Unit 1: The Age of Exploration

Major Topics
- Famous European Explorers
- Geography of Exploration
- The Interaction between Cultures
- Culture of Europe Pre-Columbus

Unit Information
- Era: 1200’s-1600’s
- Length of Unit: 2 Weeks
- Next Unit: Age of Colonization

Understandings
* European desire for a water route to Asia was driven by barriers (ex: the closing of the Ottoman Empire, The African continent) and the need for new avenues of trade (ex: sea routes).
* New technology and a desire for resources allowed Europeans to explore other lands, which influenced their future development (caravel, compass, astrolabe, map making).

Essential Questions
* What barriers forced Europeans to discover new trade routes?
* What factors influenced European exploration?
* What is the impact of competition for resources?
* What impact did Prince Henry’s School of Navigation have on the Age of exploration?
Key Vocabulary

1. Caravel:
2. Christopher Columbus:
3. Circumnavigate:
4. Colony:
5. The Columbian Exchange:
6. Ferdinand Magellan:
7. Giovanni da Verrazano:
8. King Ferdinand:
9. The New World:
10. Prince Henry the Navigator:
11. Queen Isabella:
12. Vasco da Gama:
13. Gil Eannes:
14. Cape Verde Islands:
15. Strait of Magellan:
16. Cartography: