

# Exploration



Rebecca Heddle

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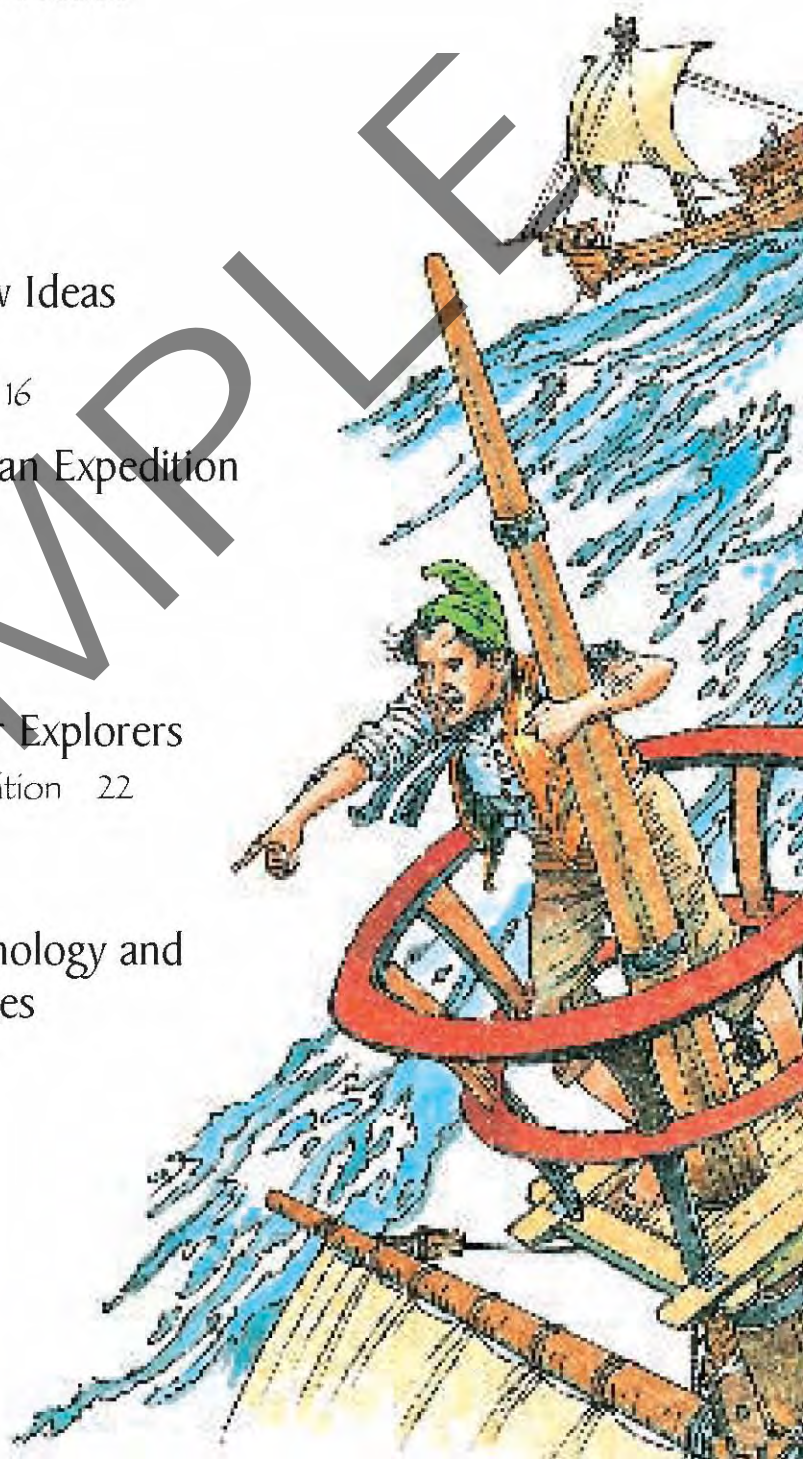
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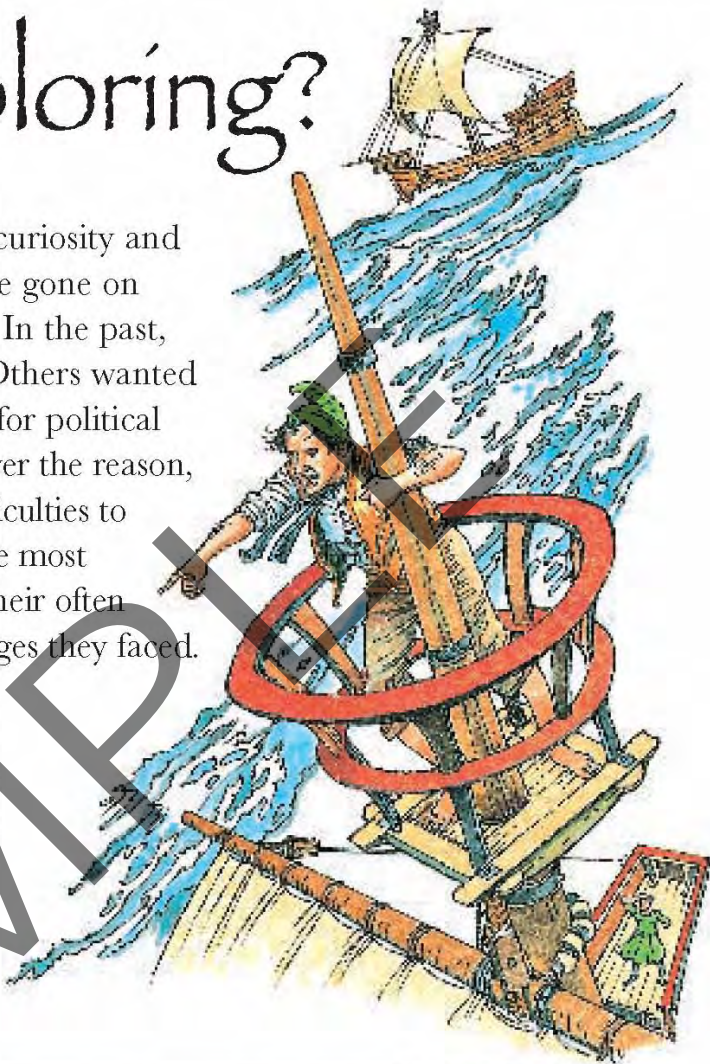
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# Why Go Exploring?

