

16.The Age of Exploration

1.What led the European to find a sea route to the east?

Trade with Asia was important for the Europeans as they needed cloth and spices.But the land trade route was controlled by the Arabs who resisted the presence of the Europeans.So in order to keep trading the Europeans had to find the sea route to the east.

2.Why did the Bartholomew Diaz decide to turn back from the Cape of Storms?

The sea at the Cape of Storms was very rough.Thus Bartholomew Diaz could not go any further and decided to turn back.

3.Breifly describe Vasco da Gama's first voyage to India.

Vasco da Gama started for his first voyage to India in 1497 from Lisbon in Portugal.He took the same route as Bartholomew Diaz and reached the Cape of Good Hope.From there he sailed northwards and reached Calicut (present Kozhikode) in India in 1498.

4.How were adjustable sails useful to the sailors?

The adjustable sails were useful to the sailors because by adjusting the sails to the direction of the wind,they could move their ships faster.

5.What instruments did the sailors use at sea?

The sailors used compass,quadrant and asrolable at sea.