

Explorer Fact Sheet

HERNANDO CORTES

Hernando Cortes was born in the village of Medellin, Spain in 1485. In 1504 he joined an expedition that sailed for Santo Domingo on the island of Hispanola in the New World. Cortes wanted to become a conquistador for Spain.

After arriving in Santo Domingo, Cortes got himself noticed by Diego Velasquez who had decided to explore and conquer Cuba in 1511. He asked Cortes to join his expedition. Later Velasquez heard about a wealthy Aztec Empire in Mexico and wanted someone to lead an expedition there. Cortes was overjoyed that he was asked to be the commander of the expedition to find the Aztec cities.

Cortes rushed to make preparations for departure. The expedition consisted of 11 ships, 500 soldiers, 13 horses, and some cannons. At the first place the expedition landed in Mexico they met a Spanish castaway, Aguilar, who knew the language of the Indians and became the interpreter for the conquistadors. The expedition then sailed north and on March 4, 1519, and they met Indians who would not let them come ashore even for water. Cortes and his soldiers fought several battles and drove the Indians out of their town. After many Indians were killed, Cortes, through his interpreter, made peace and friendship of the Indians.

The fleet set sail north again and anchored at a new location. They were greeted by Indians who gave them food and fine gifts made of gold and silver. The interpreter told them that the Indians had been sent by the great Emperor Montezuma, ruler of the Aztecs. Cortes was even more determined to conquer the Aztecs after seeing these riches. He also made friends with Cempoala Indians who were enemies of the Aztecs. The Cempoalas helped Cortes and his men establish a base on the shore where they had landed. Cortes named the village Vera Cruz and claimed the area for Spain. It was very important to have a safe port where Spanish ships could land supplies and reinforcements that Cortes would need to conquer the Aztec capital city of Tenochtitlan.

Next, the expedition to Tenochtitlan started. In addition to the Spaniards, there were over 200 Indians employed to drag the cannon and carry the supplies. The Spanish suffered from the hot climate of the coast and the cold of the mountains. When Cortes asked for permission to cross the land of the Tlaxcalan Indians, they refused. This resulted in many battles with the Tlaxcalan, but the Spanish weapons and technology overpowered the Indians. Eventually the Tlaxcalans surrendered, and Cortes set out (with an additional 1,000 Tlaxcalan Indians) to conquer the Aztecs.

Cortes and his expedition were awe struck when they finally saw Tenochtitlan. The city was even more beautiful and contained more riches than the Spanish expected. Cortes captured Montezuma and locked him in his palace. The Spanish and Aztecs battled for over a year for control the city. Montezuma was eventually killed, and on August 13, 1521, Cortes claimed the Aztec lands for Spain. The King's share of the treasure was sent to Spain and Cortes got his reward. On October 15, 1522, he was given the title of Captain General and Governor of New Spain; Tenochtitlan became Mexico City.

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FRANCISCO PIZARRO

Francisco Pizarro was born in Trujillo, Spain, in 1495. As a boy, Pizarro ran away from home for adventure. When he arrived in the West Indies he had decided to become a conquistador. His bold, clever, and ruthless ways caught the attention of other explorers. He was a member of the Ojeda expedition to the Columbian coast in 1509. Also, he sailed with Balboa's expedition which discovered the Pacific Ocean in 1513. Pizarro settled in Panama.

Rumors were spreading about a treasure much greater than that of the Aztecs in Mexico who were conquered in 1521. The Incas in Peru were reported to have more gold and silver than one could imagine. These stories motivated Pizarro to organize an expedition down the west coast of South America to find this wealth. The first expedition for Spain in 1524 turned out to be a failure, but this did not stop Pizarro. He got financial backing for his second expedition from the mayor of Panama in 1526. He was directed to conquer the Incas, take their wealth, and convert them to Christianity.

After many months of hardships, Pizarro arrived on the coast of Peru. When Pizarro and his men went ashore, they were greeted by an Inca ambassador and taken through a town that would compare with any in Spain. They saw the Temple of the Sun which was gold plated and surrounded by an artificial garden of trees and shrubs made of gold and silver with fruit and flowers made of precious gems. The Spaniards were overcome with greed, but knew they did not have the resources to conquer the Incas. In 1528, Pizarro decided to return to Spain and tell the King of his discoveries.

