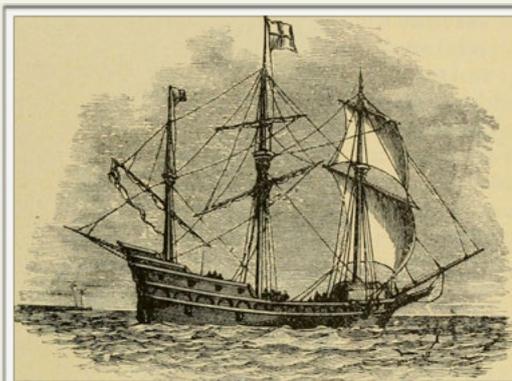




Francis Drake's Attempt to Circumnavigate the World

On the 15th November, 1577, Drake set off from Plymouth. Unfortunately, bad weather forced him back almost immediately. A few weeks later, on 13th December, with a crew of 164 men and a total of five ships, he set off again. This time he did not return for three years.

When they finally landed in San Julian in Argentina, two of the ships had to be abandoned due to the number of crew lost on the hard crossing of the Atlantic Ocean. Once on land, the crew also saw the weathered skeletons of sailors that had previously been executed for mutiny by a Spanish admiral some years earlier. Drake executed a mutineer of his own here, Thomas Hardy, who was accused of witchcraft. Drake decided to remain in San Julian during the winter, giving himself and his crew a chance to recover their strength before the next step of their journey.



Drake's ship the *Pelican*, later renamed the *Golden Hind*. The ship was renamed after one of Drake's sponsors, Sir Christopher Hatton, whose crest was a golden hind (a female deer).



The capture of the Spanish ship by Drake.

In 1578, the three remaining ships set sail around the southern tip of South America. However, Drake and his crew ran into more bad weather. Violent storms completely destroyed one ship, and forced another to return to England. Only Drake's ship, the *Pelican*, was left. Here, he decided to rename the ship the *Golden Hind*.

Drake and his remaining crew sailed north along the coast of South America. They attacked and plundered many Spanish ports along the way. They captured Spanish ships and used their more accurate sea charts to plot their ongoing journey.

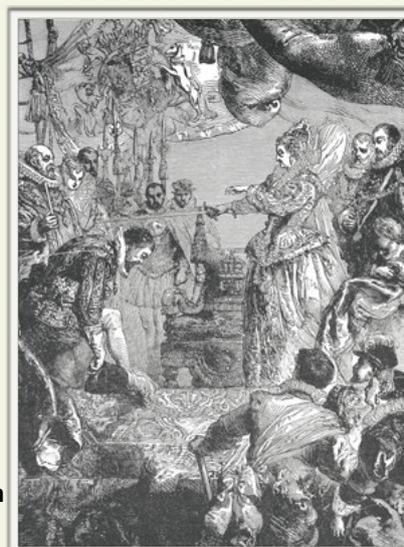
Near the coast of Lima in Peru, they captured another Spanish ship. To Drake's delight, it was carrying 25,000 pesos of gold (this is equal to approximately £7,000,000 by modern standards!) Spurred on by this turn of events, they heard news of another Spanish ship in the area, and gave chase...

Drake caught up with the ship off the coast of Esmeraldas in Ecuador. He successfully overpowered it, and found even more gold, silver and jewels onboard. Drake was so overjoyed at this good fortune that he dined that evening with the captured ship's Spanish officers! After, he took them ashore and gave them letters of safe passage.

Drake then sailed further north, and in June 1579, landed on the coast of what is now known as California in North America. He claimed the land for England, calling it Nova Albion, meaning 'New Britain'. Drake and his crew stayed here for a while to repair and restock the *Golden Hind*. Once ready, they set sail again across the Pacific Ocean.

A few months later, they landed in what is now Indonesia, on the Maluku Islands. Here, the *Golden Hind* became caught on a reef and was nearly lost. They had to dump a lot of cargo to make the ship lighter, and wait three days for high tide. Luckily, the ship was freed.

From here, they sailed across the Indian Ocean towards the tip of South Africa, reaching Sierra Leone by July 1580. On 26th September, 1580, Drake and his remaining 59 crew members returned to Plymouth, bringing with them a rich cargo of spices and treasures. Queen Elizabeth I was given a half share of this, which amounted to more than her income for the entire year!



An engraving of Queen Elizabeth I knighting Francis Drake onboard his ship the *Golden Hind*.

Name: _____ Date: _____

First, read Drake's Journey Sheet and look at the Map of Drake's Circumnavigation of the World. Now write three different diary entries as Francis Drake; one at the very beginning of your attempt, one at the very end, and one time period from during your journey. Include what is happening as well as your thoughts and feelings.

Dear Diary

Date _____



Dear Diary

Date _____



Dear Diary

Date _____

