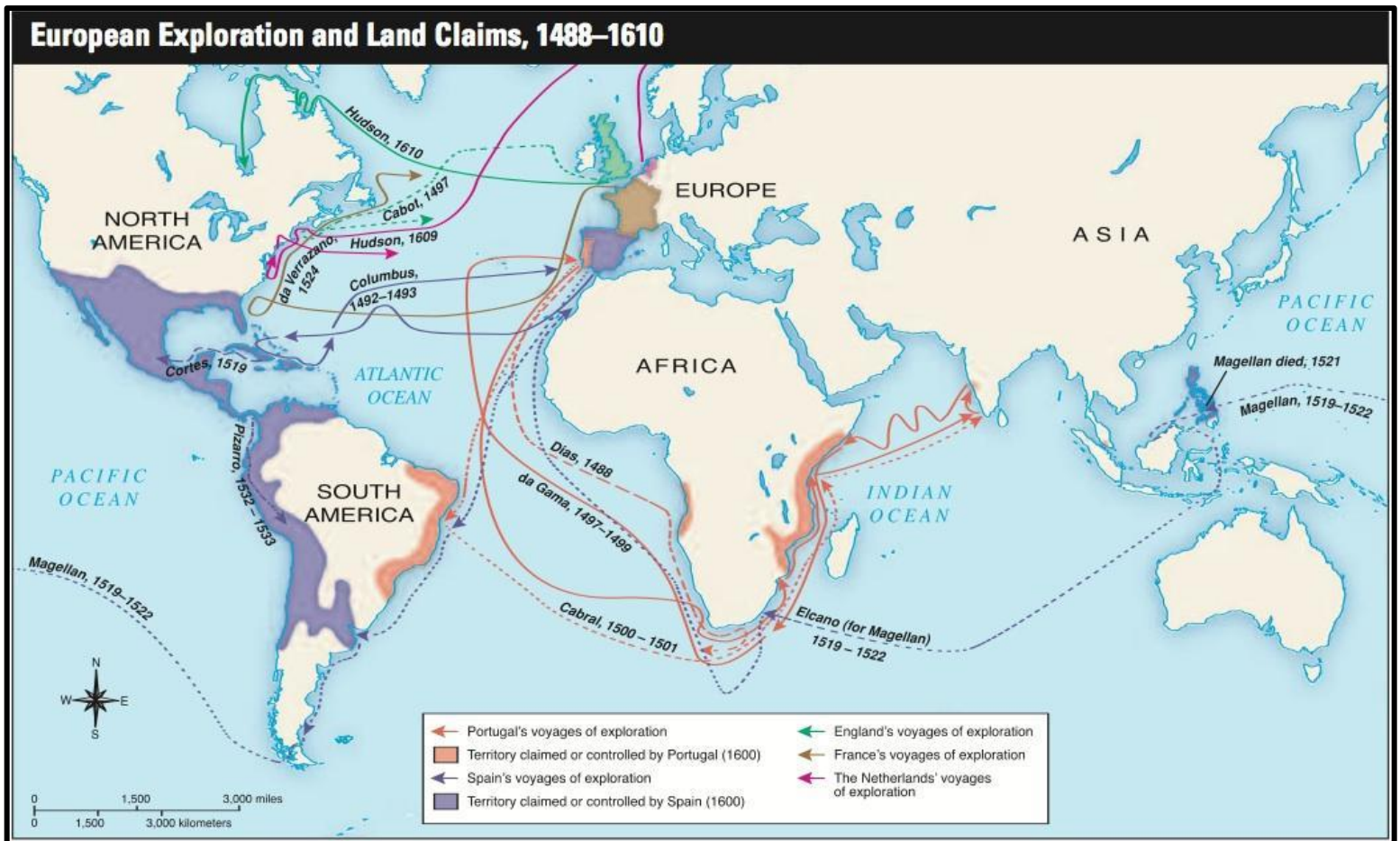


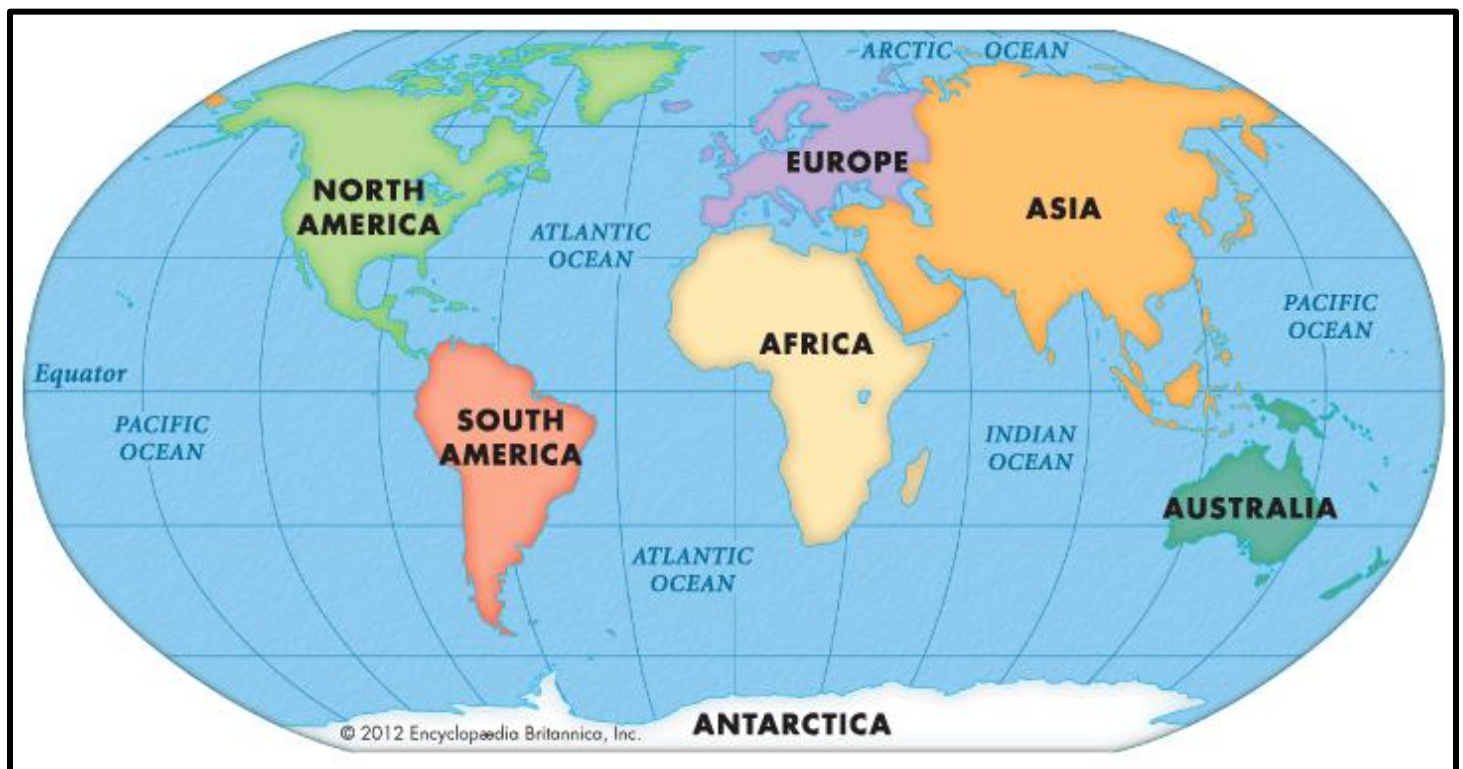
European Expansion

Enduring Understanding: European expansion during the 1600s and 1700s was often driven by economic and technological forces. You should be able to understand the influence of these forces and be able to compare the colonial claims and the expansion of European powers through 1770.

