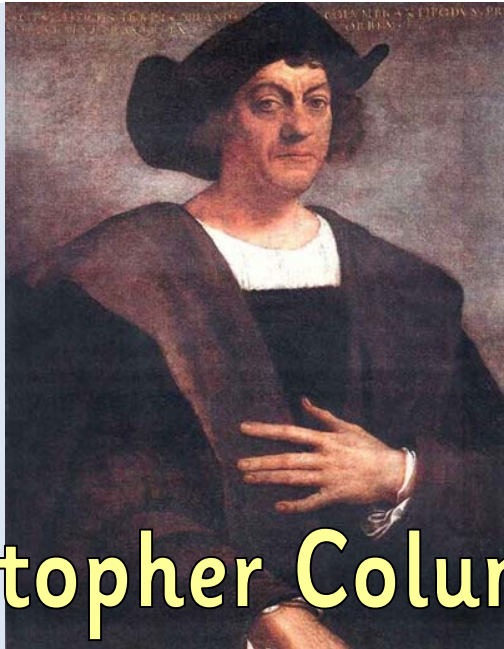


Marco Polo

- Nationality: Italian
- Place and year of birth: Venice, 1254
- Famous for his travels through Asia. He was one of the first Europeans to travel to Mongolia and China where he roamed for 17 years.
- On his return to Venice, he became a popular storyteller. People came to hear his stories of his travels in the Far East.
- Year of death: 1324



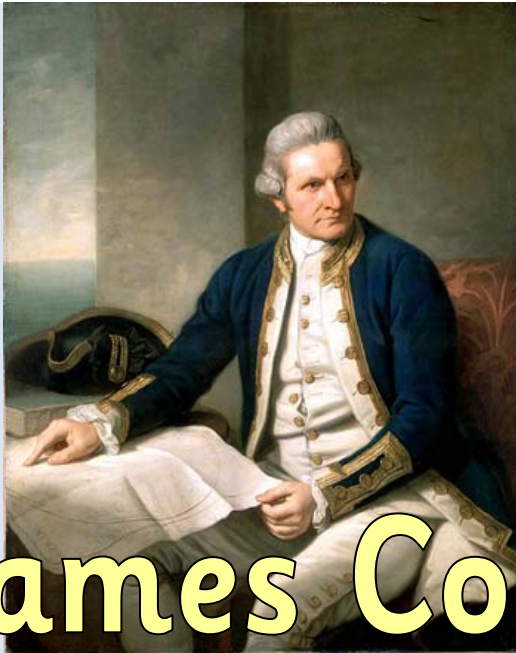
Christopher Columbus

- Nationality: Italian
- Place and year of birth: Genoa, 1451
- Famous for his voyage in 1492 when he 'discovered' America while he was looking for a way to sail to Asia.
- He was not the first European to find North America – the Vikings had been hundreds of years earlier. However, Columbus' explorations made Europeans more aware of North America and South America in the 1500s.
- Year of death: 1506



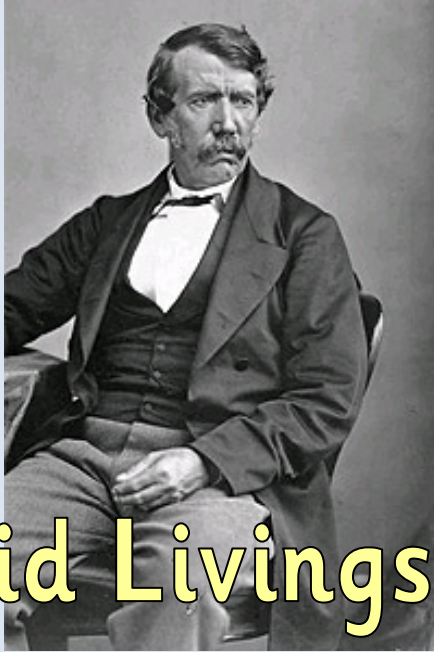
Sir Francis Drake

- Nationality: English
- Place and year of birth: Devon, 1544
- Famous as a seaman and explorer, he sailed around the world and helped to defeat the Spanish Armada.
- Elizabeth I awarded Drake a knighthood in 1581.
- Year of death: 1596



