Prime Henry the Navigator

Goals of exploration: Find a sea route to India; explore the coast of Africa for resources.

Impact: Henry's efforts led to the Portuguese exploration of the coast of Africa, which later expanded to include exploration of the Indian Ocean and the Americas.

Bartolomé Dias

Goals of exploration: Find a sea route to India.

Impact: Dias's voyage was significant as it was the first attempt to find a sea route to India by sailing around the Cape of Good Hope.

Vasco da Gama

Goals of exploration: Find a sea route to India.

Impact: Gama's voyage was successful and established Portugal as a major world power.

Explorers of the Caribbean

Christopher Columbus

Goals of exploration: Find a sea route to Asia.

Impact: Columbus's voyages led to the discovery of the New World and the start of European exploration of the Americas.

Vasco Núñez de Balboa

Goals of exploration: Discover the Pacific Ocean and the isthmus of Panama.

Impact: Balboa's discovery of the Pacific Ocean was significant as it confirmed the existence of a sea route to Asia.

Explorers of South America

Ferdinand Magellan

Goals of exploration: Circumnavigate the globe.

Impact: Magellan's voyage was the first to circumnavigate the globe, establishing the feasibility of crossing the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans.

Francisco Pizarro

Goals of exploration: Conquer the Inca Empire.

Impact: Pizarro's conquest of the Inca Empire led to the expansion of Spanish influence in South America.

Explorers of North America

Jean Prince de Lévis

Goals of exploration: Find a sea route to Asia.

Impact: Lévis's voyage was significant as it strengthened the colonial presence in the New World.

Hernán Cortés

Goals of exploration: Find a sea route to Chili.

Impact: Cortés's conquest of the Aztec Empire was significant in the history of Spanish exploration.

Hernando de Soto

Goals of exploration: Find a sea route to Asia.

Impact: Soto's expedition was significant in the history of Spanish exploration and brought back valuable resources.

Francisco Vázquez de Coronado

Goals of exploration: Find a sea route to Asia.

Impact: Coronado's expedition was significant in the history of Spanish exploration and brought back valuable resources.

John Cabot

Goals of exploration: Find a sea route to Asia.

Impact: Cabot's voyage was significant in the history of English exploration and brought back valuable resources.

Giovanni da Verrazzano

Goals of exploration: Find a sea route to Asia.

Impact: Verrazzano's voyage was significant in the history of Italian exploration and brought back valuable resources.

Jacques Cartier

Goals of exploration: Establish a French presence in the New World.

Impact: Cartier's voyage was significant in the history of French exploration and brought back valuable resources.

Sir Francis Drake

Goals of exploration: Establish a English presence in the New World.

Impact: Drake's voyage was significant in the history of English exploration and brought back valuable resources.