

# EXPLORERS

## Ferdinand Magellan

### HIGHLIGHTS

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1. The 1400s were the time of the Italian Renaissance and a period of extraordinary attainment in arts and sciences.
2. They were also the great age of exploration.
3. As 1500 approached, every little boy in Portugal dreamed of being an explorer, and Magellan was certainly one of them.
4. With Portugal controlling the route to India around Africa, Spain was looking for a westerly route to the Spice Islands.
5. After Magellan lost favor in Portugal, he was commissioned by Spain's Charles I to make the voyage.

### THE PERSON

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1. Magellan was born into an aristocratic family in 1480.
2. He studied many subjects including map making, astronomy, and navigation.

3. He was loyal to his friends.
4. He was a noble leader but was also capable of brutal, unforgiving vengeance.
5. He was part conqueror, part explorer.
6. Magellan was killed in 1521 (age 41) by natives in the Philippines before the trip was completed.

### ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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1. He found the waterway to the Pacific Ocean.
2. He named the Pacific Ocean and became the first captain to cross it.
3. Although he didn't complete the voyage, it was his skill and determination that made the voyage around the world possible — the greatest navigational feat in all of history.
4. He proved beyond a doubt that the world was round.

### UNIQUE INFLUENCE

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1. His discovery of the Straits of Magellan led to many future voyages which further explored the vast Pacific.
2. He redefined the known world and dispelled once and for all humanity's misconceptions about the planet on which it lives.
3. He proved that the Americas stumbled across by Christopher Columbus were indeed a new world.
4. He proved, forever, the myth that, far from being a mere gull, the sea beyond the new world was a vast ocean.
5. Thanks to Magellan, the true size of the world was known for the first time.

### QUOTABLE QUOTES

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*"Serve whom you will. It is a matter of indifference to me." King Manuel of Portugal, when asked by Magellan if he could serve another lord.*

*"He, irritated, ran the assailant through the body with his lance. He now attempted to draw his sword, but was unable, owing to his right arm being grievously wounded. The Indians, who perceived this, pressed in crowds upon him, and one of them having given him a violent cut with a sword on the left leg, he fell on his face. On this they immediately fell upon him. Thus perished our guide, our light and our support." Magellan's death as recorded by one of the men who survived.*

*"Primus circumdedisti me." "You are the first to encircle me." Inscription on the coat of arms given to Captain del Cano, who completed Magellan's historic voyage.*