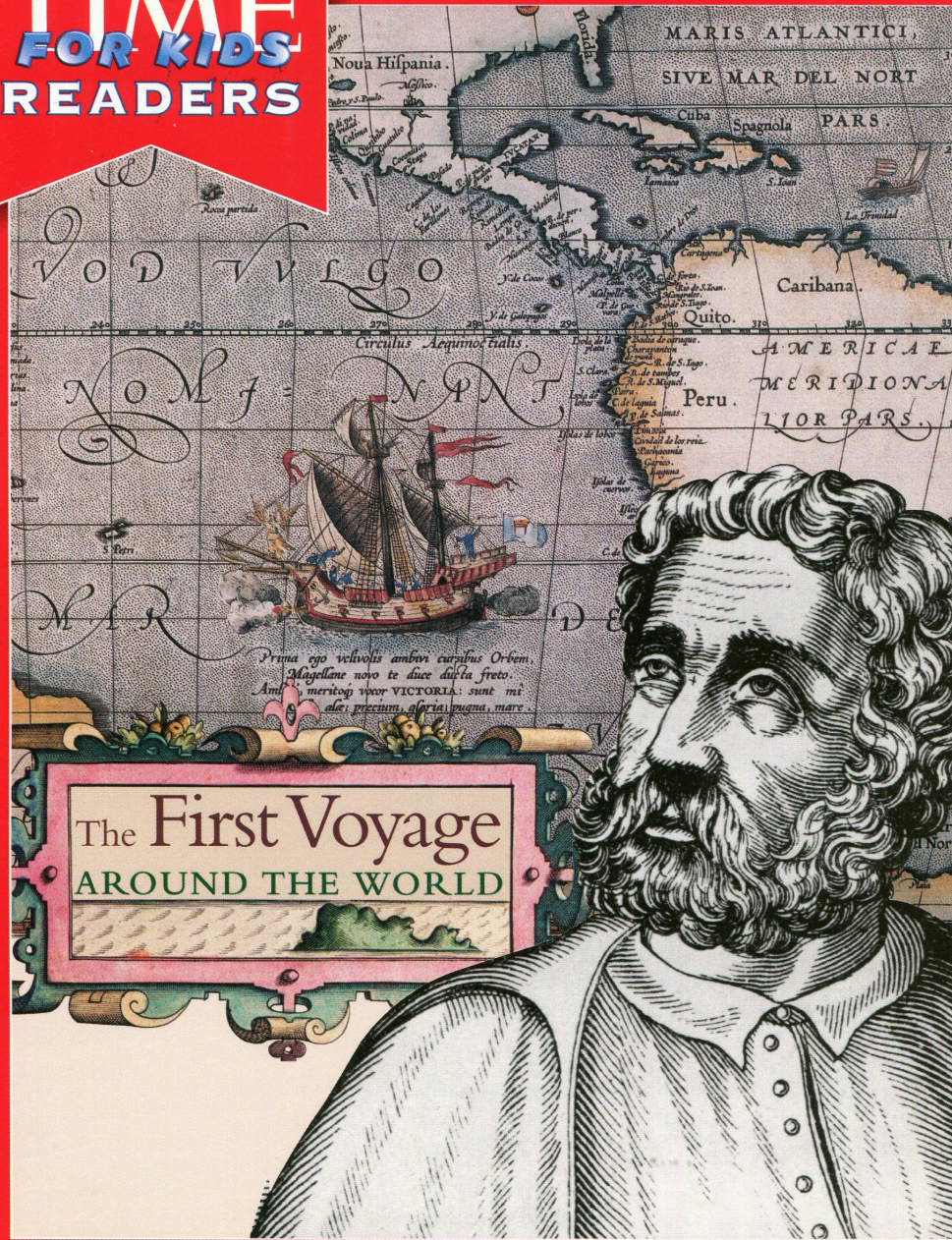


**TIME**  
**FOR KIDS**  
**READERS**



The First Voyage  
AROUND THE WORLD





## Magellan's Plan

In Spain, in 1519, Ferdinand Magellan was ambitious and driven to do what he wanted. He had a will of iron and refused to accept defeat, even in the face of death. He was determined to command the first fleet of ships to circle the globe.

