A Voyage Westward:
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Amerigo Vespucci's voyages defined the New World. Born in Florence, Italy. His voyages demonstrated that the New World, first discovered by Columbus in 1492, was not Asia's eastern outskirts but an entirely separate landmass unknown to the people of the Old World.

It came to be known as America, a name derived from *Americus*, the Latin version of Amerigo. Vespucci had made several voyages that explored the east Coast of South America between 1499 and 1502. The expeditions became widely known in Europe after Vespucci wrote about them in 1502, realizing it was a continent and dubbing it the New World. In 1507, German Cartographer, Martin Waldseemuller, produced a world map on which he named the new continent *America* after the feminine Latin version of Vespucci's first name.

In 1508, King Ferdinand made Vespucci Chief navigator of Spain to found a school of navigation to develop advanced navigation techniques to explore the World.