AWESOME

Magellan and his Voyage of Discovery

<u>Ferdinand Magellan</u> (a Portuguese sea captain sailing for Spain) had an important goal when <u>he left</u> the <u>town of Seville</u> on the 10th of August, 1519: Find a <u>westward route</u> to the <u>Spice (Maluku) Islands</u>. He did not personally achieve that goal, but his crew (led by Juan Sebastian Elcano) did.

Despite a grossly inaccurate map, and ubelievably <u>wretched conditions</u> aboard ship, remnants of Magellan's crew circumnavigated the world in a ship called <u>Victoria</u>. Their expedition lasted about three years.

Magellan (1480-1521) never planned to sail around the globe. His assignment—to reach the Spice Islands, also known as the Moluccas (or Maluku Islands), thereby proving they belonged to Spain—already had more-thanenough challenges.

One of the most significant problems was to find a way (safer than sailing round <u>Cape Horn</u>) to reach the Pacific (via the Atlantic) Ocean. In October of 1520, he and his men found such <u>a passageway—between Chile and Tierra del Fuego—known today as the Strait (or Straits) of Magellan.</u>

A month later—on the 28th of November, 1520—Magellan's expedition reached the Pacific Ocean. Because the water seemed so calm (especially compared to the Atlantic), Magellan gave the vast body of water a name which means "peaceful sea."

Five ships originally began the expedition—*Trinidad*, *San Antonio*, *Concepción*, *Victoria* and *Santiago*—but only *Victoria* made it back to the starting point.

See, also:

Magellan and his Voyage of Discovery - Part 2

Magellan and his Voyage of Discovery - Part 3

Magellan and his Voyage of Discovery - Part 4

Magellan and his Voyage of Discovery - Part 5

Credits:

Clip from "Voyages of Discovery: Circumnavigation," produced for the BBC.

<u>Paul Rose</u> (former ten-year base commander of the British Rothera research station in Antarctica) <u>presents</u> the unimaginable story of Ferdinand Magellan and his crew (as they attempt to find a westward passage to the Spice Islands), in "Voyages of Discovery - Circumnavigation."

Directed by Sean Smith; written by Chris Bould.

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