Magellan himself never completed the trip around the world, because he was killed in the Philippines in 1521. Of the 250 or so men who left Spain with him in five small ships, only 18 arrived home three years later. These brave survivors faced starvation, mutiny, disease, shipwrecks, battles, and desertion. Yet, they had achieved the impossible. They had sailed around the world.

Magellan was born in Portugal about 1480. In the 1400s, boys who were born into nobility were educated at the court of the queen and king. Magellan was sent to the court to be a page. There he learned mathematics, navigation, and other skills that would serve him well as an adult.

**Magellan lived in the port city of Lisbon, the capital of Portugal.**

Along with the explorations of Christopher Columbus, the young man must have been inspired by Vasco da Gama's first voyage to India. When Magellan was in his twenties, he began sailing. Traveling with Portuguese traders, Magellan sailed to places like India and Africa. He learned far more than how to navigate and command a ship. He learned firsthand about the geography of the world beyond Europe.

To protect the cargoes on his ship from enemies, Magellan sometimes had to fight in battles. In one battle, he saved the life of another explorer, Francisco Serrão. They became good friends. In a later battle, a lance pierced Magellan's leg. That wound gave him a limp that he never lost.

Serrão, his friend, traveled east and wrote letters to Magellan describing the riches of the Spice Islands, which are located in eastern Indonesia. Exaggerating, Serrão said these islands were close to South America. Those letters gave Magellan an idea: He would find a shorter route to the Spice Islands by going west, instead of east—if someone would pay for his voyage.



In 1513 Vasco Núñez de Balboa, a Spanish explorer, had climbed a hill in Panama. From it, he had spotted a second ocean. By this time people believed the world was round, but they had no proof of it. Balboa's sighting convinced Magellan that circling the globe could be done. A quicker and easier way to get to the Spice Islands had to exist. It had to be through the tip of South America.

Magellan felt he had worked hard for the glory of Portugal. So he asked King Manuel of Portugal to let him lead an expedition to the Spice Islands. The king refused.

Later in Spain in 1517, Magellan had dinner with another Portuguese explorer, Diego Barbosa. A wealthy and influential man, Barbosa had a sister named Beatrice. Two months later, Magellan married her.

Magellan met with the advisors to King Charles I of Spain. He told them about the wealth of the Indies. He read them stories of people who had visited the islands. He displayed a map of Africa and showed how the land tapered. He suggested that South America was shaped in the same way. He insisted that there must be a passage across the tip of South America and that he was the man to find it.

One advisor backed Magellan's plan, even though he did not like the Portuguese explorer. This advisor had a plan that he didn't share with either



Ferdinand Magellan

Magellan or the king. The advisor wanted the Spanish captains who sailed with Magellan on the other ships to take over once the expedition left port. (So mutiny, or a revolt, was planned even before the expedition left!) The same advisor convinced King Charles to approve the expedition. After a month, the king agreed.

Magellan purchased five ships. Four other ships accompanied his flagship, or chief ship, the *Trinidad*: the *San Antonio*, *Concepción*, *Victoria*, and *Santiago*. None of the ships were new, and Magellan had to make them seaworthy. His men repaired and patched them until they were ready.

After the repairs were made, the ships were stocked with food and equipment. Barrels and boxes of biscuits, beans, and olive oil came aboard. Cheeses, sugar, raisins, onions, and figs were loaded along with kitchen equipment and ovens. The sailors also packed items that could be bartered, or traded, with the people in South America and beyond. They loaded up fishhooks, knives, brass bracelets, velvet, ivory, 20,000 bells, 500 pounds (227 kg) of crystal, mirrors, and more than 2,000 pounds (907 kg) of quicksilver (mercury).



The Route of Magellan's Expedition, 1519-1522



## Westward, Ho! September 1519

The five ships left the Spanish coast on September 20, 1519. Magellan left behind his wife, Beatrice, and his infant son, Rodrigo. He would never see them again.