In 1531, Pizarro received funds and a charter of conquest from King Charles V to conquer Peru for its gold. He had three ships, 200 men, including 27 horsemen. Pizarro had a few minor battles with the first Indians he encountered. His expedition marched through the high mountain passes of the Andes to the town of Cajamarca where the emperor, Atahualpa, lived. When the emperor came to see Pizarro, he saw only a Spanish priest carrying a Bible and an Indian interpreter. Pizarro and his men were concealed behind a wall. The priest told the emperor and his people that they must surrender to Spain and follow the religion of the Spaniards. The emperor threw the Bible on the ground. Pizarro and his soldiers attacked at once. It was a brutal battle that lasted about half an hour. The Spanish horsemen charged right into the square where the Incas were gathered and trampled many of them to death. The guns, cannons, and steel swords did the rest. Most of the leadership of the Incas was wiped out. Over 4,000 men of the great Inca Empire were dead.

The Spaniards put the emperor, Atahualpa, on trial for his life. Pizarro judged him guilty and sentenced him to be burned at the stake. The emperor pleaded for mercy. Pizarro agreed on the condition that the emperor be baptized a Christian and promised that no blood would be shed. However, immediately after the emperor was baptized, he was strangled to death in the public square on August 15, 1533.

Pizarro and his brothers continued to control the land of the Incas by treacherous and bloody means. Pizarro gained great wealth for Spain. Some say that by today's standards it would amount to over \$100 million. By conquering Peru, Pizarro opened the western coast of South America for exploration.

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FRANCISCO VASQUEZ de CORONADO

Francisco Vasquez de Coronado was born in 1510 in Salamanca, Spain. In 1535, Coronado sailed to Mexico with Antonio de Mendoza, the Viceroy of Mexico. Later, Coronado became the Governor of the Province of New Galicia in northern Mexico.

Francisco Coronado, like many other explorers, heard the rumors of the seven cities of gold. The Viceroy of Mexico, Mendoza, organized a very large expedition to search for the seven cities of gold. He appointed Coronado to lead the expedition to the north of Mexico.. Coronado began his expedition in 1540. It consisted of 230 men wearing armor, 62 soldiers on foot, and approximately a thousand Indians as servants and haulers of goods. Also included in the expedition were cattle, mules, and approximately 1,500 horses. Coronado began his journey at Campostela on the northwest coast of Mexico. His departure was much like a parade. With pennants flying, drums beating, and trumpets shrilling, Coronado began his expedition.

Coronado left with high hopes of success. He had been told that the land was level and that food and water supplies were abundant. The opposite proved true. There were many marches where the trails were difficult and almost impassable with very little food for the men and animals. Coronado and his men also encountered dangers such as rattlesnakes. However, Coronado found no gold.

Coronado was disappointed and decided to send out exploring parties. They discovered the Hopi Indian villages in Arizona, the Grand Canyon, and the Rio Grande. Still no gold was discovered. A Plains Indian that had been captured told of treasures in Quivira, a great city to the northeast. After spending the winter near present day Santa Fe, New Mexico, the expedition left in the spring to find Quivira. Coronado and his entourage meandered through the Texas Panhandle and Oklahoma where they saw great herds of bison. They crossed into Kansas and found Quivira, a small Wichita Indian village. Again, Coronado found no gold.

After another disappointment, Coronado decided he had had enough. His expedition spent the winter along the Rio Grande in 1541-42, then returned to Mexico.

Even though Coronado was a conquistador, he was in some ways different from other Spanish explorers. He was good to his men. Coronado organized ways for them to get food through finding corn and bison hunting. He gave back more to the land than he took from it. Many horses were turned loose or escaped during Coronado's expedition. Descendants of these horses were tamed and used by the Indians. These horses changed the hunting and fighting styles of the Indians. This had a great impact on the settlement and history of the West. Coronado's contact did not result in gold and silver for Spain, but he did contribute to the development of the American West.

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HERNANDO de SOTO

Hernando de Soto was born around the year 1500 in Spain. At the age of 14, de Soto left home and sailed for Panama.

De Soto earned a reputation as a conquistador known for his stubbornness, bravery, and boldness. As reward for his raids of Indian land and treasures, he received gold and slaves. De Soto had served as Lieutenant for Francisco Pizarro during his expedition to conquer the Inca Indians of Peru. Since Pizarro was successful in conquering the Incas, de Soto shared in the wealth and made a fortune for his work in Peru.

