

Did England or Spain enjoy greater overseas success in the early modern period?

Key dates:	
1492	Christopher Columbus' first voyage.
1577-80	Drake's circumnavigation of the world.
1585	First attempted colonisation by the English at Roanoke.
1588	Conflict between England and Spain in the Spanish Armada.
1620	Plymouth Colony set up.

Key terms:	
Privateers	Otherwise known as pirates, they would try to capture ships and loot from other countries. They were often given permission by the monarchy.
Colony	A country or area ruled over by another country.
Colonise	To take over another country.
Settler	Someone who 'settles' (comes to live) in another country, usually a colonised one.
Circumnavigation	A journey around the world.
Empire	A group of states or countries ruled over by another country, i.e. the Spanish Empire.
Slave trade	The process of stealing people, turning them into slaves and then then selling them.
Plantation	A large area of land where crops like sugar and tobacco were grown.
New World	The name given to the Americas - newly discovered by Europeans in this period.

Evidence that the English enjoyed greater success:	Evidence that the Spanish enjoyed greater success:
Francis Drake successfully circumnavigated the globe in 1577-80, making many important discoveries along the way.	Christopher Columbus' expedition in 1492 (sponsored by the Spanish) saw the 'discovery' of the New World for Europeans.
English privateers made huge profits for England, especially during the reign of Elizabeth I (who secretly encouraged the privateers to steal from Spanish ships and ports).	Explorers like Hernán Cortés helped to begin the Spanish colonisation of the Americas, helping to bring about the fall of the Aztec Empire in the 16 th century.
Although England's early attempts to establish colonies in America were mostly unsuccessful, they laid the foundations for successful colonisation in North America later.	Early English attempts to establish colonies in this period were unsuccessful (such as Roanoke). The Spanish were much more successful in establishing colonies in the New World.