

CHAPTER PREVIEW

Introducing

A Story That Matters

Depending on the ability level of your students, select from the following questions to reinforce the reading of *A Story That Matters*.

- What was Magellan's goal when he set sail on August 10, 1519 (*passage to Asia by going west*)
- Given the details of the story, what words would students use to describe the voyage? (*dangerous, scary, miserable*)
- Why do students think sailors agreed to such voyages through unknown waters? (*fame, wealth, adventure*) **L1 L2**

About the Art

The picture shows Magellan's ships carefully navigating their way through the rocky islands that were scattered through the narrow passageway now called the Strait of Magellan. The Strait is narrow and experiences high winds, fog, and rain throughout the year. Until the opening of the Panama Canal in 1914, the Strait of Magellan remained an import route for sailing ships.

CHAPTER PREVIEW

A Story That Matters



Ferdinand
Magellan



Discovery of Magellan Strait by an unknown artist

Magellan Sails Around the World

Convinced that he could find a sea passage to Asia through the Western Hemisphere, the Portuguese explorer Ferdinand Magellan persuaded the king of Spain to finance his voyage. On September 20, 1519, Magellan set sail on the Atlantic Ocean with five ships and a Spanish crew of about 250 men.

After reaching South America, Magellan's fleet moved down the coast in search of a strait, or sea passage, that would take them through America. His Spanish ship captains thought he was crazy: "The fool is obsessed with his search for a strait," one remarked.

At last, in November 1520, Magellan passed through a narrow waterway (later named the Strait of Magellan) and emerged in the Pacific Ocean, which he called the Pacific Sea. Magellan reckoned that it would be a short distance from there to the Spice Islands of the East.

Week after week he and his crew sailed on across the Pacific as their food supplies dwindled. At last they reached the Philippines (named after the future King Philip II of Spain). There, Magellan was killed by the native peoples. Only one of his original fleet of five ships returned to Spain, but Magellan is still remembered as the first person to sail around the world.



Why It Matters

At the beginning of the sixteenth century, European adventurers launched their small fleets into the vast reaches of the Atlantic Ocean. They were hardly aware that they were beginning a new era, not only for Europe but also for the peoples of Asia, Africa, and the Americas. These European voyages marked the beginning of a process that led to radical changes in the political, economic, and cultural life of the entire non-Western world.

History and You Create a map to scale that shows Spain, South America, and the Philippines. Draw the route Magellan took from Spain to the Philippines. If the voyage took about 20 months, how many miles each day, on average, did Magellan travel? How long would it take today?