Many stories were told by the Indians of vast riches in the areas north and east of Mexico. A tale was told in Mexico about seven cities to the north where precious jewels might be found in abundance and gold in such quantities that ordinary tools were made from it. King Charles I of Spain also heard of the reported wealth waiting to be discovered. As a result, he gave de Soto a grant to lead an expedition to Florida to conquer and subdue the population and to find wealth.

Hernando de Soto's expedition sailed from Spain with seven ships, about 600 men, 250 horses, and many bloodhounds. The expedition arrived near Tampa Bay, Florida in 1539. They traveled by foot through Florida and across Georgia pushing through thickets and quagmires. Motivated by the chance of finding gold ahead they pushed north through the region known today as Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi. Hernando de Soto tried a forced labor policy with the Indians and held some of the chiefs hostage. This technique had worked for Cortes and Pizarro in Mexico and Peru, but it did not work for de Soto. Before de Soto, there had been some Spanish expeditions in Florida, and those conquistadors had abused the natives in their searches for riches. Because of their past experiences, the Indians in this area were not friendly to the Spanish and definitely not willing to give up their land without a fight.

Some Indians did greet de Soto with food and provided shelter for his men. They also gave him ropes of pearls as gifts. In return, de Soto took their leader hostage in hopes of getting more wealth. He was determined to find wealth at any cost. However, obstacles continued to reduce the success of de Soto.

De Soto's soldiers lost most of their supplies, clothing, and horses during their long treks and skirmishes with the natives. Nevertheless, de Soto continued to push on. After a few years, he arrived with about half of his men and a few weary horses at the Mississippi River. Discovering this mighty river was his greatest achievement. Although de Soto continued to explore for several months, he never found the wealth that would bring fame to him and Spain. He died of a fever and his body was dumped into the Mississippi River which he had discovered. The remainder of de Soto's expedition made rafts and floated down the river to the Gulf of Mexico and returned to Mexico. Even though de Soto did not realize his dream, he made an important discovery, the Mississippi River.

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GIOVANNI DA VERRAZANO

Giovanni Da Verrazano was born in 1485 in the area of Italy known as Tuscany. His family was wealthy and Verrazano was sent to the city of Florence for his education. He was a good student and had a special interest in mathematics. He later moved to the port city of Dieppe in order to pursue a career as a navigator. He made several voyages to foreign countries and gained a reputation as a master sailor.

During this time, the city of Lyon was the center of the French silk industry. A group of Italian bankers and merchants residing in Lyon hired Verrazano to look for a western sea route to Cathay. A western route would drastically lower the cost of shipping silk over the long eastern land route. The bankers formed a syndicate and in March of 1523 large sums of money were spent to outfit the expedition. The bankers won the support of the French king and Verrazano sailed with a commission from King Francis I to explore the coast of the New World in search of a passage to Cathay.

Verrazano sailed with four ships under his command and headed west across the Atlantic Ocean. Two ships were lost in a storm along the way, a third ship returned to France. Verrazano remaining ship carried a crew of fifty and provisions to last for only eight months.

In March 1524, after sailing for forty-nine days, he sighted a low-lying coast we now know as North Carolina. Verrazano sailed south for a distance in order to explore the coast but feared running into hostile Spanish ships. Turning northward again he anchored off shore near Cape Fear, North Carolina. A boat was sent ashore and here he saw Indians. The Indians were very friendly and welcomed them with gifts of food. The expedition continued north gathering information to provide Europe with the first known description of the eastern coastline of North America north of Florida. Along the way, Verrazano had several contacts with the people living in these regions. At one point, Verrazano captured a young Indian child to show the King when he returned to France.

Verrazano sailed up the coast, entered New York Bay, and dropped anchor. A small boat was launched to row him up river. Verrazano then sailed up the coast and anchored at present day Newport, Rhode Island. This time the Indians were not friendly. They would trade with the ship but would not let the sailors ashore. The *Dauphine* continued northward along the coast to Narragansett Bay and up the coast of today's Maine. When the expedition reached the area of Newfoundland provisions began to run low. Verrazano decided to return to France.

The ship made a speedy passage and returned by July 8, 1524. Verrazano believed that the coast between Florida and Newfoundland belonged to a completely new world. Though he didn't complete his goal of finding the western route to Cathay, he had found a new land, which could be of great value to France.

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SAMUEL de CHAMPLAIN

Samuel de Champlain was born around 1570 in Brouge, France. Champlain served as a French naval captain. Later he was given the command of a Spanish ship sailing from Spain to the West Indies. For two years he sailed under the Spanish flag exploring the area along the coast from Panama to Mexico.

