

## 6.2 Portugal Transforms Shipping and Trade

**Background:** Portugal's Prince Henry the Navigator (1394-1460) promoted Portuguese exploration along the west coast of Africa. He supported use of a new type of sailing vessel, the caravel. Although a small ship by modern standards, its strong internal frame helped it survive Atlantic storms, and its three lateen or triangular sails made it easy to maneuver, even against the wind. By the start of the 16th century Portuguese ships had increased in size ten-fold from 50 to 500 ton capacity. As Portugal's sailors grew more experienced, they contributed to the development of nautical science with advances in astronomy, mathematics, and map-making (cartography). On their voyages they mapped ocean currents and recorded wind patterns useful for navigation.

Timeline of Portuguese Voyages of Discovery	Caravel
<p>1415 – Portugal conquers Ceuta, an Islamic port on the north coast of Africa.</p> <p>1418 - Begins settlement of coastal islands.</p> <p>1427- Azores discovered.</p> <p>1434 – Portuguese ships sail along west African coast.</p> <p>1444- Portuguese ships reach Senegal River,</p> <p>1490 – Dias reaches southern tip of Africa.</p> <p>1494 – Papal Treaty of Tordesillas divides new territories between Portugal and Spain</p> <p>1498 – Vasco da Gama sails around Africa and reaches India.</p> <p>1500 – Cabral is blown off course by an Atlantic storm and arrives in Brazil.</p> <p>1503 – Establish 1st European settlement in India</p> <p>1511 – First Portuguese voyage to modern day Thailand and Malaysia.</p> <p>1513 – Portuguese vessels arrive in China.</p> <p>1519-1521- A fleet led by Portuguese Captain Ferdinand Magellan, sailing for Spain, circumnavigates the Earth.</p> <p>1526 – Portugal completes the first trans-Atlantic slave voyage from Africa to Brazil.</p> <p>1530 – Portuguese settlement in Brazil.</p> <p>1542 – Portuguese ships reach Japan.</p> <p>1557 – Portugal establishes base in China at Macao.</p> <p>1570 – Portugal founds city of Nagasaki in Japan.</p>	 
<p><b>Questions</b></p>	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What technologies made possible Portuguese navigational breakthroughs?</li> <li>2. In your opinion, what was Portugal's greatest contribution do global integration?</li> </ol>	