

Sir Francis Drake. Was he really the 'Master Thief of the Unknown World'?



In 1577 five ships called the *Pelican*, the *Elizabeth*, the *Marygold*, the *Christopher* and the *Swan* left Plymouth Harbour. On board were Francis Drake and just over one hundred and sixty other men. Most of the men aboard the ships thought they were sailing to Egypt. It was only when they reached Africa that Drake told them they were heading for the Pacific Ocean via the Strait of Magellan. Many of the men were frightened as they knew that this would be a very dangerous voyage. In fact, when Drake returned three years later, only one ship, the *Pelican* now known as the *Golden Hind*, had survived. Many people thought that Drake was a hero for managing to sail around the world but some thought that he was a pirate or a 'Master Thief'.

You can make your own mind up by looking at the documents contained in the following case studies: [Voyage of Plunder?](#) and [Voyage of Discovery?](#)

You can record your answers and thoughts on the worksheet.

Let's investigate!

Teacher's Notes

(1) General Information

This resource uses extracts from the original printed accounts of Drake's circumnavigation of the globe, 1577-1580. The material is available for consultation in the [Archives and Special Collections Searchroom](#), University of Durham, Palace Green.

Document references:

Portrait of Drake. Taken from *Navigantium atque Itinerarium Bibliotheca* or a Complete Collection of Voyages and Travels, John Harris, London, 1744 (Routh 68 B. 5-6)

Map of world showing Drake's voyage. Taken from *Navigantium atque Itinerarium Bibliotheca* or a Complete Collection of Voyages and Travels, John Harris, London, 1744 (Routh 68 B.5-6)

Account of Drake's voyage taken from *Purchas his Pilgrimes*, Samuel Purchas, Vol.1, London, 1625 (Cosin R III 25)

Account of Drake's voyage taken from *The World Encompass'd by Sir Francis Drake, Collected out of the Notes of Master Francis Fletcher*, London, 1652 (Routh 59 F 21)

(2) Contents and use of resource

This investigation asks pupils to consider whether Francis Drake was 'the Master Thief of the Unknown World' by focusing on two aspects of his circumnavigation of the globe. Case Study 1 considers whether Drake was motivated by the desire to plunder Spanish ships and settlements, while Case Study 2 takes a more general look at the discoveries he made while sailing round the world. It uses extracts taken from early seventeenth printed accounts of the voyage as its basis.

The investigation has been designed to be as flexible as possible. Each case study could be used as a whole class resource or students could be put into groups to work on a single source before returning for group discussion. A [worksheet](#) has been provided so pupils can record their answers in a Word document, thus also providing an ICT opportunity.

As with most historical sources, these accounts were written by adults for adults and, consequently, the language may be considered advanced. In addition, pupils may struggle with the typography (for example, s appearing as f and u appearing as v). To help overcome these problems, a full transcript and a simplified transcript have been provided for every source. There is also a link to a glossary on every page. Nevertheless, some pupils may still need extra assistance.

In each case study, there is a section entitled 'More Information' which provides basic background and contextual information. A [Links](#) button also appears on every page which directs pupils to other useful websites.

(3) Curriculum Links

This resource relates directly to QCA Scheme of Work, Unit 19: What were the effects of Tudor exploration at Key Stage 2. It could also be used as background to QCA Scheme of Work, Unit 5: Elizabeth I: How successfully did she tackle the problems of her reign, specifically the section relating to Philip of Spain, at Key Stage 3.

It also supports various aspects of the Knowledge, Skills and Understanding section of the National Curriculum and could be used to cover aspects of the NC requirements for KS 2 English. There are also clear links with ICT.

(4) Ideas and activities

(a) In addition to the worksheet, a writing frame has been provided. This provides opportunities for the students to record their observations on various aspects of Drake's voyage before drawing their own conclusion as to whether Drake was a hero or master thief.

(b) Pupils could be asked to write their own account of one of the incidents described in the sources, eg a letter home, a report for a newspaper, an idea for turning it into a film.

Links

<http://www.mcn.org/2/oseeler/drake.htm> Informative website focusing on Drake's famous circumnavigation of the world.

<http://www.mariner.org/age/drake.html> Gives brief details of Drake and his circumnavigation. Provides some interesting illustrations.

<http://sirfrancisdrakehistory.net/> Provides an easy-to-read synopsis of Drake's voyage.

<http://www.nmm.ac.uk/site/request/setTemplate:singlecontent/contentTypeA/c/onWebDoc/contentId/140> Biographical details of Drake from the National Maritime Museum

<http://www.nmm.ac.uk/site/navId/00500300I009> The National Maritime Museum's excellent Tudor Exploration site aimed specifically at children.

<http://learningcurve.pro.gov.uk/snapshots/snapshot39/snapshot39.htm> A Snapshot on the Spanish Armada from the National Archives' Learning Curve.