He returned to France at the same time that trading for furs with the New World was becoming very profitable. By 1600, the businessmen of France were competing with each other for a monopoly of this trade. But Henry IV, the French king, wanted to claim land in the New World and start French settlements there. He ordered that any company monopolizing the fur trade would also have to start a colony. King Henry IV persuaded Champlain to join an expedition to explore the land where the furs came from to see if it was suitable for colonization. Champlain left on his first voyage with two small vessels, to explore the area of the St. Lawrence River.

Samuel de Champlain made twelve voyages to what is now Canada. On his first trip he followed the St. Lawrence River as far as the Lachine Rapids above Montreal. Along the way he met Indians who discouraged him from trying to proceed further because of rapids and poor conditions far up the river. Champlain turned back, traded with the Indians, loaded his ships with a valuable cargo of furs, and returned to France.

When Champlain reached France he found that a new nobleman had been given the Canadian fur trading rights provided that he start a colony and bring 100 settlers every year. Champlain was persuaded to join the expedition. For the next five years he explored the St. Lawrence country, the area of modern day Nova Scotia and New England. He charted the coastline and made friends with the Indians. In 1608 Champlain founded Quebec City, the first lasting French settlement in the New World.

During this time he made friends and traded with the Algonquins and other Indian groups in the area. The Algonquins were the enemies of the Iroquois Indians living in the area of modern New York State and the land south of the Great Lakes. Champlain was asked to choose sides and decided to help the Algonquins in their war with the Iroquois. He chose to help the Algonquins because they were his neighbors, he did business with them, and he also wanted closer ties so he could count on aid for his scouts as they traveled to build up the fur trade while searching for a northwest passage.

Champlain accompanied the Algonquin war party which came across a large fleet of Iroquois canoes. As the arrows flew, Champlain fired his gun and the terrified Iroquois fled. The expedition was important not only because close ties were formed with Algonquins, but also because the journey allowed Champlain to survey the whole length of the lake south of the St. Lawrence. This body of water was named Lake Champlain in his honor.

Champlain's time spent in the New World was not always so successful. At times there were skirmishes with other fur traders over trading rights. In establishing the fort at Quebec, the party became sick with scurvy from the lack of fresh food. Only eight out of twenty-eight men survived the first winter. He spent many years developing the fur trade and searching for the inland sea, which would be the Northwest Passage to Cathay.

The French made many gains in the New World because of Champlain. Besides founding Quebec, he also was the first to name and map Lake Huron. He was able to trace the St. Lawrence River to its source. Champlain's maps and accounts made this area of the world known to Europe. Champlain served as governor of New France in 1626. During difficulties between France and England he was captured and taken prisoner. He later returned to New France when released and again served as governor. He died there on December 25, 1635.

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JACQUES MARQUETTE AND LOUIS JOLIET

The expeditions of Marquette and Joliet brought together two explorers with very different backgrounds. Marquette was born in 1637 in Lyon, France. He studied for the priesthood, and in 1668 he was sent to America to be a missionary among the Ottawa Indians. Louis Joliet was born in 1645, in Quebec, Canada. He went to Europe to study. He later returned to Canada and searched for copper. He served as a trader and trapper for a few years and became an expert cartographer.

During these years the French colony at Quebec struggled. It was always short of money and supplies, and it was constantly threatened with attack by the Iroquois Indians. The French claimed Canada and the area around the Great Lakes and south. Their goal was to build an empire that would control the main trade routes and find the Northwest Passage.

From the Indians, Father Marquette had learned of a great river that started in the north and flowed southward all the way to the sea. The Spanish explorer Hernando De Soto was the first to report its existence. In 1673, Louis Joliet was sent to explore this river, known as the Mississippi. Father Marquette served as chaplain of the expedition. Marquette and Joliet set out from Lake Michigan with five companions and two birch bark canoes.

The expedition traveled down Lake Michigan and up the Fox River. The Indians helped them carry their canoes over land to the Wisconsin River on which they floated down to its mouth and entered the Mississippi. They paddled down the great river past the mouths of the Illinois, Missouri, and Ohio Rivers. Finally they reached the spot where the Arkansas River entered the Mississippi and celebrated at a feast given by the Arkansas Indians. All along the way friendly Indians had guided them. Marquette and Joliet learned that the Mississippi emptied into the Gulf of Mexico and that the Spanish had established settlements farther south. They were discouraged from going further because the Indians to the south were hostile and had been given guns by the Spanish. Rather than run the risk of falling into Spanish hands, Marquette and Joliet turned back.