Magellan and his fleet of ships headed across the Atlantic to the eastern coast of South America. Magellan commanded the *Trinidad*. Juan de Cartagena commanded the bigger but less sturdy ship, the *San Antonio*. Gaspar de Quesada headed the *Concepción*, Luis de Mendoza was commander of the *Victoria*, and Juan de Serrano was in charge of the *Santiago*.

Six days after the journey began, the ships stopped at the Canary Islands. Magellan's brother-in-law, Diego Barbosa, sent an urgent message to Magellan. He said that some of the captains were plotting mutiny. Magellan shrugged off the warning and sailed onward.

For the next few weeks, the sailors had good weather. Strong breezes filled the sails, which helped them make good time. But then



The five ships on Magellan's expedition traveled south along the eastern coast of South America.

came a month of storms and strong winds. Three weeks of calm followed. The sails hung limply. The fleet made little progress. Food was running short.

Three months later, on December 13, the ships anchored in the harbor of what is now called Rio de Janeiro in Brazil. The people there were friendly, so the Spaniards bartered and restocked the ship with supplies. The sailors feasted on meat, potatoes, and pineapples.

Magellan and his crews went back to the sea and continued southward. From time to time, they would go ashore and restock the ships with water and food. Sailors found fruits and hunted wild game. Among the animals the men spotted were what they called "strange geese"

and "sea wolves." These are what we now call penguins and seals.





Magellan's expedition stopped near the southern tip of Argentina. Part of that area is shown here.

## Mutiny!

April 1520

With the coming of winter, storms made sailing difficult. Magellan decided to make camp near the tip of South America. There, it was cold and desolate. Though fish and game were plentiful, the men were homesick. The sailors could think only of the flowers, fruits, and olives growing in abundance back in Spain and Portugal, where it was summer.

Many of his men urged Magellan to turn back. Three captains told Magellan that the expedition had failed. They had found no strait, or passage, across South America. Let us return home, they pleaded. Magellan refused. He told the captains that he would not turn back until he found the strait.

The day after Easter Sunday, Quesada seized the *San Antonio*. Its captain, Alvaro de Mesquita, had replaced de Cartagena as captain of the *San Antonio* earlier in the voyage, when de Cartagena had tried to revolt against Magellan. Mesquita was now the only captain loyal to Magellan. Quesada forced the *San Antonio* to join the *Concepción* and the *Victoria* in mutiny. Quesada informed Magellan that the mutiny would end if the ships returned immediately to Portugal. Magellan had no plans to do that.

Magellan asked Quesada to meet with him aboard the *Victoria*. That ship had fewer Spanish sailors. Magellan took a chance that the Portuguese sailors aboard would help him. Using all his wits, Magellan put a plan in motion.

First he sent a letter with six of his sailors to the *Victoria*. The letter commanded its captain, Mendoza, to come aboard the *Trinidad*. Mendoza refused. Magellan's crew killed Mendoza and rushed aboard his ship. The crew pledged their loyalty to Magellan. The *Victoria* was back with the *Trinidad*. Now Magellan had three ships against the mutineers' two.

A storm that night helped Magellan. The winds and waves dragged the *San Antonio* alongside the *Trinidad*. Magellan's men jumped aboard the *San Antonio*'s decks and freed Mesquita and his followers. Now it was four ships against one. The *Concepción* was soon surrounded and overpowered.

Forty men were found guilty of mutiny. Magellan pardoned all but Quesada and Mendoza, who were executed, and de Cartagena, who was put ashore. Another mutineer was killed trying to restart the uprising.



## TEK

In the Southern Hemisphere, the seasons are the opposite of those in the Northern Hemisphere. In South America, winter begins in June and summer begins in December.

Magellan sailed for three weeks through this 350-mile (563-km) long strait, which today bears his name.

### Marooned

May 1, 1520

The *Santiago* and its 38-man crew set off to explore the southern coastline. Sixty miles (97 km) later, they found a river where the fishing was wonderful. They had little time to enjoy it. A squall, or sudden violent storm, blew in, smashing the small ship into the shore. The crew salvaged enough planks to build a small boat, and some of the men slowly made their way back to home base. Magellan sent a rescue party back to save the other marooned crew members.

