

Text features

Article- use with cards on next 2 pages.



Sir Francis Drake

Drake, Sir Francis

Sir Francis Drake (1543?-1596) was the first English explorer to sail around the world. He won great sea battles against Spain and helped make England a powerful force at sea.

Drake was born near Plymouth in Devonshire. As a young sailor, he sailed on ships that took slaves from Africa to the West Indies.

On December 13, 1577, Drake set out across the Atlantic with five ships. Drake and his men had a difficult voyage.

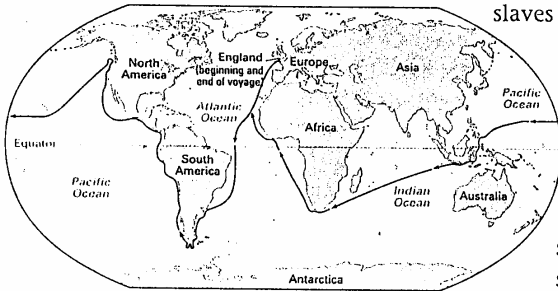
Eventually, Drake's ship, the *Golden Hind*, was the only ship left on the journey. With one ship left, Drake raided Spanish

settlements and captured a treasure ship. He also sailed along the Pacific coast of North America. Then he sailed home across the Pacific and Indian oceans loaded with gold. Queen Elizabeth rewarded Drake by making him a knight.

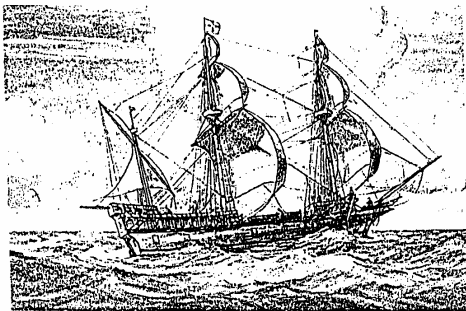
In May 1585, King Philip of Spain stopped all trade with England. So Queen Elizabeth sent Drake to capture Spanish treasure ships in the West Indies.

Spain then gathered an armada—a large fleet of ships—to attack England. In 1588, the English and Spanish fleets met in the English Channel. With Drake's help, many Spanish ships were destroyed. It was a great victory for England.

Drake later led an attack on Lisbon, which was then a Spanish port in Portugal. He was not successful and lost the queen's favor. He retired and was elected to a government post. He died in 1596, on a voyage to Panama. Drake was buried at sea.



This map shows where Drake sailed on his voyage around the world (1577-1580).



The *Golden Hind* was Sir Francis Drake's ship during his voyage around the world (1577-1580). It was about 100 feet long and had 18 guns. Approximately 50 men finished the famous Voyage with Drake.

(picture from World Book 2001 volume 5, page 322)

From The World Book Student Discovery Encyclopedia—volume 4