<http://www.channel4.com/history/microsites/H/history/pirates/piratesdrake.htm> A biography of Drake.

Glossary

Apprenticed	To work for a master craftsmen so that you can learn a trade
Barke or Barque	A small sailing ship
Boat	A small craft that might be carried aboard a ship, used for landings etc
Conjecture	Guess
Contemporaries	Belonging to the same period of time
Cosmography	Study of the universe
Critics	People who pass comment
Duckats or ducat	Gold coin
Exotic	Unusual or strange
Freighter	Cargo ship
Funded	Paid for
League	Unit of measurement – refers to 3 marine miles
Maine	The mainland rather than an island
Master	A captain of a ship
Merchants	People involved in buying and selling of goods
Mizzen	The mast or sail nearest the stern (rear) of a ship
Ordnance (Ordenance)	Cannon or other pieces of artillery
Pezo	Spanish money
Plundering	To take goods by force
Pounds (lb)	Unit of weight – equal to 16 oz or 454g
Prize	Something seized by force or taken as booty
Ransacked	To search everywhere, to plunder
Rifled	Similar to ransack and plunder
Ryal	A gold coin. In Elizabeth's reign it was worth 15 shillings.
Sierra Leone	Country on the western coast of Africa
Sponsored	Paid for
Victualled	To provide with food

Voyage of Plunder



Nobody really knows why Francis Drake decided to sail around the world. Voyages of discovery and exploration were becoming more common as powerful nations sponsored journeys to find new land and trade routes. Kings, queens and other leaders wanted their share of the riches coming from trade in gold, silver, silk, spices and other exotic goods. Much of the trade was controlled by the Spanish and Portuguese but this did not please England. In fact, some people think that Drake was on a secret mission funded by Queen Elizabeth I to break Spanish control over gold coming from the New World by plundering Spanish ships and settlements. His success in raiding Spanish gold on his circumnavigation of the globe caused the Spanish Ambassador to Britain to call Drake 'the Master Thief of the Unknown World'.

You can decide whether Drake really was good at plundering Spanish gold by studying the sources below. Don't forget that you can use the worksheet to record your answers.

Let's investigate!

Read Source 1

An account of a raid on the port of Valparizo, December 1580

- from *Purchas his Pilgrimes*, Samuel Purchas, Vol.1, London, 1625 (Cosin R III 25 – in Rm 5), Second Book, pp.50-51

vs to the place, which is called the Port of Valparizo. When we came thither, we found indeede the shippe riding at anchor, hauing in her eight Spaniards and three Negros, who thinking vs to haue bene Spaniards, and their friends, welcommed vs with a Drumme, and made ready a *Bottija*, of Wine of *Chili*, to drinke to vs: but as soone as wee were entred, one of our company, called *Thomas Moone*, began to lay about him, and stricke one of the Spaniards, and said vnto him, *Abaxo Perro*, that is in English, Goe downe Dogge. One of these Spaniards seeing persons of that qualitie in those Seas, all to crossed and blessed himselfe: but to be short, wee stowed them vnder Hatches, all saue one Spaniard, who suddenly and desperately leapt ouer-board into the Sea, and swam ashore to the Towne of *S. Iago*, to giue them warning of our arriall. They of the Towne being not aboue nine Houſeholds, presently fled away, and abandoned the Towne. Our Generall manned his Boat, and the Spanish shippes Boat, and went to the Towne: and being come to it, wee rifled it, and came to a small Chappell, which wee entred, and found therein a Siluer Challice, two Cruets,

Cruets, and one Altar-Cloth, the spoyle whereof our Generall gave to *M. Fletcher*, his Minister. Wee found also in this Towne a Ware-hoult, stored with Wine of *Chili*, and many boords of Cedar-Wood; all which Wine wee brought away with vs, and certaine of the boords, to burne for fire-wood: and so being come aboard, wee departed the Haven, hauing first set all the Spaniards on land, sauing one *Iohn Griego*, a Greeke borne, whom our Generall carried with him for his Pilot, to bring him into the Haven of *Lima*.

Q1. Do you think the Spaniards are afraid of Drake's men when they first board the ship? Why?

Q2. What happens to the people on board the ship?

Q3. What do Drake and his men find in the church at S.lago?

Q4. Do you think Drake was right to raid a church? Can you think of any reasons why Drake would think it was acceptable? (Think back to Henry VIII and his relationship with Rome.)

