama pass away?
 - a) In 1498, shortly after reaching India
 - b) In 1460, at the start of his exploration career
 - c) In 1492, before embarking on his famous voyage
 - d) In 1524, during his later years in India

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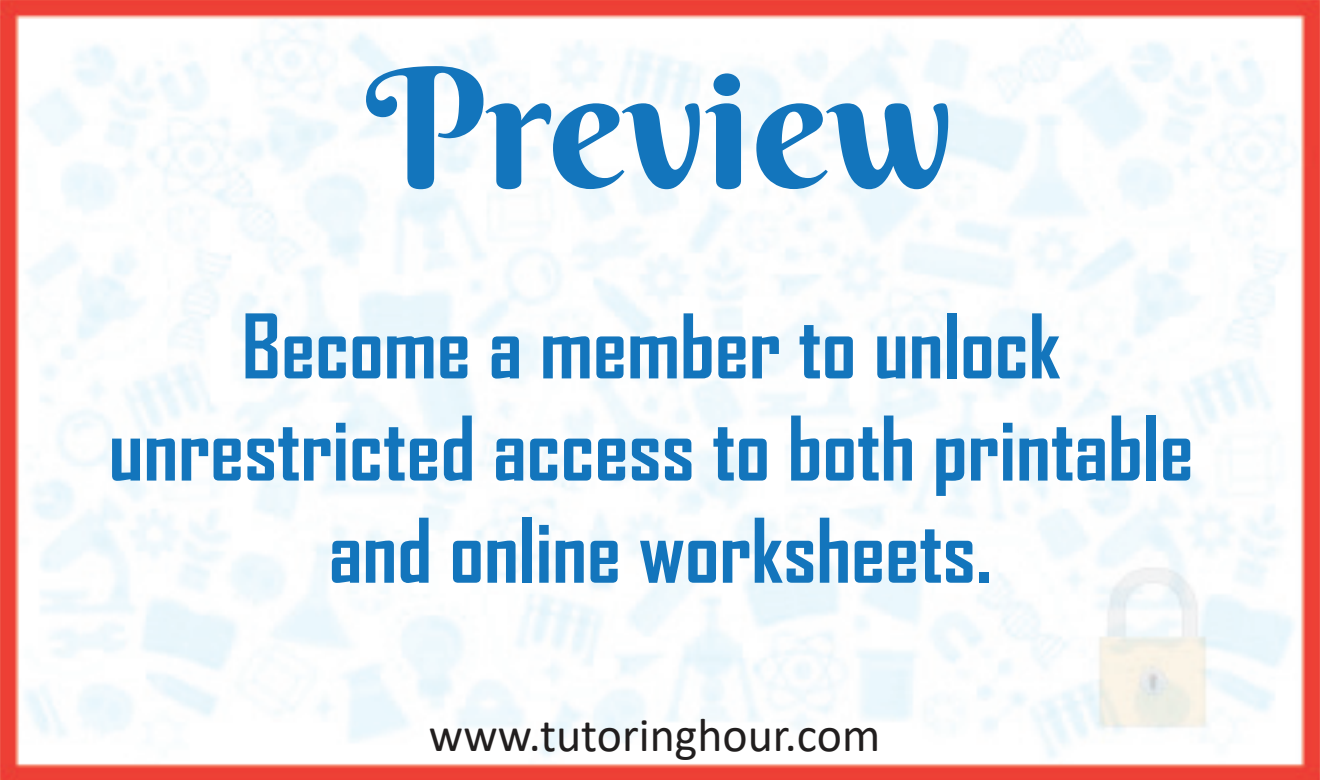
6) Why was finding a direct sea route to India such a significant goal for Vasco da Gama and the Portuguese Crown?

7) How did Vasco da Gama's successful voyage impact the course of European exploration and colonization?

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10) In what ways did Vasco da Gama's expeditions exemplify the spirit of the Age of Exploration?