The history of exploration is a story of curiosity and bravery. Explorers past and present have gone on their travels for many different reasons. In the past, some went to open up **trade routes**. Others wanted to solve scientific problems, or traveled for political reasons to benefit their country. Whatever the reason, there were often dangers to face and difficulties to overcome. This book looks at some of the most important explorers, why they went on their often perilous travels, and the different challenges they faced.

► Many famous historical journeys of exploration were made across uncharted oceans by sailing in ships. We have now begun to explore beneath the oceans, in special underwater vessels, and out into space, traveling by rocket-powered spacecraft.



▲ Astronauts go through long and rigorous training. They have to get in shape and learn to use complicated equipment and computers. Since the first magnetic compass, exploration has always involved the development and testing of new technology.



▲ Exploring new places often means having to get around in unexpected ways, as these tourists discovered in Egypt around 1910.

# I Going to New Places

## Travel for Religion

One of the first explorers we know about was a Chinese Buddhist monk named Hsuan-tsang. He wanted to find out more about his religion. He knew Buddhism had come to China from India, and in AD 629, he asked the emperor for permission to investigate.

The emperor refused because he didn't want anyone to travel outside China, but Hsuan-tsang ignored him. He traveled for miles across China and India, and back home again, on a journey that lasted sixteen years. His life was often in jeopardy on the long and strenuous journey.



▲ The route Hsuan-tsang took from China to India and back



▲ Indian statue of Buddha

The emperor forgave Hsuan-tsang for disobeying him. The monk brought home 700 religious books, statues, and relics of Buddha. Hsuan-tsang translated many of the books and is still remembered as a very important Chinese teacher of Buddhism.



▲ Chinese statue of Buddha