On board the four ships waiting for the rescue party to return, the men went about their chores. One day they had a pleasant surprise. A very tall man appeared on the beach. He began to dance, to leap, and to sing. Later more people from his tribe appeared. Like him, they wore large sandals on their feet. Because their feet looked so big, Magellan named the people Patagones, or Big Feet. Today, they are still called Patagonians.

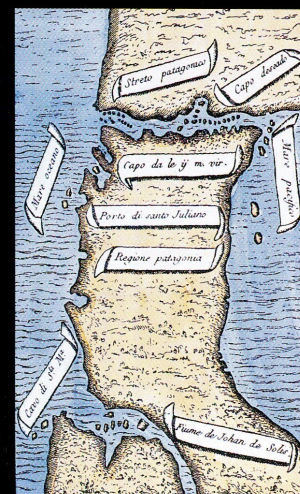
### Strait Ahead

October 21, 1520

Winter ended and Magellan once again set sail. Three days later, a lookout called out. He had spotted an inlet, the one for which they had been searching! That waterway is known today as the *Strait of Magellan*.

The crews were ecstatic. They had fulfilled the king's orders. They could at last return home. Larger and better ships could complete their mission. Magellan refused to go back. He said, "We will go on, even if we have to eat the leather on the ships' yards!" His words soon came true.

Magellan divided his fleet in parts so that each pair of ships could explore the strait together. When it was time to reunite, the *San Antonio* deserted and headed back to Spain. That was a great loss. The *San Antonio* held a large amount of the fleet's food and supplies.



### The Pacific! November 28, 1520

Now the fleet had dwindled to three ships: the *Concepción*, the *Trinidad*, and the *Victoria*. Late in November, they left the strait and entered an ocean, one they had not been on before. Compared to the choppy Atlantic Ocean, this new sea was peaceful and calm. Magellan named the new ocean the *Pacific*, from the Latin word for "peace."

The fleet pressed on. Time passed and still the sailors saw no land. Food supplies ran low and living conditions became unbearable. Hunger made them desperate. They took the hides from the ships' main yard, which supported the sails. They soaked the hides in seawater and then baked them. The starving men ate sawdust as a side dish. Many men became ill, but the ships sailed on.



## Land Ho!

March 1521

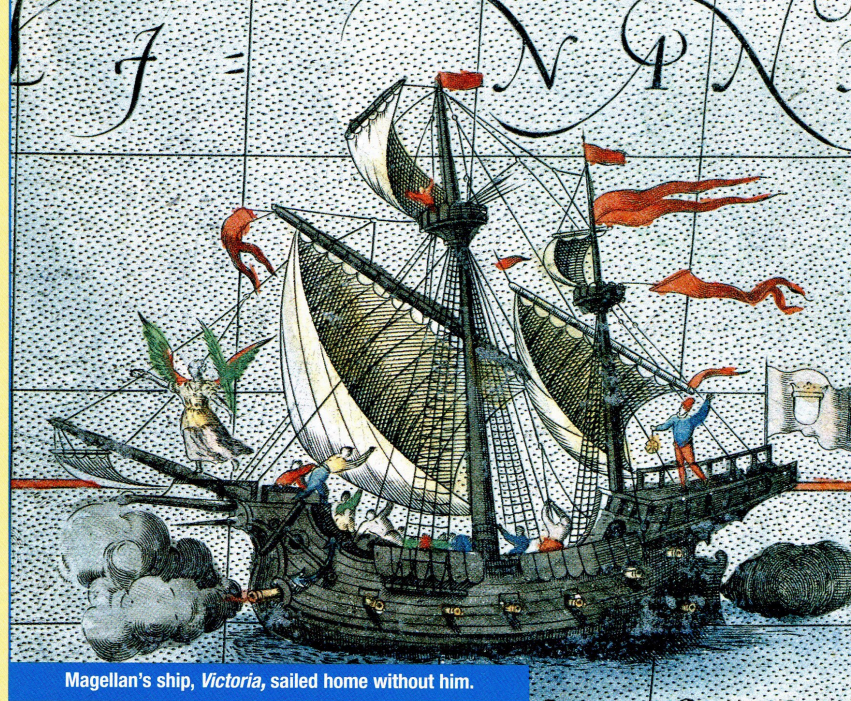
An island—now called Guam—was finally sighted. As the anchors were lowered, swarms of people came on board from shore. They began to take everything they could pry loose. Magellan called this land the *Island of Thieves*. Sailors who went ashore found wondrous food. They ate long figs (bananas) and drank milk from coconuts. They chewed sweet sugar cane.

