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| Portugal's 1385 Flag**Directions**: Read through this article silently. Read each of the **Questions** below very carefully. Write the correct answers in the space below the **Questions**.**Question?**List the four (4) reasons why all of these expeditions were sent.**Question?**How long did the Great Age of Discovery last?**Question?**Where did Henry attack?**Question?**Name two (2) things that Prince Henry was determined to see.**Question?**What were people trained to do in this School of Navigation?**Question?**Why had no one returned alive from Cape Bojador?**Question?**Who did Prince Henry Convince to go further than Cape Bojador?**Question?**Who was the first European to sail beyond Cape Bojador and return?**Question?**What did Eannes bring back to Portugal to prove his accomplishment?**Question?**When did Prince Henry become involved with the slave trade?**Question?**Name the two (2) rivers in Africa that Cadamosto sailed. | Prince Henry the Navigator: Royal Patron of Explorers

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| The [flag of Portugal](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/europe/portugal/flag.shtml) during Prince Henry's life. |

http://www.enchantedlearning.com/pgifs/Princehenry.GIF[Prince Henry (Henrique) the Navigator](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/explorers/page/h/henry.shtml) (1394-1460) was a Portuguese royal prince, soldier, and patron of explorers. Henry sent many sailing expeditions down Africa's west coast, but did not go on them himself. Thanks to Prince Henry's patronage, Portuguese ships sailed to the Madeira Islands (Joao Goncalves Zarco, 1420), rounded Cape Bojador ([Eannes](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/explorers/page/e/eannes.shtml), 1434), sailed to Cape Blanc (Nuno Tristao, 1441), sailed around Cap Vert (1455), and went as far as the Gambia River (Cadamosto, 1456) and Cape Palmas (Gomes, 1459-1460). *These expeditions were sent to create much-needed maps of the West African coast, to defeat the Muslims, to spread Christianity, and to establish trade routes*. Prince Henry helped begin the Great Age of Discovery that lasted from the *1400's to the early 1500's*.**Early Life**: Prince Henry was the third son of King John I (João I) of Portugal and his English wife, Philippa of Lancaster. When he was 21, Prince Henry (with his father and brothers) attacked the Moslem port of Ceutha in north *Morocco* (in Africa, across the Mediterranean Sea). This successful attack in 1415 inspired Prince Henry to explore Africa, most of which was unknown to Europeans. *Prince Henry was determined to see**Portuguese sailors sail down the west coast of Africa to find the limits of the Muslim world* (in order to defeat the Muslims), *and to find the legendary Christian empire of the priest-king Prester John* (who did not, in fact, exist). Prince Henry was the governor of the province of Algarve.**School of Navigation**: About 1418, Prince Henry started the first school for oceanic navigation along with an astronomical observatory at Sagres, Portugal. In this school, people were trained in nagivation, map-making, and science, in order to sail down the west of Africa. **Exploring West Africa**: At this time, no Europeans had sailed past the treacherous Cape Bojador and returned alive. Cape Bojador is on the coast of Africa just below latitude 27° North (off the Western Sahara Desert) and had frequent, violent storms and strong currents. The Europeans called the ocean beyond that point the "Sea of Darkness." Most sailors refused to go there. Prince Henry sent 14 expeditions there over 12 years, trying to go farther than Cape Bojador. Prince Henry convinced Gil Eannes to try, and Eannes succeeded in 1434. Eyre map**Gil Eannes**: Gil Eannes was a Portuguese explorer who was the first European to sail beyond the dreaded Cape Bojador and return. Eannes worked in Prince Henry's household. On Eannes' first trip down the coast of Africa in 1433, he only sailed as far as the Canary Islands. In 1434, Eannes rounded Cape Bojador, and then landed on the coastal desert. He found no people there, only a few hardy plants, including "Saint Mary's roses," which he brought back to Portugal as proof of his accomplishment. Eannes made another journey in 1435, again rounding Cape Bojador and sailing south; he sailed with Alfonso Goncalves Baldaya. About 50 leagues past the cape, they entered a large bay and saw a caravan of men and camels. Eannes named the river Rio de Ouro (meaning river of gold). Baldaya sailed farther south and collected thousands of seal skins; this was the first commercial cargo brought to Europe from that part of Africa. **Gomes map**Goncalves and Tristao: In 1441, Prince Henry became involved in the slave trade, when Antao Gonçalves returned from Rio de Ouro with captives. Nuno Tristao reached Cabo Blanco that same year. Cadamosto: Many years later, in 1455, Prince Henry sent the Venetian (from Venice, Italy) navigator [Alvise da Cadamosto](http://www.enchantedlearning.com/explorers/indexc.shtml#Cadamosto) (1432?-1511?) on two expeditions. On the first, in 1455, Cadamosto reached the mouth of the Gambia River (in West Africa). On the second, in 1456, Cadamosto sailed up the Gambia River to the Geba River. He tried trading with the Africans but was unsuccessful. Cadamosto claimed to have discovered the Cape Verde Islands, but it is uncertain if he was the first one there. Diogo Gomes: In 1458, Prince Henry sent Diogo Gomes (1440-1482) on an expedition that sailed as far as Cape Palmas. Prince Henry died in 1460, the year that this expedition returned. |