



# Explorer: Columbus (1492)

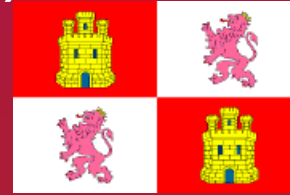
*Year He Discovered the West Indies*

**Known for** West Indies/New World

**Why in Texas?** He wasn't!!!

**Impact of Expedition** Failure – he didn't discover a faster route to India  
Success – he opened up the “New World” to Europe

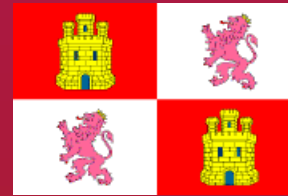
**Impact on Texas** Started Spanish exploration in North America (Texas)



In 1492, Christopher Columbus left Spain after being given permission to sail to India from King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. His purpose was to find a new trade route to India and to bring back spices from India. Spices were as valuable as gold. On his way across the Atlantic Ocean, Columbus sailed to a new land and met new people which he called "Indians" thinking he had landed in India. Because of Columbus, a new age of exploration of North America began.

# Explorer: Cortez (1521)

Year He Conquered the Aztecs



**Known for** Mexico/Aztecs

**Why in Texas?** He wasn't!!! BUT his purpose for exploring was to get **GOLD, GLORY** and **GOD** for Spain

**Impact of Expedition** Success - conquered the Aztecs and became the first "governor" of New Spain (Mexico)

**Impact on Texas** Inspired others to explore more territory in North America





Columbus



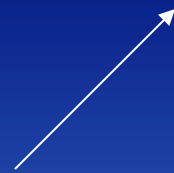
Cortes



The two explorers that we just talked about were NEVER IN TEXAS!!!!



All of the rest of the explorers WERE in Texas at some point!!!



Pineda

De Vaca

Coronado

De Soto

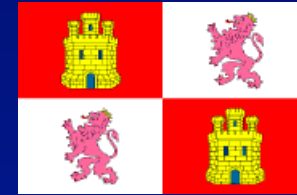
Onate

La Salle



# Explorer: Pineda (1519)

Year TX History began (the year he mapped our coast)



Known for

MAP

Why in Texas?

The governor of Jamaica ordered Pineda to explore this new area in order to find a route to the Pacific

Impact of Expedition

Success (he mapped the coast)  
Failure (no route to the Pacific)

Impact on Texas

1<sup>st</sup> to observe and map the Texas Coast

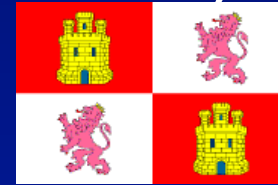


## Alonso Alvarez de Piñeda

The year 1519 was very important for Alonso Alvarez de Piñeda and for Texas. Piñeda sailed along the Texas coast toward Mexico. During his journey, he created the first maps and charts of the coast. Because of Piñeda, future explorers knew where to sail to get to Texas.

# Explorer: Cabeza de Vaca (1528-1536)

Years he was stranded in North America  
for SHIPWRECK



Known

**Why in Texas?**

Oops... it was an accident... shipwrecked  
(looking for GOLD in FL, Narvaez was  
killed)

**Impact of  
Expedition**

Failure – no GOLD, no GLORY... but he did...  
meet the Karwankawas, Texas' 1<sup>st</sup> explorer,  
1<sup>st</sup> surgeon, 1<sup>st</sup> author with *Relacion*

Told tales of cities of gold – led to more  
exploration



[www.texasbeyondhistory.net](http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net)

Click on “Prehistoric”

Choose “South Texas Plains”

Click on “Kids Activities”

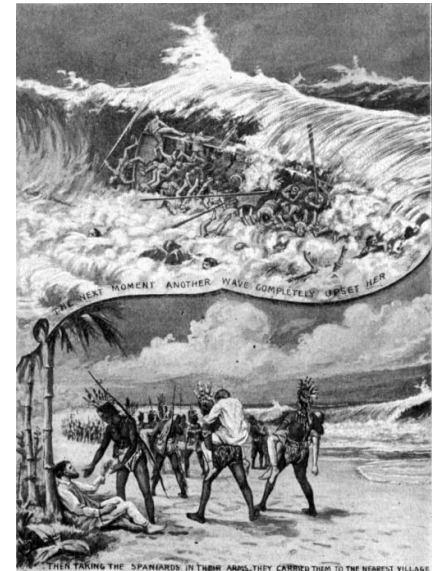
Choose the “Journey with an  
Explorer”





# Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca

One of the most amazing journeys took place in Texas. In 1529, Cabeza de Vaca crashed on Galveston Island because of a hurricane. He was captured by an Indian tribe and almost became a slave. Luckily, Cabeza de Vaca knew enough about medicine that he was able to heal many Indians. He became known among the tribe as a “medicine man.” When he made it to Mexico he told others about many wonderful cities made of gold. Who would be the first explorer to find and capture these rich cities?



# Explorer: Coronado (1540-1542)

Years he explored the Great Plains  
for PANHANDLE

Why in Texas?