Read Source 2

An account of further raids made by Drake

- from *Purchas his Pilgrimes*, Samuel Purchas, Vol.1, London, 1625 (Cosin R III 25 – in Rm 5), Second Book, p.51

When wee were at Sea, our Generall rifled the shippe, and found in her good store of the Wine of *Chili*, and five and twentie thousand Pezoes of very pure and fine Gold of *Baldinia*, amounting in value to seuen and thirtie thousand Duckats of Spanish Money, and aboute. So going on our course, wee arriued next at a place called *Coquimbo*, where our Generall lent foure-teeene of his men on land to fetch Water: but they were espyed by the Spaniards, who came with three hundred horsemen and two hundred footmen, and slew one of our men with a Peece; the rest came aboard in safetie, and the Spaniards departed: wee went on shire againe, and buried our man, and the Spaniards came downe againe with a Flag of Truce; but wee set sayle, and would not trust them.

From hence wee went to a certaine Port, called *Tatapaça*: where being landed, wee found by the Sea side a Spaniard lying asleepe, who had lying by him thirteene Barres of Siluer, which weighed foure thousand Duckats Spanish; wee tooke the Siluer, and left the man.

Not farre from hence, going on land for fresh Water, wee met with a Spaniard and an Indian Boy driving eight *Llamas* or Sheepe of *Persu*, which are as bigge as Asses; euery of which Sheepe had on his backe two Bagges of Leather, each Bagge containing fiftie pound weight of fine Siluer: so that bringing both the Sheepe and their Burthen to the shippes, wee found in all the Bagges eight hundred weight of Siluer.

Hence wee sayled to a place called *Arica*: and being entred the Port, wee found there three small Barkes, which wee rifled, and found in one of them seuen and fiftie Wedges of Siluer, each of them weighing about twentie pound weight, and euery of these Wedges were of the fashion and bignesse of a Brick-bar. In all these three Barkes wee found not one person: for they mistrusting no strangers, were all gone a land to the Towne, which consisteth of about twentie Houses, which we would haue ranlacked, if our companie had bene better, and more in number. But our Generall contented with the spoyle of the shippes, left the Towne, and put off againe to Sea, and set sayle for *Lima*, and by the way met with a small Barke, which hee boarded, and found in her good store of Linnen Cloth, whereof taking some quantitie, hee let her goe.

Gold of *Baldinia*.

Coquimbo in 29. degrees, 30. minutes.

Tatapaça.

Arica in 18. degrees, 30. minutes.

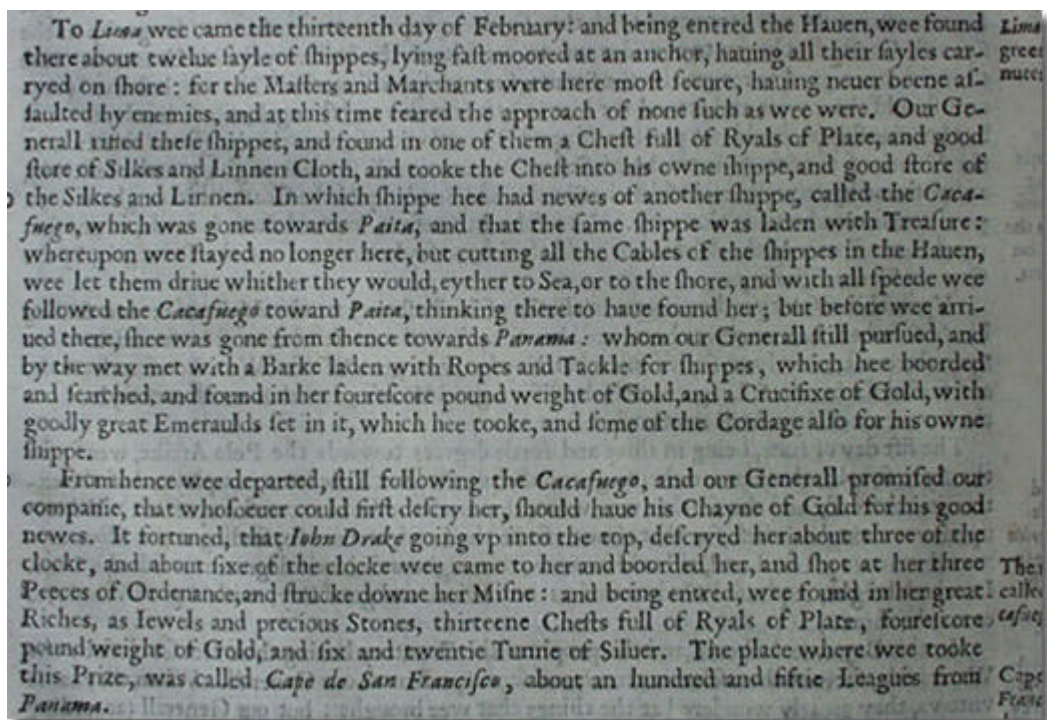
Q5. Use this table to record what Drake and his men captured. The top line has been filled in as an example.

