



Giovanni da Verrazano
c. 1485-c. 1528 A.D. A navigator from Florence, Italy, who explored the Atlantic coast of North America and sighted New York Bay.



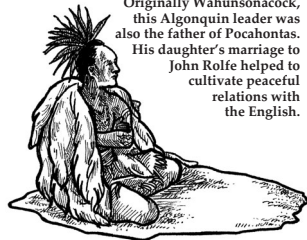
Juan Rodríguez Cabrillo
died 1543 A.D. Portuguese-born explorer in the service of Spain. While sailing up the west coast of Mexico in search of a route to the East Indies, he discovered California in 1542.



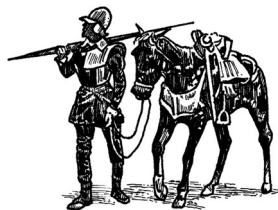
Juan de Oñate
c. 1550-c. 1630 A.D. Spanish conquistador and explorer whose discovery and claim of New Mexico in 1598 led to governing the territory until 1607.



Hernando de Soto
c. 1496-1542 A.D. Spanish explorer who, while on his quest for the fabled riches of the North, explored Florida and much of the Southeast. After reaching the Mississippi river, he died of fever and was buried on its banks.



Powhatan 1550-1618 A.D. Originally Wahunsonacock, this Algonquin leader was also the father of Pocahontas. His daughter's marriage to John Rolfe helped to cultivate peaceful relations with the English.



Francisco Vázquez de Coronado
1510-1554 A.D. Spanish conquistador and explorer whose discovery of the territory of Arizona and New Mexico was driven by his search for the fabled Seven Cities of Cibola. He also explored the Grand Canyon and the mouth of the Colorado River.



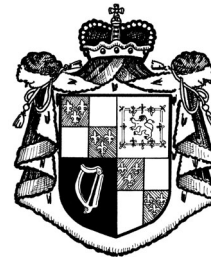
Jean Ribaut
1520-1565 A.D. A French mariner who established a colony of 150 Huguenots in what is now South Carolina in 1562. In 1565, a shipwreck left him stranded south of St. Augustine. He was eventually captured by Spanish soldiers and killed.



Sir Walter Raleigh
1552-1618 A.D. English courtier, navigator, historian, colonizer of "Virginia," and writer, regarded with special favor by Queen Elizabeth I. After several failed attempts to colonize the American coast, among which was the Lost Colony at Roanoke Island, he was convicted of treason by James I and executed after another failed expedition.



Hernando Cortés
1485-1547 A.D. Spanish conquistador and explorer who conquered the Aztec Empire in Mexico for Spain and was made governor of the territory.



James I
1566-1625 A.D. Son of Mary Queen of Scots, King of Scotland (as James VI), and first Stuart King of England. Claiming the English throne after the demise of the heirless Elizabeth I, his attempts to protect peace with Spain cultivated indignation in Parliament, leading to the English Civil War. Also commissioned the King James Bible during his reign.