The expedition returned to Canada by way of Lake Michigan. Marquette resumed his missionary work but fell ill shortly after his return and never fully recovered. He died in May 1675. Joliet became a trader in the Hudson Bay area and later explored the coast of Labrador. He died in Canada in 1700.

Marquette and Joliet completed a voyage that covered 2,500 miles and lasted four months. They became the first Europeans to descend the river as far south as the Arkansas. When they reached Quebec, they were able to report that the Mississippi flowed into the Gulf of Mexico and not westward towards the Pacific. Although they did not find the route to the west they were searching for they did chart the course of the Mississippi. This river was to become very important to the French fur trade.

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MARTIN FROBISHER

Martin Frobisher was an important, but little known, English explorer. He was born in Yorkshire, England, in 1535. At a young age Frobisher took to the sea and became a professional sailor. By age 37, he was convinced that there was a northwest passage to China and that he could find it. The Queen of England sent Frobisher to the far north to find the northwest passage to China.

Frobisher first sailed for the Arctic region of North America in June 1576. He took three ships and 39 men. The ships were small for the day but well supplied. The trip was filled with misfortune from the start. The smallest ship collided with another and the trip was delayed as it was repaired. On June 26 a storm came up and one boat disappeared. By July 11, the remaining two ships sighted the east coast of what is now known as Greenland. They could not even approach shore because of the ice. The captain of the ship, *Michael*, not liking the conditions turned and headed home. Frobisher went on and sighted the island later named for William Baffin and then sailed north, entering the straits that he named for himself. He sailed up the straits convinced that this was the passage to China.

It was in this part of the voyage that Frobisher first came into contact with the people living in the area. Frobisher described their long, black hair, broad faces and sealskin clothing. He invited them on board and bartered for furs, fresh meat, and salmon in exchange for the usual beads and hatchets.

Frobisher made two more voyages to North America. The second trip left May 25, 1577, to look for gold. A sample of rocks collected on the first trip contained what were thought to be flecks of gold. The second trip was funded by the Company of Cathay which was formed after Frobisher reported finding gold and a possible passage to China. On this trip Frobisher again entered Frobisher's Strait and this time landed on Baffin Island. He sailed 100 leagues up his strait but turned back in order to leave time for a safe journey home. He left with 200 tons of ore thought to be a source of gold.

The third Frobisher voyage left England even before the reports from the second voyage were made public. This time he traveled with fifteen ships of varying sizes with orders to look for other valuable minerals and collect 800 tons of the black ore. This trip also ended in failure as ice and bad storms damaged the ships. The trip home was difficult, provisions were low, and many men died. The black ore proved to be worthless and the Company of Cathay went bankrupt. Many accused Frobisher of poor leadership. All three of his voyages were considered failures and Frobisher's reputation was ruined.

Frobisher's accomplishments were not what were expected by the Company of Cathay or the Queen. He did, however, redeem his good name. In later years he fought with Admiral Drake against the Spanish Armada and was knighted for valor. He was wounded in battle and died as he was returning home. Frobisher's voyages encouraged many other explorers to search for the Northwest Passage.

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SIR HUMPHRY GILBERT

Sir Humphry Gilbert was born about 1539 in Devon, England. In 1576 he wrote about his theory that North America was an island off the Asian mainland. His *Discourse in the Northwest Passage* so impressed Queen Elizabeth that she granted him a charter to discover and settle the land not already claimed by other countries. The charter left the area to be settled vague; Gilbert could settle anywhere from Labrador to Florida.

Gilbert felt that English settlement in America would achieve several goals. Colonization would make money for England. Besides that it would extend the Protestant religion as well as provide jobs to many of the day's unemployed. He thought that England would be able to get needed goods from her own colonial possessions instead of buying them from other countries. It would also help replace the trade that had been damaged by the conflict with Spain and at the same time provide overseas ports in case there was a war. Finally, voyages to North America still were to be taken with the goal of searching for the elusive Northwest Passage.

The voyage started in 1583 after a delay caused by a problem of raising money to pay for the trip. Gilbert was finally able to finance the trip with help from his friends. The expedition was made up of five ships. The ships were manned by 260 men. Gilbert brought along many goods to use in trade with the Indians whom he intended to befriend.