From?	What?	Value? (if given)
The ship in Valparizo harbour	Chilean wine 25,000 gold Pezos	37,000 Spanish Duckats

Read Source 3

The Raid on the *Cacafuego*

- from *Purchas his Pilgrimes*, Samuel Purchas, Vol.1, London, 1625 (Cosin R III 25 – in Rm 5), Second Book, p.51



Q6. Why do you think the anchor ropes of the ships in Lima harbour were cut?

Q7. Can you think of any reasons why Drake would want to take some rope and tackle from a ship?

Q8. Complete the table for Q5 with what Drake found aboard the *Cacafuego*.

Information

- ? These extracts are taken from a book called *Purchas his Pilgimes* by Samuel Purchas which was published in 1625. It contains many accounts of exploration, discovery and famous voyages.
- ? The account of Drake's voyage around the world was actually written by a man called Richard Hakluyt (c1552-1616). He was the first lecturer on geography and cosmography at Christ Church, Oxford and was the first person to introduce the use of globes in English schools. He wrote a number of books on voyages of discovery.
- ? Drake was born sometime between 1540 and 1543. He was the eldest of 12 sons. He first went to sea in the 1550s when he was apprenticed to a master of a small coastal freighter. He later started to sail with a relative, John Hawkins, and became involved with the slave trade.
- ? Drake's first voyage across the Atlantic took place in 1571 and he went again in 1573. This time he attacked a mule train near Panama. It was laden with gold and treasure worth over £20,000. Drake claimed it for himself and for Queen Elizabeth I.
- ? Trade with the New World was controlled by the Spanish and Portuguese. However, England wanted access to the riches of America and the Spice Islands as well. From the 1560s, piracy became common as Spanish and English ships found themselves under attack.
- ? The Spanish also disliked the English for other reasons. King Philip of Spain had been married to Queen Mary I of England and after her death he had wanted to marry Queen Elizabeth I. She had refused. Spain was also a Catholic country and hated the Protestant religion of England. This caused a lot of tension between the two countries.
- ? When Drake set off in 1577 it was probably with the intention of plundering Spanish ships and possibly fighting a route to the Spice Islands of the East Indies. It was a dangerous voyage. Only one ship, the *Pelican*, which was renamed the *Golden Hind*, made it back to England. Two ships had to be destroyed, one was lost at sea and the other turned back after trying to sail round South America.
- ? When Drake returned he was knighted by Elizabeth for his services. He was the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe, had made discoveries and claimed new land for England and brought back enough treasure to pay off the national debt.

Case Study 3a: Transcripts

Source 1

When wee came thither, wee found indeede the shippe riding at anchor, hauling in her eight Spaniards and three Negroes, who thinking us to have beene Spaniards, and their friends, welcommed us with a Drumme, and made ready a *Bottya*, of Wine of *Chili*, to drink to us: but as soone as wee entred, one of our company, called *Thomas Moone*, began to lay about him, and strucke one of the Spaniards, and said unto him, *Abaxo Perro*, that is in English, Goe downe Dogge. One of these Spaniards seeing persons of that qualitie in those seas, all to crossed and blessed himselfe: but to be short, wee stowed them under Hatches, all save one Spaniard, who suddenly and deliberately leapt over-boord into the Sea, and swam ashore to the Towne of *S.lago*, to give them warning of our arrivall. They of the Towne being not above nine Households, presently fled away, and abandoned the Towne. Our Generall manned his Boat, and the Spanish shippes Boat, and went to the Towne: and being come to it, wee rifled it, and came to a small Chappell, which we entred, and found therein a Silver Challice, two Cruets (p.51), and one Altar-Cloth, the spoyle whereof our Generall gave to M. *Fletcher*, his Minister....

Simplified transcript

When we reached Valaparizo we found the ship anchored, aboard were eight Spaniards and three blacks, who thought we were Spaniards and their friends so welcomed us with a drum and a bottle of Chilean wine: but as soon as we were aboard, one of our company, Thomas Moone, hit one of the Spaniards and told him to get down. Seeing this, one of the Spaniards crossed and blessed himself; we made the others go below deck, except one Spaniard who leapt overboard and swam to shore to the town of S.lago to warn them of our arrival. All the people in the town ran away. Our General [Drake] manned our boat and the Spanish ship's boat and went to the town, when we arrived we rifled it, we came to a small Chapel which we entered and found a silver chalice, two cruets and an altar-cloth which the General gave to Mr Fletcher, the minister.

Case Study 3a: Transcripts

Source 2

When we were at Sea, our Generall rifled the shippe, and found in her good store of the Wine of *Chili*, and five and twentie thousand Pezos of very pure and fine Gold of *Baldinia*, amounting in value to seven and thirtie thousand Duckats of Spanish Money, and above...