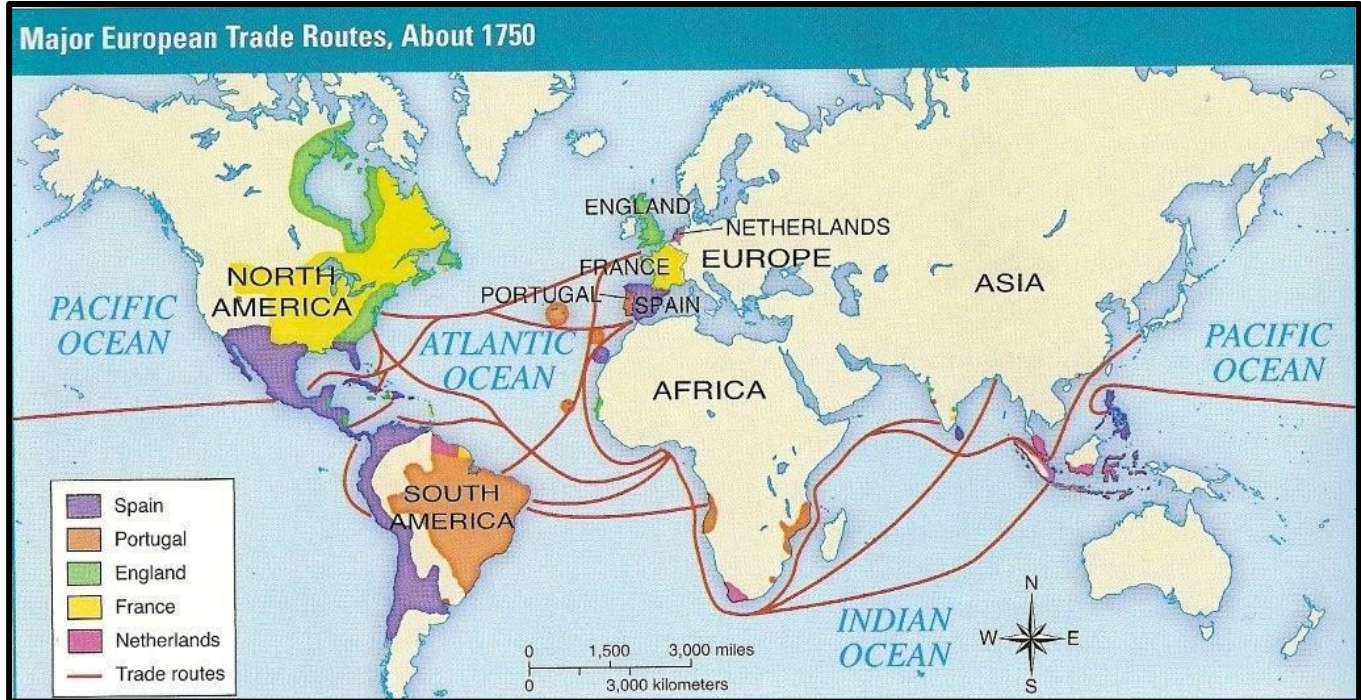


Beginning in the 1600s and 1700s, European nations began to look at expanding their countries' wealth and land ownership. As navigation technology improved, more countries were able to send explorers around the world looking for overseas trade routes to Asia. On their quest for these trade routes, European explorers discovered the New World (the Americas) and new economic systems and trade routes began. Explorers were also able to gain access to Asia and Africa. New markets were opened in Europe, allowing Europeans to buy goods from Africa and Asia. This created more jobs.

Countries such as Spain, Portugal, England, France, and the Netherlands were the European leaders of exploration beginning with Spain in the 1400s. These countries were able to dominate European expansion because of prior wealth and ocean-front location. Because they were the first to begin exploring Africa, Asia, and the Americas, these countries would remain the most powerful in the world for centuries to come.



The world's first explorers came from Europe. They were looking for overseas trade routes to Asia, but along the way discovered the New World (North and South America).



Spain, Portugal, France, England, and the Netherlands were able to dominate European trade routes and expansion due to prior wealth and location. Spain began exploring first, and was able to gain more land in the Americas because of this.



Section Review:

- 1) When did European nations begin expanding?**
- 2) Why did Europeans begin traveling over the seas?**
- 3) What did European explorers find on their search for trade routes?**
- 4) Which European countries were the leaders in European expansion?**
- 5) Why were these countries able to dominate exploration and remain in power for years to come?**

Sources

Image 1: "European Exploration." *European Exploration*. Mr. Kash, n.d. Web. 16 June 2014. <<http://mrkash.com/activities/explorationmap.html>>.

Image 2: *continent: Earth's seven continents*. Map/Still. *Britannica Online for Kids*. Web. 16 June 2014. <<http://kids.britannica.com/comptons/art-166560>>.

Image 3: "[8.5] Economic Impacts of Exploration." *Medieval World History*. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 June 2014. <<http://jacksonbbrown.com/ss/2013/05/13/8-5-impacts-of-exploration/>>.

Image 4: "WEEK 3." *The Rise and Fall of the British Empire: WEEK 3*. MICHAEL McINNESHIN, n.d. Web. 16 June 2014. <<http://www.ccis.edu/courses/HIST359mtmcinneshin1/wk03.htm>>.

Image 5: "European Empires in Latin America, 1660." *European Empires in Latin America, 1660*. N.p., n.d. Web. 16 June 2014. <http://wps.pearsoncustom.com/wps/media/objects/2426/2484749/chap_assets/maps/atl_map16_1.html>.