The ships headed for Newfoundland. They headed north to avoid the possibility of a hurricane during this time of year. The ships reached land on July 30, but headed south because the coast seemed bare and not fit for settlement. They arrived at St. John's, Newfoundland. The expedition spent two weeks there before deciding to explore more of the coast.

Gilbert's first stop was in Nova Scotia where he intended to stock up on provisions. A storm came up and one of the ships struck rocks and sank. The crews of the two remaining ships searched for survivors. None were found although they spent two days looking. Supplies were low and winter was fast approaching. The crew questioned whether or not establishing a colony this late in the year was possible. Gilbert agreed to return to England. North of the Azores Islands off of the coast of Spain, the ships ran into more terrible weather. Gilbert refused to leave his ship for the safety of the larger ship. He would not leave the crew he had sailed with through many other storms. Later that night, sailors on the *on the larger ship* saw the Gilbert's ship again disappear. The smaller ship had been swamped by the high waves and sank.

Sir Humphry Gilbert never returned from his voyage. The voyage ended in failure and by 1583, England still did not have a settlement in the New World. Although Gilbert failed to achieve his goal, later explorers carried on his plan for establishing an English colony in North America.

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HENRY HUDSON

Little is known about the life of Henry Hudson before he became an explorer during the period between 1607 and 1611. He and his wife Katherine had three sons, one of whom sailed with him as he searched for a western route to Asia. Hudson made four voyages in search of a new Northwest passage to the Orient, three flying the flag of England and one for the Dutch.

Hudson's first two voyages were financed by the English Muscovy Company. This was a group of English merchants who traded with Moscow in Russia. Hudson was hoping to find a northeast passage to China, Japan and the East Indies. He believed that a route could be found by heading for the Arctic Ocean. Both voyages resulted in the turning back. Blocked by ice and heavy winds, Hudson returned to England and the English merchants grew discouraged with the venture. The Dutch East India Company heard of Hudson's attempts to find a northeast passage and agreed to supply him with a ship, crew, and provisions in order to continue the explorations for a passage to the Orient.

He left Holland in 1609 and started northeast. Hudson again found himself blocked by ice north of Russia. The men, many accustomed to a warmer route, began to grumble and threaten to mutiny. Rather than return to Holland and face the merchants who paid for the expedition, Hudson reversed his course and crossed the Atlantic to look for the passage to the Indies through America. The ship reached the coast and sailed to what is now Chesapeake Bay, then turned north. On September 11, 1609, Hudson entered the bay now known as New York Harbor. Hudson became the first European to reach this spot since the visit of Verrazano eighty-five years earlier.

Hudson sailed up the river that is today named for him. This journey was the basis for the Dutch claim to the area now known as New York. The land was beautiful and well suited for settlement. Along the way he found the Indians to be very friendly, often rowing out to meet him. They brought green tobacco to smoke and beaver and otter skins to trade for beads, knives, and hatchets. Despite this the crew remained mistrustful. At one point they set ashore and drove a group out of their village. Later, a group of Indians in canoes attacked a small boat of sailors as they explored the bay. The farther north Hudson went he realized that this was not the way to the Pacific. He probably went above where the Mohawk River joins the Hudson before turning back.

The Hudson returned to England rather than Holland, and landed in November 1609. He sent an account of his voyage to his employers and requested permission to prepare for another voyage. The Dutch merchants ordered him to return to Holland but England refused to let him leave the country. They did not want further voyages to benefit Holland. Hudson's fourth trip to sail northwest in search for a passage to the Orient was funded by English merchants. He left in the ship *Discovery* in April 1610. During this trip Hudson set out for the American Arctic and sailed through the Hudson Strait and into Hudson Bay. Hudson was convinced that this great sea would extend westward to China.

Hudson explored the waters and after several weeks the crew began to protest. They demanded to head for home but Hudson refused. Winter set in and the ship was stranded. When spring came Hudson wanted to resume the search for the westward water route but the crew had suffered enough hardship. They mutinied and took over command of the ship. They set Hudson, his son John, and six supporters adrift in a small boat and left them to die. They were never seen again. The *Discovery* sailed for home but several crewmembers died of starvation before they reached England. The surviving members were not punished for their crime. They were the only men who had sailed the sea that was thought to lead to the Indies. They were too valuable to hang.