From hence we went to a certaine Port, called *Tarapaca*: where being landed, wee found by the Sea side a Spaniard lying asleepe, who had lying by him thirteene Barres of Silver, which weighed foure thousand Duckats Spanish; wee tooke the Silver, and left the man.

Not farre from hence, going on land for fresh Water, wee met with a Spaniard and an Indian Boy driving eight *Llamas* or sheepe of *Peru*, which are as bigge as Asses; every of which Sheepe had on his backe two Bagges of Leather, each Bagge containing fiftie pound weight of fine Silver: so that bringing both the Sheepe and their Burthen to the shippes, wee found in all the Bagges eight hundred weight of Silver.

Hence we sayled to a place called *Arica*: and being entred the Port, wee found there three small Barkes, which wee rifled, and found in one of them seven and fiftie Wedges of Silver, each of them weighing about twentie pound weight; and every of the these Wedges were of the fashion and bignesse of a Brick-bat. In all these Barkes wee found not one person: for they mistrusting no strangers, were all gone aland to the Towne, which consisteth of about twentie Houses, which we would have ransacked, if our companie had beene better, and more in number. But our Generall contented with the spoyle of the shippes, left the Towne, and put off againe to Sea, and let sayle for *Lima*, and by the way met with a small Barke, which we boarded, and found in her good store of Linnen Cloth, whereof taking some quantitie, hee let her goe.

Simplified transcript

When we were back at sea, our General rifled the ship and found a good store of Chilean wine, 25,000 Pezos of very pure and fine Gold worth 37,000 Spanish duckats.

From there we went to a port called Tarapacca, when we landed we found by the sea side a Spaniard lying asleep, lying beside him were 13 bars of silver which weighed 4,000 Spanish Duckats; we took the silver and left the man.

Not far from there, going on land for fresh water, we met a Spaniard and an Indian boy driving eight llamas or sheep of Peru, which are as big as Asses; every sheep had on its back two leather bags each containing 50 pounds in weight of silver; so that when we brought the sheep and their loads to the ship, we found in all the bags, eight hundred weight of silver.

Then we sailed to a place called Arica. When we entered the port we found three small barks, which we rifled, and found 57 wedges of silver in one of them, each weighing about 20 pounds in weight. Every one of these wedges was the same size as a brick. We didn't find anyone on board the barks. Not fearing an attack, everyone had gone ashore to the town, which consisted of about twenty houses. We would have ransacked the town if we had had more

men. But our General was happy with what we had found aboard the ships so we left and set sail to Lima. On the way we met a small barke which we boarded. We found some a lot of linen cloth, some of this we took, before letting thee ship go.

Case Study 3a Transcripts

Source 3

To *Lima* wee came the thirteenth day of February, and being entred the Haven, wee found there about twelve sayle of shippes, lying fast moored at anchor, having all their sayles carried on shore: for the Masters and Marchants were here most secure, having never beene assaulted by enemies, and at this time feared the approach of none such as wee were. Our Generall rifled these shippes, and found in one them a Chest full of Ryals of Plate, and good store of Silkes and Linnen. In which shippe he had newes of another shippe, called the *Cacafuego*, which was gone towards *Paita*, and that the same shippe was laden with Treasure: whereupon we stayed no longer here, but cutting all the Cables of the shippes in the Haven, wee let them drive whither they would, eyther to the Sea, or to the shore, and with all speede wee followed the *Cacafuego* towards *Paita*, thinking there to have found her; but before wee arrived there, shee was gone from thence towards *Panama*: whom our Generall still pursued, and by the way met with a Barke laden with Ropes and Tackle for shippes, which he boorded and searched, and found in her fourscore pound weight of Gold, and Crucifixe of Gold, with goodly great Emeraulds set in it, which hee tooke, and some of the Cordage also for this owne shippe.

From hence wee departed, still following the *Cacafuego*, and our Generall promised our companie, that whosoever could first descry her, should have his Chayne of Gold for his good newes. It fortun'd, that *John Drake* going up into the top, descryed her about three of the clocke, and about sixe of the clocke wee came to her and boorded her, and shot at her three Peeces of Ordenance, and strucke down her Misne: and being entred, wee found in her great Riches, as Jewels and precious Stones, thirteene Chests full of Ryals of Plate, fourscore pound weight of Gold, and six and Twentie Tunne of Silver. The place where wee tooke this Prize, was called *Cape de San Francisco*, about an hundred and fiftie Leagues from *Panama*.

