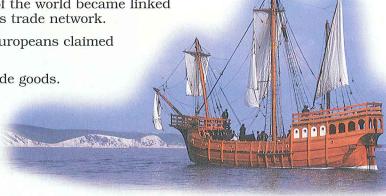
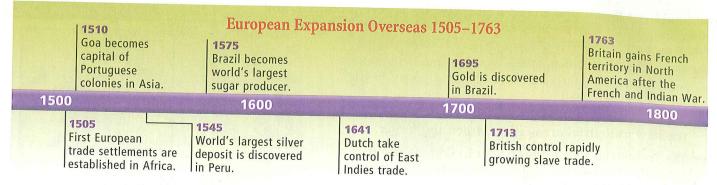
As Europeans formed colonies overseas, most of the world became linked through trade. Europe became the center of this trade network.

- Based on the voyages of early explorers, Europeans claimed land in Asia, Africa, and the Americas.
- These regions were sources of valuable trade goods. European countries competed for access to these goods.
- As European trade expanded, more and more goods were exchanged among different regions of the world. A world economy began to form.



New ships like the caravel shown here were faster and safer. By the 1500s more goods were being moved by sea than by land.



During the 1500s Portuguese traders controlled the Atlantic slave trade as well as European trade with Asia. By the 1700s the British and the Dutch were the leaders in worldwide trade.