James Cook

- Nationality: English
- Place and year of birth: Middlesbrough, 1728
- Cook was a great explorer – he was the first to lead a sailing expedition around the world successfully. He explored parts of the Pacific Ocean and Far East that no European had seen before.
- He used science and mathematics to help him to make maps of new areas.
- Year of death: 1779



David Livingstone

- Nationality: Scottish
- Place and year of birth: Blantyre, 1813
- He was a doctor and a missionary and devoted much of his life to exploring Africa. He helped Europeans learn about Africa.
- He was the first European to cross the whole width of southern Africa.
- Year of death: 1873



Ernest Shackleton

- Nationality: Irish
- Place and year of birth: County Kildare, 1874
- He led several expeditions to the Antarctic. On one, his ship Endurance sank, taking five crew members with it. Shackleton went to help. In a small boat, the six men spent 16 days crossing 1,300 kilometres of ocean, before trekking across an island to get help. All the other crew members were rescued from the Antarctic.
- Year of death: 1922



Captain Scott

- Nationality: English
- Place and year of birth: Devonport, 1868
- He led an expedition, hoping to become the first man to reach the South Pole.
- On his expedition to the South Pole, the sledges and ponies couldn't cope with the weather so the expedition had to struggle on without them. Scott and his men made it to the South Pole, but a Norwegian explorer had beaten them there. Very bad weather set in and they ran out of food. Scott and his men never made it back to base camp.
- Year of death: 1912



Charles Lindbergh

- Nationality: American
- Place and year of birth: Detroit, 1902
- Lindbergh was a pilot. He made the first solo non-stop flight from New York to Paris, a distance on nearly 5,800 kilometres in a small monoplane.
- He helped promote commercial aviation and Air Mail services.
- Year of death: 1974





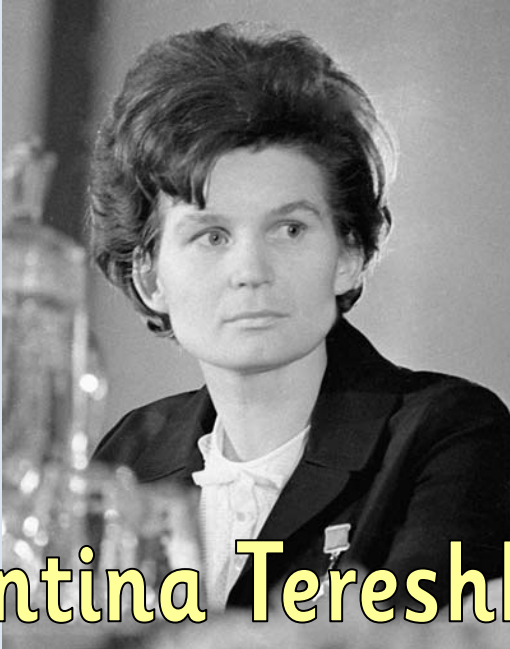
Neil Armstrong

- Nationality: American
- Place and year of birth: Ohio, 1930
- Neil Armstrong was an astronaut. He was the first person to step on to the Moon in America's Apollo 11 Moon landing mission in 1968.
- When stepping on to the Moon, he famously quoted: "That's one small step for a man, a giant leap for mankind."
- Still alive today.



Yuri Gagarin

- Nationality: Russian
- Place and year of birth: Klushino, 1934
- Gagarin was a pilot and astronaut. He was the first person to travel into outer space. His spacecraft completed an orbit of the Earth in 1961.
- Later he helped to train other astronauts.
- Year of death: 1968.



Valentina Tereshkova

- Place and year of birth: Yaroslavl Oblast, 1937
- Tereshkova was the first woman in space when she piloted the Vostok 6 in 1963.
- She was selected from over 400 applicants due to her age, weight, height and ability to parachute.
- Still alive today.



Ranulph Fiennes

- Nationality: English
- Place and year of birth: Windsor, 1944
- Fiennes has led many expeditions. He was the first person to circumnavigate the Earth's polar axis.
- Fiennes was also the first person to cross the whole of the Antarctic on foot.
- Still alive today.

## Famous explorers through the ages

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Ranulph Fiennes

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