Simplified transcript

We arrived at Lima on 13th February. When we entered the harbour we found 12 sailing ships anchored there. All their sails had been carried ashore. The Masters and Merchants felt very safe here, having never been attacked by their enemies or fearing the approach of people like us. Our General rifled the ships and found in one of them a chest full of gold coins and a good store of silks and linen. On board this ship, he heard news of another ship called the *Cacafuego*, which was going towards *Paita*, which was laden with treasure. We left immediately, first cutting all the cables of the ships in the harbour so they went where they wanted either to sea or to shore. With all speed, we followed the *Cacafuego* towards *Paita*, but before we arrived we found she had set sail for *Pananma*. We continued to chase her. On the way we met a barke laden with ropes and tackles for ships, which we boarded and searched. We also found in her fourscore pound weight (80lb) of gold and a gold crucifix containing some large emeralds, which the General took along with some cordage for his own ship.

From there we left still following the *Cacafuego*. Our General promised that whoever spotted her first would have his gold chain. It happened that John

Drake spotted her at 3 o'clock and at about 6 o'clock we came to her and boarded her. We fired three cannon balls at her and struck down her mizzen mast. On board we found great riches, including jewels and precious stones, thirteen chests full of gold coins, eighty pounds in weight of gold, and twenty six tons of silver. The place where we took this Prize was called *Cape de San Francisco*, about 150 leagues from *Panama*.

Voyage of Discovery?



It is difficult for us to imagine not knowing what this world looks like but in 1577 many areas of the globe lay undiscovered. Few Europeans had sailed across the Atlantic or Pacific Oceans and only one attempt had been made to sail around the world. This had been led by Ferdinand Magellan who set off from Spain 1519. The voyage was very dangerous. Only eighteen sailors out of two hundred and sixty returned and Magellan himself did not survive. Stories of the journey were so bad that no-one else even tried for nearly sixty years. This changed in 1580 when Francis Drake sailed up the River Thames becoming the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe. To many, Drake was a hero. Not only had he sailed round the world but he had discovered new lands and brought back a huge amount of treasure. The Queen was delighted and knighted him for his efforts.

Was Drake really a hero? You can decide by studying the sources below. Don't forget that you can use the [worksheet](#) to record your answers.

Let's investigate!

Read Source 1

A description of the passage through the Strait of Magellan
- from *Purchas his Pilgrimes*, Samuel Purchas, Vol.1, London, 1625 (Cosin R III 25 – in Rm 5), Second Book, pp.49-50

fumed.
The one and twentieth day wee entred the Strait, which wee found to haue many turnings, and as it were shuttings vp, as if there were no passage at all, by meanes whereof, wee had the Winde often against vs, so that some of the Fleet recouering a Cape or Point of Land, others should be forced to turne backe againe, and to come to an Anchor where they could. In this Strait there be many faire Harbours, with store of fresh Water, but yet they lacke their best commoditie: for the Water is there of such depth, that no man shall find ground to anchor in, except it be in some narrow Riuer or Corner, or betweene some Rockes; so that if any extreme Blasts or contrary Winds doe come (whereunto the place is much subiect) it carrieth with it no small danger.
The Land on both sides is very high and mountainous: the lower Mountaines whereof

The bredth of the Strait is in some place a League, in some other places two Leagues, and in some other, three Leagues, and in some other, foure Leagues: but the narrowest place hath a League over.

The foure and twentieth of August wee arrived at an Iland in the Straits, where wee found great store of Fowle which could not flye, of the bignesse of Geese, whereof wee killed in lesse then one day three thousand, and victualled our selues throughly therewith.

Q1. Make a list of all the dangers faced by Drake and the other sailors when sailing through the Strait of Magellan.

Q2. Did Drake find anything of use when sailing through the Strait? If so, what and why would it be useful? [Think about the nature of the voyage and conditions aboard the ship]

Read Sources 2a and 2b

An account of what Drake and his company discovered by sailing through the Strait of Magellan near Tierra del Fuego

- from *The World Encompass'd by Sir Francis Drake, Collected out of the Notes of Master Francis Fletcher*, London, 1652. p.44

The uttermost Cape or hedland of all these Islands, stands neere in the 56. deg. without which there is no main, nor Iland to be seen to the southwards: but that the Atlantick Ocean, and the south sea, meet in a most large and free scope.

It hath been a dreame through many ages, that these Islands have been a maine, and that it hath been *terra incognita*, wherein many strange monsters lived. Indeed it might truly be fore this time, be called *incognota*, for howsoever the maps & generall descriptions of *Cosmographers*, either upon the deceivable reports of other men, or the deceitfull imaginations of themselves (supposing never herein to be corrected) have set it down, yet it is true, that before this time, it was never discovered, or certainly known by any traveller, that we have heard of.

An Account of what Drake and his company discovered when sailing up the coast of Chile.

