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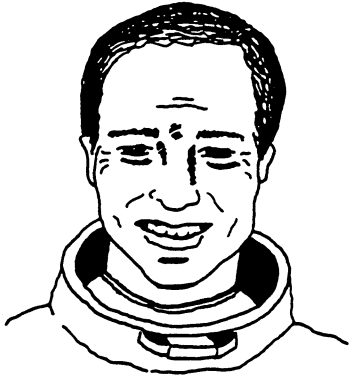
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I INTRODUCTION

Students turn to models not for definition but for direction; if no positive models are made available, students often choose the first image they encounter. Because young people are preparing for a world full of difficult and sometimes threatening choices, we need to ask ourselves these questions: how does a teacher present great minds and souls to students and at the same time elicit their commitment to discover their own unique voices? How does a teacher offer an example of human potential that doesn't encourage mere mimicry? Where does the courage to discover and realise our own destinies come from?

These were some of the concerns that influenced our choices when we compiled this guide. We selected several explorers based on their deep desire to know and understand the world. Although these individuals explored different regions of the world, all were responding to the human need to grow. Their experiences have a message for us that can cross the boundaries of culture, space and time and we hope that some of their spirit comes through these pages.



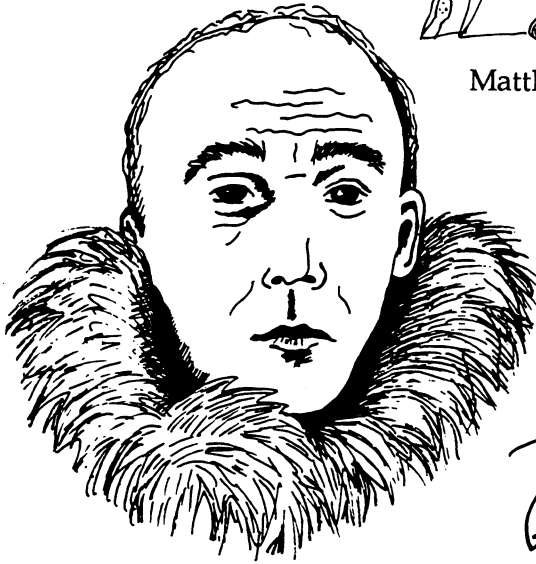
Edgar Mitchell



Matthew Flinders



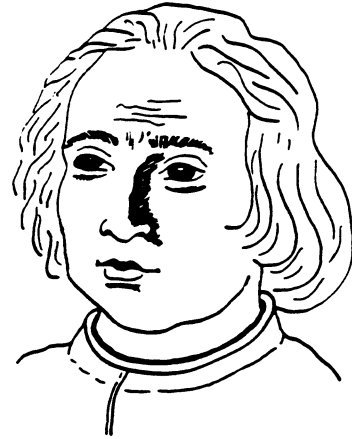
Mary Kingsley



Roald Amundsen



Jacques-Yves Cousteau



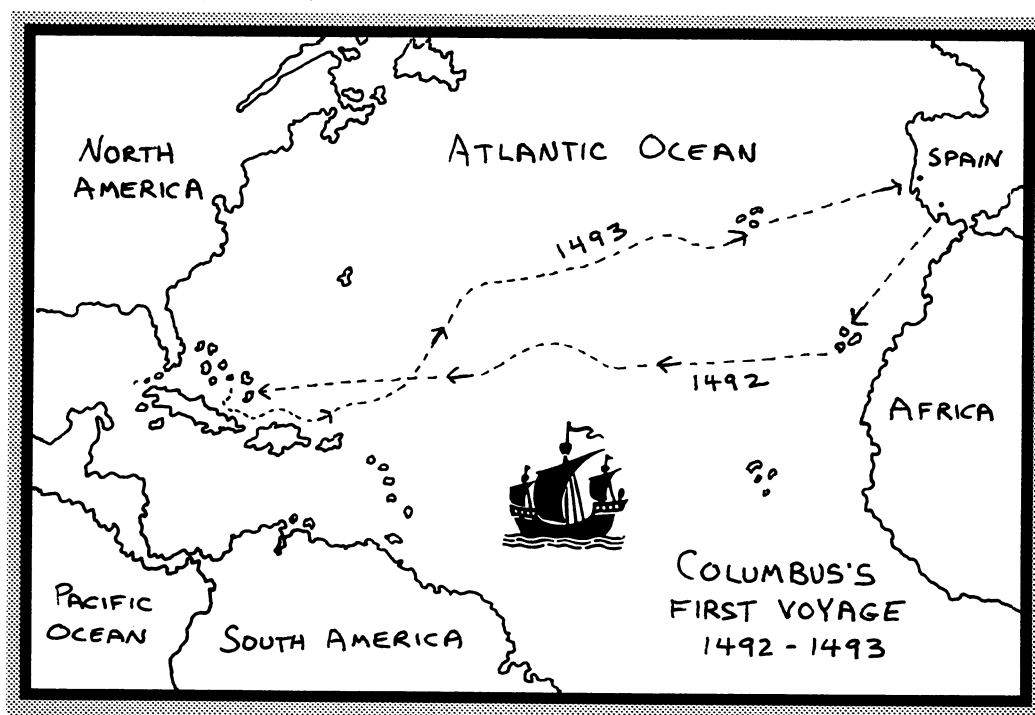
Christopher Columbus

II

THE EXPLORERS

Christopher Columbus

1451-1506



Overview

Christopher Columbus, like many explorers before him, challenged the ideas of his time. He had the will, determination and creativity to seek answers to questions about Earth's geography and his journeys paved the way for other explorers and settlers. The result was an important meeting of world cultures that changed the lives of people on both sides of the ocean forever. Although positive changes occurred, Columbus and the Europeans who followed him can be criticised for their ill treatment of the people whose land they took. The Europeans terrorised and enslaved the indigenous people and took their gold and other valuables. In the Americas, thousands of Native Americans died and entire cultures were lost.

Looking back on these events, however, we can gain insight into the past and recognise the mistakes of the eager newcomers. We can learn about relationships between cultures and carefully choose our actions toward one another in the future. By using the same courage and conviction that explorers such as Columbus have shown, we can create a "new world"—one that honours and provides for the needs of Earth and her diverse cultures.