

CHAPTER  
**14**  
SECTION 1

## Section Summary

### THE SEARCH FOR SPICES

#### READING CHECK

What was the main source of the spices Europeans wanted?

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#### VOCABULARY STRATEGY

Find the word *authority* in the underlined sentence. Sometimes a word will be defined nearby. Clue words or phrases that signal a definition include *which means, also known as, and or*. Notice that *authority* is defined within this sentence. Find the clue word that signals the definition. Circle the word in the sentence that could help you figure out what *authority* means.

#### READING SKILL

##### Identify Causes and Effects

Identify one cause of European exploration.

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Identify one effect of Portugal's explorations along the coast of Africa.

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By the 1400s, Europe's demand for trade goods, especially valuable spices, was growing. The chief source of spices was the **Moluccas**, an island chain in present-day Indonesia. Arab and Italian merchants controlled most trade between Asia and Europe. Europeans outside Italy wanted their own access to Asia's trade goods.

**Prince Henry** encouraged Portuguese sea exploration. He believed that Africa was the source of the riches the Muslim traders controlled. He also hoped to reach Asia by going along the African coast. **Cartographers** prepared maps for the voyages. In 1497, **Vasco da Gama** led four Portuguese ships around the southern tip of Africa. Eventually, they reached the great spice port of Calicut on the west coast of India. Soon, the Portuguese seized ports around the Indian Ocean and created a vast trading empire.

Now others looked for a sea route to Asia. The Italian navigator **Christopher Columbus** persuaded Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain to pay for his voyage. In 1492, Columbus sailed west with three small ships. When the crew finally spotted land, they thought they had reached the Indies, or Southeast Asia. What Columbus had actually found were previously unknown lands.

The Spanish rulers asked Spanish-born Pope Alexander VI to support their authority, or power, to claim the lands of this "new world." The pope set the **Line of Demarcation**. This gave Spain rights to lands west of the line; Portugal had rights to lands east of the line. Both countries agreed to these terms in the **Treaty of Tordesillas**.

Europeans still had not found a quick sea route to Asia, however. In 1519, a Portuguese nobleman named **Ferdinand Magellan** sailed west from Spain to find a way to the Pacific Ocean. In 1520, he found a passageway at the southern tip of South America. Magellan was killed along the way, but the survivors of this voyage were the first to **circumnavigate**, or sail around, the world.

#### Review Questions

1. Why did European explorers seek a direct sea route to Asia?

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2. Who was Vasco da Gama?

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