- from *Purchas his Pilgrimes*, Samuel Purchas, Vol.1, London, 1625 (Cosin R III 25 – in Rm 5), Second Book, pp.50

Thus being come into the height of the Straits againe, wee ranne, supposing the Coast of *Chili* to lye as the generall Maps haue described it, namely, North-west, which wee found to lye and trend to the North-east, and Eastwards: whereby it appeareth, that this part of *Chili* hath not bene truly hitherto discovered, or at the least not truly reported, for the space of twelue degrees at the least, being set downe eyther of purpose to deceiue, or of ignorant coniecture.

Q3. What two discoveries did Drake and his company make?

Q4. What reasons do both accounts give for the inaccuracies or mistakes in the maps that they have?

Q5. What do you think? Think carefully about the state of maps in the sixteenth century, who would make the maps and why they might like to keep some information secret.

Read Source 3

A description of the land and people of what Drake called Nova Albion (on the west coast of North America)

In this Bay wee anchored.....serviceable to their Husbands”

- from *Purchas his Pilgrimes*, Samuel Purchas, Vol 1, London, 1625 (Cosin R III 25), Second Book, p.52

In this Bay wee anchored, and the people of the Countrey having their Houses close by the Waters side, shewed themselves vnto vs, and sent a present to our Generall. When they came vnto vs, they greatly wondered at the things that wee brought : but our Generall (according to his naturall and accustomed humanitie) courteously intreated them, and liberally bestowed on them necessarie things to couer their nakednesse ; whereupon they supposed vs to be Gods, and would not be perswaded to the contrarie. The Presents which they sent to our Generall, were Feathers, and Kawles of Net-worke. Their Houses are digged round about with Earth, and haue from the vttermost brimmes of the Circle, Clifts of Wood set vpon them, ioyning close together at the top like a Spire-Steeple, which by reason of that closenesse, are very warme.

CHAP. 3. *Of the Circum-Navigations of the Globe.*

warme. Their Bed is the Ground, with Rushes strowed on it: and lying about the House, haue the fire in the midst. The Men goe naked: the Women take Bull-rushes, and kembe them after the manner of Hempe, and thereof make their loose Garments, which being knit about their middles, hang downe about their hippes, hauing also about their shoulders a Skinne of Deere, with the hayre vpon it. These Women are very obedient and seruiceable to their HUSBANDS.

Q6. Do you think that the Amerindians had ever seen Europeans before? Why?

Q7. What do you think the Europeans thought of the Amerindians?

Q8. Using the description given in the source, draw a picture of the Amerindian settlement.

More information

? Most of these extracts are taken from a book called *Purchas his Pilgimes* by Samuel Purchas which was published in 1625. It contains many accounts of exploration, discovery and famous voyages.

? The account of Drake's voyage around the world was actually written by a man called Richard Hakluyt (c1552-1616). He was the first lecturer on geography and cosmography at Christ Church, Oxford and was the first person to introduce the use of globes in English schools. He wrote a number of books on voyages of discovery.

? The other extract comes from a book called *The World Encompass'd*. This was written using notes made by Francis Fletcher, a preacher who made the journey with Drake.

? Drake was born sometime between 1540 and 1543. He was the eldest of 12 sons. He first went to sea in the 1550s when he was apprenticed to a master of a small coastal freighter. He later started to sail with a relative, John Hawkins, and became involved with the slave trade.

? Drake's primary motive for undertaking voyages was trade, whether legal or not, and he did become a very wealthy man. However, many of his journeys took him to uncharted waters and his findings added to his contemporaries' knowledge of the world.

? On his voyage around the world he discovered that land to the south of Tierra del Fuego (as seen when passing through the Magellan Straits) was not actually another continent and he also claimed part of the West Coast of America for England.

? Critics of Drake claim that he only decided to sail across the Pacific because he did not want to run into the Spanish whose ships he had just plundered or risk losing his treasure trying to get back through the Strait of Magellan.

? It was still a difficult journey. By the time he reached America, only the *Golden Hind* (which had started the journey as the *Pelican*) was left. Two ships had had to be destroyed, one had been lost at sea and one had been forced to turn back. The *Golden Hind* also ran into difficulties in the East Indies and had to ditch some of its cargo to escape some rocks.

? When Drake returned he was seen as a hero by many English people. He was the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe, had made discoveries and claimed new land for England and brought back enough treasure to pay off the national debt.

Case Study 3b – Transcripts

Source 1

The one and twentieth day [of August] wee entred the Strait, which wee found to have many turnings, and as it were shuttings up, as if there were no passage at all, by meanes whereof, wee had the Winde often against us, so that some of the Fleet recovering a Cape or Point of Land, others should be forced to turne back againe, and to come to an Anchor where they could. In this Strait, there be many faire Harbours, with store of fresh Water, but yet they lacke their best commoditie: for the Water there is of such depth, that no man shall find ground to anchor in, except it be in some narrow River or Corner, or betweene some Rockes; so that if any extreme Blasts or contrary Winds does come (whereunto the place is much subject) it carrieth with it no small danger.

