

PRINCE HENRY THE NAVIGATOR

Directions: Read the article listed below one time. On the second reading, high light the vocabulary words from "Prince Henry the Navigator Vocabulary Analysis."

Prince Henry the Navigator was the third son of King John I of Portugal. He is widely credited with being the mastermind to the exploration of the African coast undertaken by Portugal during the 15th century, which led first to the discovery of a sea-route from Europe to Asia and shortly thereafter to the discovery of the New World.

The technology most responsible for the exploration of the Atlantic was the development of the caravel, a ship large and maneuverable enough for long-range ocean voyages. But the inspiration to push for ocean exploration, in dangerous uncharted waters, along a desert coastline, to trade with a land inhabited by savages, wild beasts, and deadly fevers, is strongly attributed to Prince Henry. He trained and financed numerous expeditions, and recorded with great care the logs of the returning travelers. He hired a cartographer made maps of his new discoveries, and encouraged innovations in ship design and navigation.

For over thirty years, under Henry's direction, the Portuguese made continual geographical discoveries and improvements in ship-design and sea-faring methods. It took nearly twenty years for Henry's sailors to navigate down the coast of Africa, as far as Cape Blanco beyond the Sahara Desert, but this opened up the way to trade with Sub-Saharan Africa, and attracted commercial, as well as scientific exploration. The west coast was particularly difficult due to rough tides, frequent storms, and a lack of protected bays, but Prince Henry faced every challenge and pushed on.

Two of Henry's most famous pilots were Nuno Tristan, who sailed as far as Guines-Bissau and brought the first African slaves to Europe; and Cadamosto, a Venetian who explored the Gambia river and discovered the Cape Verde islands, but there were many more that made important discoveries.



Prince Henry died almost 30 years before the southern tip of Africa was discovered, but the legacy he left, of fearless and persistent exploration, enabled the Portuguese to achieve his dream of finding a sea-route to Asia, and ending dependence on the Moslems for trade.

<http://www.heritage-history.com/www/heritage.php?Dir=characters&FileName=navigator.php>

Key events during the life of Prince Henry the Navigator.

Year	Event
1394	Birth of Prince Henry, as the third son of John I of Portugal.
1415	Participated in the conquest of Ceuta, a Moslem trading port south of Spain.
1420	Appointed governor of the 'Order of Christ' a wealthy military order.
1420	Madeira Islands are discovered and colonized by Portuguese.
1427	Azore Islands are discovered and colonized by Portuguese.
1434	Portuguese explorer sailed south of Cape Bojador.
1436	Led a failed expedition against the Moors at Tangier.
1441	Nuno Tristan reached Cape Blanco—beyond the Saharan desert.
1444	First private merchant ships sent to trade direction with Sub-Saharan Africa.
1456	Cadamosto discovers Cape Verde Islands.
1460	Death of Prince Henry the Navigator.

PRINCE HENRY THE NAVIGATOR VOCABULARY

ANALYSIS

Directions: Using the context from the article, *Prince Henry the Navigator: Royal Patron of the Explorers*, write in your opinion what the word means. Then, look the words up in a dictionary and write out the definition.

Word	My Own Thoughts	Actual Definition
Patronage		
Muslims		
Christianity		
Attack		
Legendary		
Province		
Navigation		
Treacherous		
Expedition		
Accomplishment		

