**Age of Exploration Vocabulary**

1. Navigation

* The science of planning and controlling the direction of a ship.

1. Explorer

* A person who travels to new places to learn about them.

1. Merchant

* Someone who buys and sells goods to earn money.

1. Profit

* The money a business has left over after all expenses have been paid.

1. Columbian Exchange

* The movement of plants, animals, and people between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres.

1. Astrolabe

* A navigational tool that measured the angle of the sun or a star above the horizon. Sailors could us this information to find out how far north or south they were.

1. Compass

* European sailors used this tool to find their direction. Its magnetic needle always points north.

1. Conquistador

* The Spanish word for conqueror. The conquistadors were a group of soldiers that conquered the new world.

1. Empire

* Many nations or territories ruled by a single group or leader.

1. Mission

* A religious community where priests taught Christianity.

1. Colony

* An area of land ruled by another country.

1. Slavery

* A cruel system in which people are bought and sold and made to work without pay.

1. Convert

* To convince someone to change his or her religion or beliefs.

1. Revolt

* A violent uprising against a ruler.

Key People

* Christopher Columbus
* Ferdinand Magellan
* Amerigo Vespucci
* Robert de La Salle
* Hernando de Soto
* Henry Hudson
* Jacques Cartier