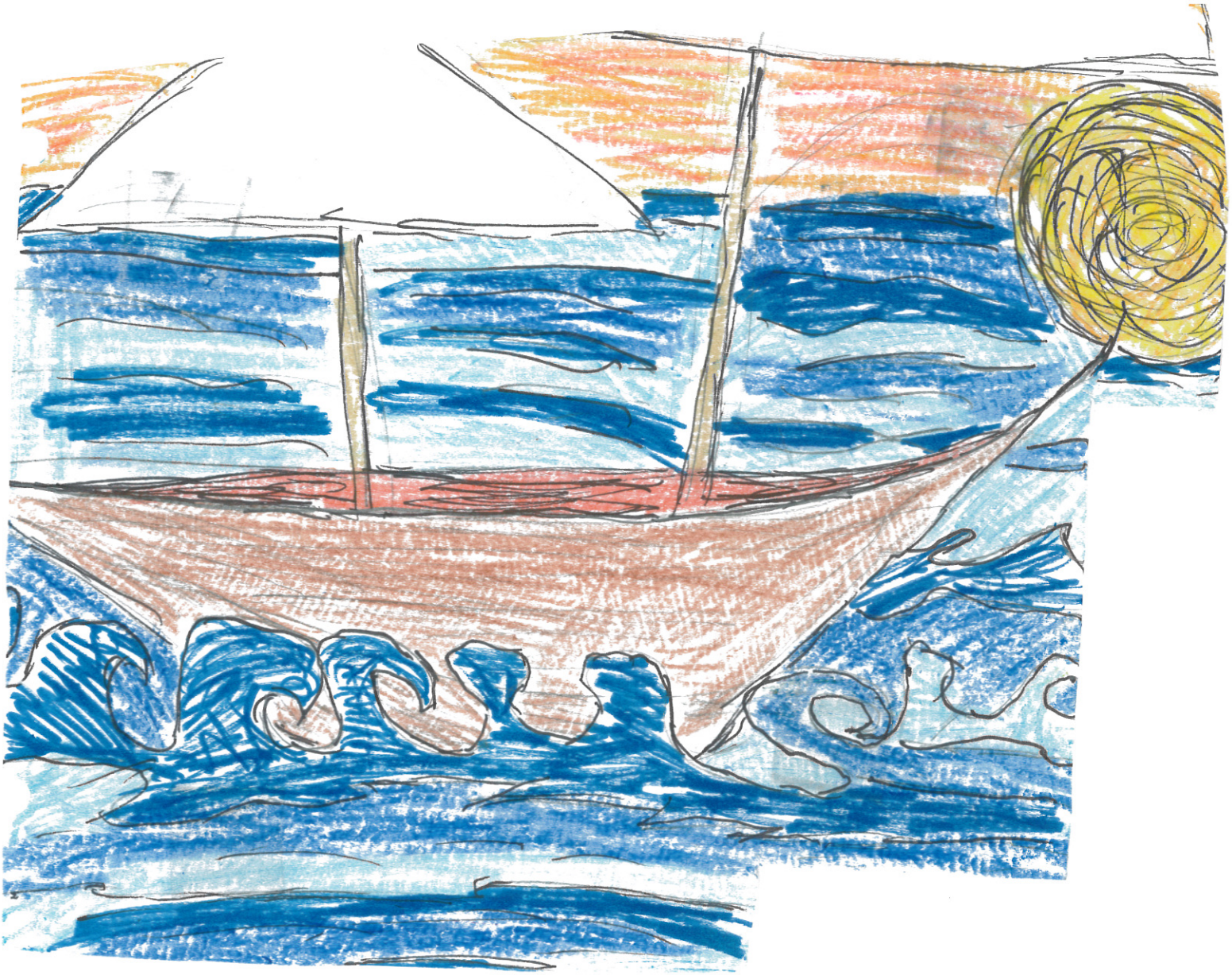


John Cabot

And the Rediscovery of North America





John Cabot

Before Cabot

Though John Cabot was said to have discovered North America and Newfoundland, Vikings were there before him. Vikings settled in Iceland in 870 and about 100 years later a Viking named Erik the Red discovered Greenland. After that the Vikings sent an expedition to Greenland from Iceland. Soon 300 homes were built in southeast Greenland. Finally, they settled in Newfoundland, though no one is sure whether they discovered it or if they already knew it existed.

Early Life

In the 1450s John Cabot was born in Genoa, Italy. When he was about 20 he moved to Venice where a few years later he married Mattea, a Venetian woman. They had three sons. Then he moved to Valencia, Spain to help find a route to Asia. After that Columbus declared that he found a route to the Indies. Finally, Cabot moved to England with his family and decided to explore further into the unknown land.

Most Famous Discovery

In 1495, in Bristol, England, people believed that a Northern route to Asia had been found by Columbus. The next year, after ten years of waiting for the King's approval, Cabot was allowed by King Henry the 7th to go with his three sons to explore any land unknown to England. He left with only one ship, but Cabot and his crew soon returned because they had run out of food and ran into bad weather.

On May 20th Cabot began his second voyage on a ship called "Matthew". With 18 men he reached Newfoundland or Cape Breton Island. When he returned on August 6 he said that he had just been just the coast of an island near Japan. Cabot was dressed in royal clothes and was he given a royal name by the King.

Death

On February 3rd, 1498, King Henry 7th allowed John Cabot to go on his third exploration. This time many sailors wanted to go and he was able to get 300 men and five ships. A year later, only one of the five ships returned, battered and broken by bad weather. Four ships never returned, including John Cabot's. Everyone assumed that his crew had taken over, forcing his ship and the other three ships to go south where they must have run into bad weather and drowned. Some said, "He only found the bottom of the ocean." But the important thing is: Cabot took England's first step into exploration.

Bibliography

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