Magellan gave orders to set sail. The fleet limped into the Philippine Islands. There, the crews traded beads and bells for bananas and coconuts. One day a king appeared. He wore gold earrings and bracelets. He brought oranges and a chicken. Then another king came aboard. Magellan gave him a red and yellow robe and a red cap. The king and Magellan became friends and pledged their brotherhood. When the king took Magellan ashore, they feasted on fish, pork, ginger, and rice. On Easter Sunday, two kings and their tribes pledged allegiance, or loyalty, to Spain and to Spain's religion.

Spurred by his success, Magellan pressed on to a nearby island called Cebu. Having just converted natives of one place to his religion, he was convinced he could do it again. That was a fatal mistake.

Heavy trading began as Magellan's crew bartered mere trinkets and iron pieces for gold. As a show of respect, Magellan found another robe and red hat to give to the local ruler. The sailors piled cheap beads on a silver tray and presented it to him. The king was won over and declared himself a Christian. About 800 people converted with him.

Magellan was not content. He wanted all the island kings to convert as well. One king would not agree. To change the man's mind, Magellan planned to attack his village in the nearby island of Mactan. The ships' officers argued against a battle. Their numbers were already too small, they said. They could not risk losing more lives. Magellan wouldn't listen.



## The End for Magellan

April 26, 1521

Magellan and 60 crew members went ashore at Mactan to attack the village. They were unaware that more than 1,000 warriors awaited them. The local people fought back with great strength, but nothing seemed to hurt Magellan's men. Then the villagers realized that the sailors' great armor didn't cover their legs, so that is where they aimed.

A poisoned arrow hit Magellan in the leg. He ordered his men to retreat. They struggled in the shallow water to return to the boats. Magellan was again wounded, this time in the arm, and could not defend himself. A warrior aimed a spear at Magellan. The weapon found its mark and killed Magellan.

Victory over finding the strait had now turned tragic for the sailors. It was time for them to go home. The *Concepción* developed serious leaks and was left behind. Only the *Trinidad*, the *Victoria*, and 107 men were left to resume the voyage.



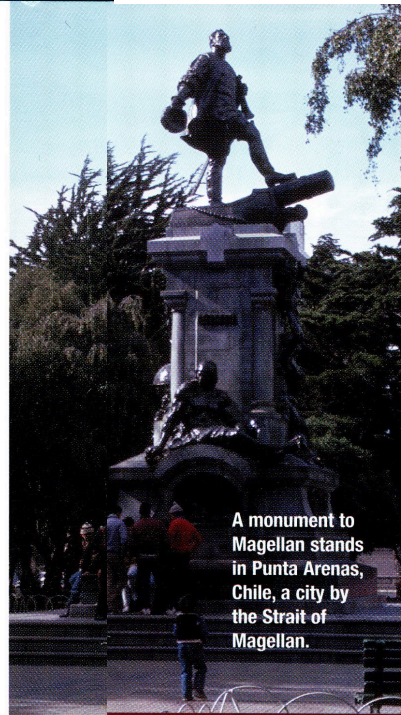


## Precious Cargo Early November, 1521

The expedition reached the Spice Islands. The men bartered everything they had, including their own shirts and coats, for cloves and nutmeg, spices that were precious to Europeans in those days. The *Trinidad* and part of the crew sailed east, back to Spain. Before reaching home, the ship was captured by Portuguese sailors, who took prisoner the crew of the *Trinidad*. Meanwhile, the *Victoria* and the remaining 47 Spaniards continued west.

**Cloves darken from green to brown as they age.**

In June, the ship crossed the equator, but the men aboard were starving. They needed to go ashore for fresh food and water. The new commander, Del Cano, sent men ashore in Cape Verde. When a sailor tried to trade cloves, the Portuguese there suspected the ship was Spanish and tried to capture it. In escaping, the *Victoria* had to leave behind the crew who had gone ashore. It continued to sail on with only 18 sailors aboard.



