

## **Ferdinand Magellan Student Worksheet**

### Introduction:

Ferdinand Magellan (c.1480–1521) was the first person to lead a voyage that circumnavigated the globe. Although educated Europeans already believed that the earth was round, Magellan’s 1519–1522 voyage provided definite proof.

He first sailed from Portugal to South America, where he wintered and suppressed a mutiny by some of his men. That spring, he explored and sailed from the Atlantic to the Pacific by going around the tip of South America; the Strait of Magellan there is named after him. After crossing the Pacific, Magellan attempted to convert Philippine islanders to Christianity. He successfully converted the king and people of the island of Macangor, but when that king took Magellan to other islands ruled by rival kings, Magellan ran into trouble. The people of these islands didn’t convert willingly, and Magellan burned some of their villages and sent boats to fight the villages on the island of Matam. The people there rose up against him and killed him.

All Web links for this lesson can be found at:

<http://www.socialstudies.com/worldlinks.html>.

### Directions:

#### **Ferdinand Magellan’s Voyage Round the World, 1519–1522**

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/mod/1519magellan.html>

Scroll down to the paragraph that begins “In this port three of the ships rose up against the Captain-major....” This paragraph describes what happened at the port of St. Julian (in modern-day Argentina), where Magellan and his ships spent the winter of 1520. The “Captain-major” mentioned in the paragraph is Magellan.

Read the paragraph, then answer the following questions:

1. What did the captains of the three ships do, and why?
2. How did Magellan handle this situation?
3. What does this incident suggest about Magellan’s leadership style?
4. What does this incident suggest about the expectations a “Captain-major” might have had of the captains in his fleet?

Scroll down to the paragraph that begins “This king conducted them thence a matter of thirty leagues to another island named Cabo....” This paragraph describes Magellan’s exploration of the Philippine islands. The king who led him to these islands was a king he’d met on a previous island who he had successfully converted to Christianity. This king was not on friendly terms with the kings of the other islands—they were all rivals.

Read the paragraph, then answer the following questions:

5. What does it mean that Magellan “did what he pleased with the consent of the country”?
6. What did Magellan demand of the other kings, and how did they react to this demand?
7. What did Magellan do as a consequence of the other kings’ reaction to his demand?
8. What did Magellan demand of the people of Matam? Did they agree to this demand?
9. How did Magellan react to the people of Matam’s decision? What happened as a result of his reaction?
10. Does the passage say how the king who led Magellan to Matam reacted to Magellan’s idea to fight against the people of Matam? Did he appear to object to Magellan’s idea, or do you think he supported it? (Remember, this king was a rival of the other kings.)
11. What do these incidents (on Cabo and Matam) suggest about Magellan’s attitude toward the non-European peoples he encountered on his journey around the world?