

# Explorers

## Sir Francis Drake



Picture of Sir Francis Drake

### Who was Sir Francis Drake?

He was an English sea captain, privateer, navigator and politician. He was most famous for the second circumnavigation of the world between 1577 and 1580.

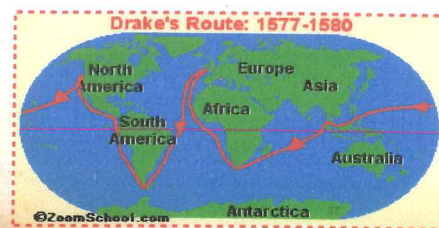
He was knighted Sir Francis Drake by Elizabeth 1 when he returned from this trip.

He was second in command on a fleet of ships against the Spanish Armada in 1588.

The English thought he was a hero but the Spanish thought he was a pirate.

### Facts

Birth Date	1540
Died	January 28 <sup>th</sup> 1596
Born	Tavistock in England
Died	Panama
Nickname	The Dragon
Married	Mary Newman in 1569 she died and then Elizabeth Sydenham in 1562.
Children	None



This map shows the route Drake took round the world

### Where and when did Sir Francis Drake explore?

At the age of 23 Drake made his first trip to America.

In 1570 he made a voyage to the West Indies.

In 1572 he went on his first big adventure to Panama.

### Why did he explore?

I think he liked the adventure of exploring and then in 1577 Queen Elizabeth I sent him off against the Spanish and towards South America.

Drake successfully completed this journey and returned back to England in 1580.

### The Golden Hind Ship

Sir Francis Drake's ship was called the Golden Hind ship which was the first ship to circumnavigate the world. The ship of Sir Francis Drake had five decks and three masts. It was the only vessel to return from Francis Drake's expedition out of five vessels that had originally set out from England.



Picture of the Golden Hind Ship

### Challenges faced by Sir Francis Drake

On the way home from his journey half way around the world, Sir Francis Drake realized the furious Spaniards were in the way to get back to England. In a way, this helped because it challenged Drake to go a different route and become the first Englishman to circumnavigate the world! Another challenge was when the ships were in the Indian islands and they hit a coral reef! One of the ships got stuck, and eventually sank. Since the waters of the Magellan Strait were so difficult to follow only Drake's boat remained after passing through.

### How did Drake respond to these challenges?

Sir Francis Drake was quite ruthless and went through some tough battles at sea.

### What happened to Sir Francis Drake in the end?

Drake contracted dysentery and on January 28, 1596, died of a fever. He was buried in a lead coffin at sea near Portobello, Panama. Divers continue to search for the coffin.

### Bibliography

[www.wikipedia.org/wiki/FrancisDrake](http://www.wikipedia.org/wiki/FrancisDrake)

[www.biography.com/people/francis-drake](http://www.biography.com/people/francis-drake)