

Ferdinand Magellan:

The Man That Dared To Go Further

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Individual Website

Originally, I consulted with my father and considered some ideas for my topic from Spanish history. I had several ideas of Spaniards whose leadership left a proud legacy, and I was eager to explore deeper into one of these topics because I am proud of my own Spanish heritage. The first topic my father proposed was The First Circumnavigation of the Globe. I did not like it too much at first, but I did some research, and I decided I could make a great project out of this idea.

Initially I turned to the Internet for my research, but I was disappointed to find the same few facts stated over and over again. I had not considered how hard it would be to find primary sources from a voyage that had taken place in the 1500s. At first, I only had only one page of research, but I needed more. Then I found a BBC documentary of Magellan's journey that replicated the entire journey and using this documentary I got eight more front-and-back pages of research done. Initially, one of the weaknesses of my website that my teacher pointed out was that I

still did not have primary sources, and that I needed to have at least ten. Once I already had ten primary sources, I bought a book called “The First Voyage Round The World By Magellan” from which I obtained lots of quotes to add to my website. With this additional research I was able to improve the information on my website well past the first sources I came across.

I have always wanted a constructive opportunity to increase my computer literacy, so choosing a website was a natural choice. I have a passion for programming and other means of creating new things, therefore I chose a website. I enjoyed the ability to choose a format that was not only fun to do, but also something that is easy to share with my friends.

Magellan's voyage connects to the theme because the expedition he led defined the shape and size of our earth and its oceans and change the geographical, spiritual, and political landscape forever. Magellan's accomplishments are hard to overstate. He inspired the king of Spain to support his

mission, despite the extremely low chances of success. During the journey, he never lost faith, not even when there seemed to be no hope of survival. He did one of the most difficult things for any captain, or any leader for that matter, he overcame a crisis of confidence in his leadership, and regained the trust of his crew. Magellan led his ships through the most dangerous ocean, the Atlantic in winter, through the undiscovered land of South America, and across the widest ocean in the world. Consider only that Columbus' journey across the Atlantic took only five weeks, while the first trans-Pacific crossing by Magellan took more than 14 weeks. It is easy to see that Magellan was a great leader with an amazing legacy.

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