.....

The foure and twentieth of August wee arrived at an Iland in the Straits, where wee found great store of Fowle, which could not flye, of the bignesse of Geese, whereof we killed in lesse then one day three thousand, and victualled our selves thoroughly therewith.

Simplified transcript

We entered the Strait on the 21st August. We found it had many turnings and dead-ends. We often had the wind against us, so that when some of the Fleet found somewhere to land, others would be forced to turn away and drop anchor wherever they could. In the Strait, there are many good harbours with plenty of fresh water but they are not perfect. The water is so deep that there is no ground to anchor in, except in a narrow river or between some rocks which makes it dangerous when strong winds (which are common) come.

On the 24th August we arrived at an Island in the Straits on which lived a great number of birds. They could not fly and were the same size as geese. We killed three thousand in less than a day and used them as food.

Source 2a

The uttermost Cape or headland of all these Islands, stands neere in the 56 deg. without which there is no main, nor Iland to be seen to the southwards; but that the Atlantick Ocean, and the south sea meet in a most large and free scope.

It hath been a dreame through many ages, that these Islands have been a maine, and that it hath been *terra incognita*; wherein many strange monsters lived. Indeed, it might truly, before this time, be called *incognota*, for howsoever the maps & general descriptions of *Cosmographers*, either upon the deceivable reports of other men, or the deceitfull imaginations of themselves (supposing never herein to be corrected) have set it down, yet it is true, that before this time, it was never discovered, or certainly known by any traveller, that we have heard of.

Simplified transcript

The Cape or headland of all these islands lies at 56° latitude. Beyond that no maine or island can be seen to the south. The Atlantic Ocean and the South Sea meet here.

It has been thought for many years that these islands have been a maine, that it has been *terra incognita* (unknown land) where strange monsters lived. In fact it could truly be called unknown because the maps and general descriptions of the cosmographers, either because of false reports of other men or their own deceitful imagination, do not mention it. It would be true to say that before our journey it had not been discovered or was not known by any traveller that we have heard of.

Source 2b

Thus being come into the height of the Straits againe, wee ranne, supposing the Coast of *Chili* to lye as the generall Maps have described it, namely North-west, which wee found to lye and trend to the North-east and Eastwards: whereby it appeareth, that this part of *Chili* hath not beene truely hitherto discovered, or at least not truely reported, for the space of twelve degrees at the least, being set downe eyther of purpose to deceive, or of ignorant conjecture.

Simplified transcript

Nearing the Straits of Magellan again we sailed north. We supposed from the description given in the general maps, that the coast of Chile ran mainly North-west. We found that it went to the North-east and Eastwards. It appears, therefore, that this part of Chile has not been truly discovered or at least not accurately reported. The maps are at least twelve degrees out. This has either been done to deceive or out of ignorant conjecture.

Source 3

In this Bay wee anchored, and the people of the Countrey having their Houses close by the Waters side, shewed themselves unto us, and sent a present to our Generall. When they came unto us, they greatly wondered at the things wee brought: but our Generall (according to his naturall and accustomed humanitie) courteously intreated the m, and liberally bestowed on them necessarie things to cover their nakednesse; whereupon they supposed us to be Gods, and would not be persuaded to the contrarie. The Presents which they sent to our Generall, were Feathers and Kawles of Net-worke. Their Houses are digged round about with Earth, and have from the uttermost brimmes of the Circle, Clifts of Wood set upon them, joining close together at the top like a Spire-Steeple, which by reason of that closenesse are very (p.53) warme. Their Bed is the Ground, with Rushes strowed on it: and lying about the House, have the fire in the midst. The Men goe naked: the Women take Bull-rushes, and kembe them after the manner of Hempe, and thereof make their loose Garments, which being knit about their middles, hang downe about their hippes, having also about their shoulders a Skinne of Deere, with the hayre upon it. These women are very obedient and serviceable to their Husbands.

Simplified transcript

We anchored in the bay. The houses of the people of this country were close to the shore and they so they came out to see us, sending a present to our General. When they met us, they were amazed at the things we brought. Our General (according to his natural and usual humanity) courteously asked them, and gave the necessary things, to cover their nakedness. They thought we were Gods and would not be persuaded otherwise. The presents they sent to our General were feathers and hair nets. Their houses are round and dug from the earth. From the brim of the circle they have pieces of wood which join very close together at the top, like a spire. They are very warm. Their bed is the ground which has been covered with rushes, and they have a fire in the middle. The men go naked: the women take bull rushes and comb them, like they do with hemp, to make loose garments. These are fastened at their waists and hang down over their hips. Round their shoulders they wear deer skin, with the hair still on it. These women are very obedient to their husbands.