

Chart: Explorers of North America and Texas (Chapter 5)

Who is the explorer?	Where is he from?	When did he arrive?	Where did he explore?	What was his goal? What did he discover?	Why is he important?
Columbus	Spain (Born in Italy)	1492 (First voyage)	Caribbean Islands	Goal: A direct route to Asia. He found "Indians" and new natural resources, but no route to India or China.	First European encounter with the Americas. Established the 'Columbian Exchange' of goods and ideas across the Atlantic.
Cortés	Spain	1519	Mexico and Central America	Goal: Conquer the Aztec empire in Mexico (locals thought they were gods with armor, weapons and horses).	Established New Spain in Mexico and Central America, brought home great wealth, and spread Christian faith.
Pizarro	Spain	1532	South America	Goal: Conquer the wealthy Incan empire in Peru (locals also thought they were gods with armor, weapons and horses).	Extended Spanish control into South America along with "God, gold, and glory."
<u>Pineda</u>	Spain	1519	Along Texas coast	Goal: Search for a water route to the Pacific Ocean, but failed. First to see Mississippi River.	Created first maps and charts of Texas coast and may have had first contact with Native Texans. (Killed in Texas in 1520?)
<u>Narváez</u>	Spain	1527	Florida to Texas coast	Goal: Explore lands north of Mexico, but bad luck and storms doomed expedition.	Explored Cuba, his survivors were first Europeans to set foot on Texas soil in 1528.
<u>Cabeza de Vaca</u>	Spain	1528	From upper Texas coast to Mexico	Goal: Survive shipwreck and return to Mexico. Lived among Indians as a slave, shaman and trader until 1536.	Published book in 1542, describing the land, people, and animals. Talked of gold at the Seven Cities of Cibola.
<u>Coronado</u>	Spain	1540	Mexico Great Plains into Kansas	Goal: Find City of Gold (Cibola), but they found no treasure.	Discovered the Grand Canyon, claimed land for Spain, and gathered information on the native cultures he encountered.
<u>De Soto/ Moscoso</u>	Spain	1539 & 1542	Florida to East Texas	Goal: Find riches in North America, but De Soto died soon after crossing Mississippi River and Moscoso took command.	First to reach Mississippi River, Moscoso came to East Texas, met Caddoes, and found petroleum (oil).
<u>Oñate</u>	New Spain	1598	West Texas and New Mexico	Goal: Find riches and establish Catholic missions, founded El Paso & Santa Fe (NM).	Claimed New Mexico for Spain and celebrated the first Thanksgiving in North America in 1598 (at El Paso).
<u>La Salle</u>	France	1682 & 1684	Mississippi River Gulf of Mexico Texas	Goal: Find Northwest Passage—failed, but claimed all lands drained into Mississippi River for France and King Louis XIV (1682).	Upon return from France (1684) mistakenly landed in Texas, killed by his men. French trade with Native Texans turns Spanish focus to East Texas.