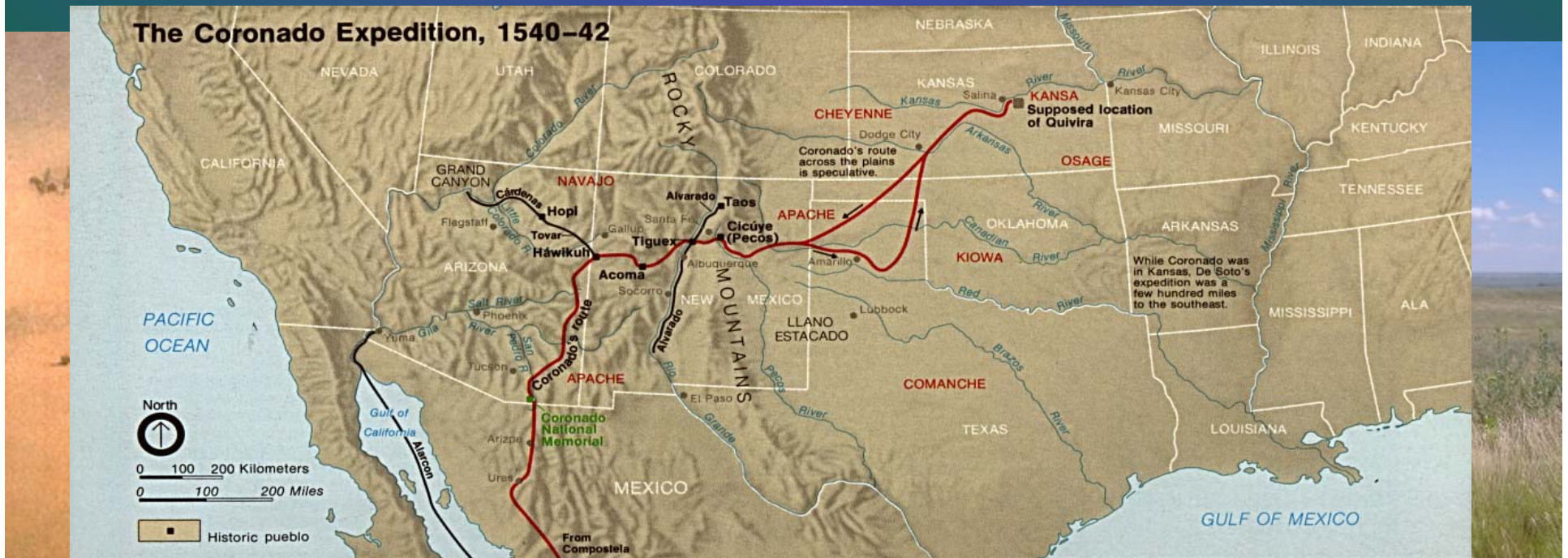
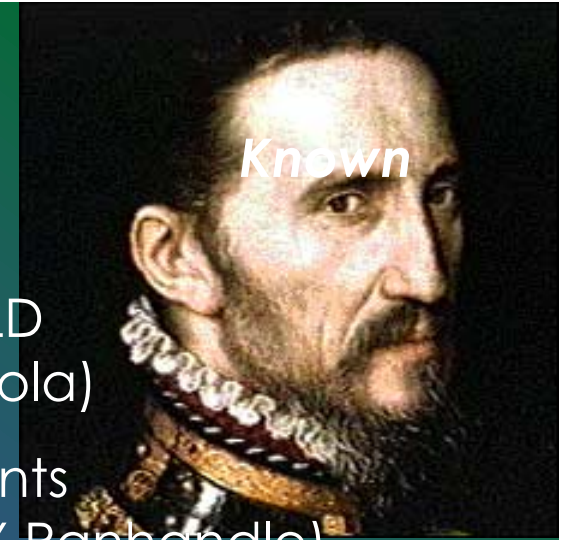
Looking for the 7 cities of GOLD  
(Quiviera & Cibola)

Impact of Expedition

Failure – No gold, no settlements  
crossed the “Sea of Grass” (TX Panhandle)

Impact on Texas

Told about buffalo, villages, TX LAND in the  
Panhandle



## Francisco Vázquez de Coronado

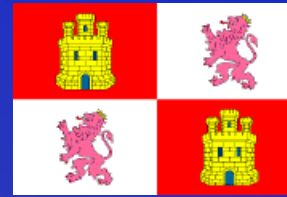


Gold! In 1540, Francisco Vázquez de Coronado was placed in charge of a great search to find the City of Gold. With 1,000 men, 1,500 horses, mules, wagons, cooks and farm animals, Coronado and his group headed north. When Coronado thought he found the City of Gold, it was only mud bricks reflecting the sun, making it look bright and shiny. The city was really an Indian village. Coronado did not give up. He kept searching and found more villages and people as he went.



# Explorer: Onãte (1598)

Year he was exploring the El Paso area



**Known for** El Paso

**Why in Texas?** Looking for gold that Coronado had failed to find

**Impact of Expedition** Failure – no gold

**Impact on Texas** 1<sup>st</sup> Thanksgiving in North America? Explored the El Paso area and gave it the name “El Paso”



# Explorer: La Salle (1685-1687)

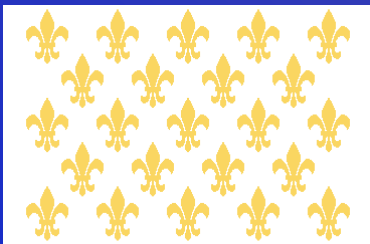
*Years Fort St. Louis was in Texas*

**Known for** French

**Why in Texas?** He was LOST!! Looking for the Mississippi River

**Impact of Expedition** Fort St. Louis (settlement) – claimed TX for the French for two years – murdered by his own crew

**Impact on Texas** Made the Spanish paranoid – the Spanish got more serious about settling TX and not just exploring it



The Dallas Morning News

## Rene Robert Cavalier, Sieur de LaSalle



France wanted to claim the area around the Mississippi river before the Spanish got there. So in 1684, the French King, Louis XIV, gave LaSalle ships and colonists to set sail. After a scary journey, LaSalle's group missed the Mississippi river and actually landed near Matagorda Bay, Texas. LaSalle set up Fort St. Louis in 1685. Because of LaSalle's new French settlement, Spain hurried to build more missions throughout the area, hopefully to push France off the land.