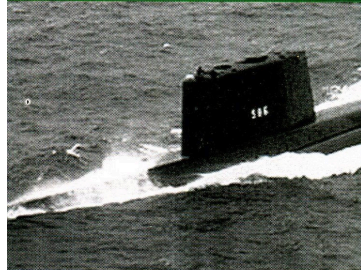
A monument to Magellan stands in Punta Arenas, Chile, a city by the Strait of Magellan.

## Home at Last September 6, 1522

Nearly three years after it had left Spain, the *Victoria* reached home. No parades or cheering crowds greeted it. The 18 remaining crew members were unhealthy, barefoot, and scraggly. The spices they presented to the king paid for the expedition, but they did not receive great wealth themselves. Still, their achievements were richer than any cargo that had ever been brought back to Europe: They were the first men ever to sail around the world.

Magellan didn't return home as he had hoped. From a financial point of view, his trip was a failure. Going through the strait took too long to be profitable. Still, Magellan had done what he had set out to do. A small part of his expedition had returned home safely. They had proved what people believed—the world was round. They had crossed two oceans and defined the great land masses that lay between them. The accomplishments of Ferdinand Magellan would be forever remembered.

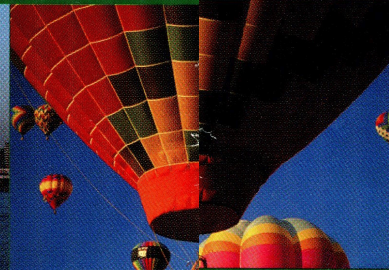
# TFK How long does it take to go around the world today?



In 1960, the USS *Triton* followed Magellan's route, covering 36,000 miles (57,936 km) in 84 days.



OCEAN LINER (QUEEN ELIZABETH 2):  
28 days (nonstop)



HOT-AIR BALLOON  
19 days, 21 hours,  
55 minutes



AIRPLANE  
2 days



SUPERSONIC JET (CONCORDE)  
1 day



# TFK SPOTLIGHT



**JESSE MARTIN** What would it be like to sail around the world today? On December 7, 1998, 17-year-old Jesse Martin decided to find out.

Jesse got help to make his dream come true. His mother gave him \$79,900 she had borrowed. He received \$160,000 from a sponsor. He bought a 34-foot sailboat, which he named the *Lionheart*. Then he loaded it with the latest navigation equipment. He packed a year's worth of supplies. He carried 117 gallons of water, 900 premade meals, a laptop computer for satellite e-mail, a guitar, and 60 CDs. He left Australia and sailed west.

Sailing day in and day out was hard work. Jesse said, "You're always keeping the boat going. You have to get up every few hours [to stay on course]."

After eight months, Jesse approached South Africa's Cape of Good Hope. The skies turned black, the wind raged at 55 knots an hour, and 34-foot waves came crashing over his deck. Five times the *Lionheart* tipped over, but she did not capsize.

"It was the worst, for sure," he said. "I've had knockdowns before, where you get a freak wave during the night. But this particular night I had three nasty waves five minutes after each other. It was not fun at all."



The good times must have overcome the bad, because Jesse kept going. On October 31, 1999, Jesse returned home. Close to 25,000 people were there to greet him.

"It was a strange feeling to go around the globe on water," he said. "You're surrounded by water, and for all you know you may not have moved at all. Then one day there's Melbourne again. It seems small to me now."

Whether or not our globe is small, Jesse Martin made his dream come true when he sailed a route that covered 27,000 nautical miles. Jesse became the youngest person ever to sail, nonstop and unaided, around the world alone.

## Think and Respond

- ① What is a mutiny?
- ② List the major accomplishments of Magellan's voyage.
- ③ What is the origin of the name *Pacific*?
- ④ What do you think are some qualities an explorer must have?

**Write a Description** Imagine you are a member of the crew accompanying Magellan on his voyage. Using information from the Reader, write a descriptive journal entry about a day in your life on the voyage.