WORDS TO KNOW

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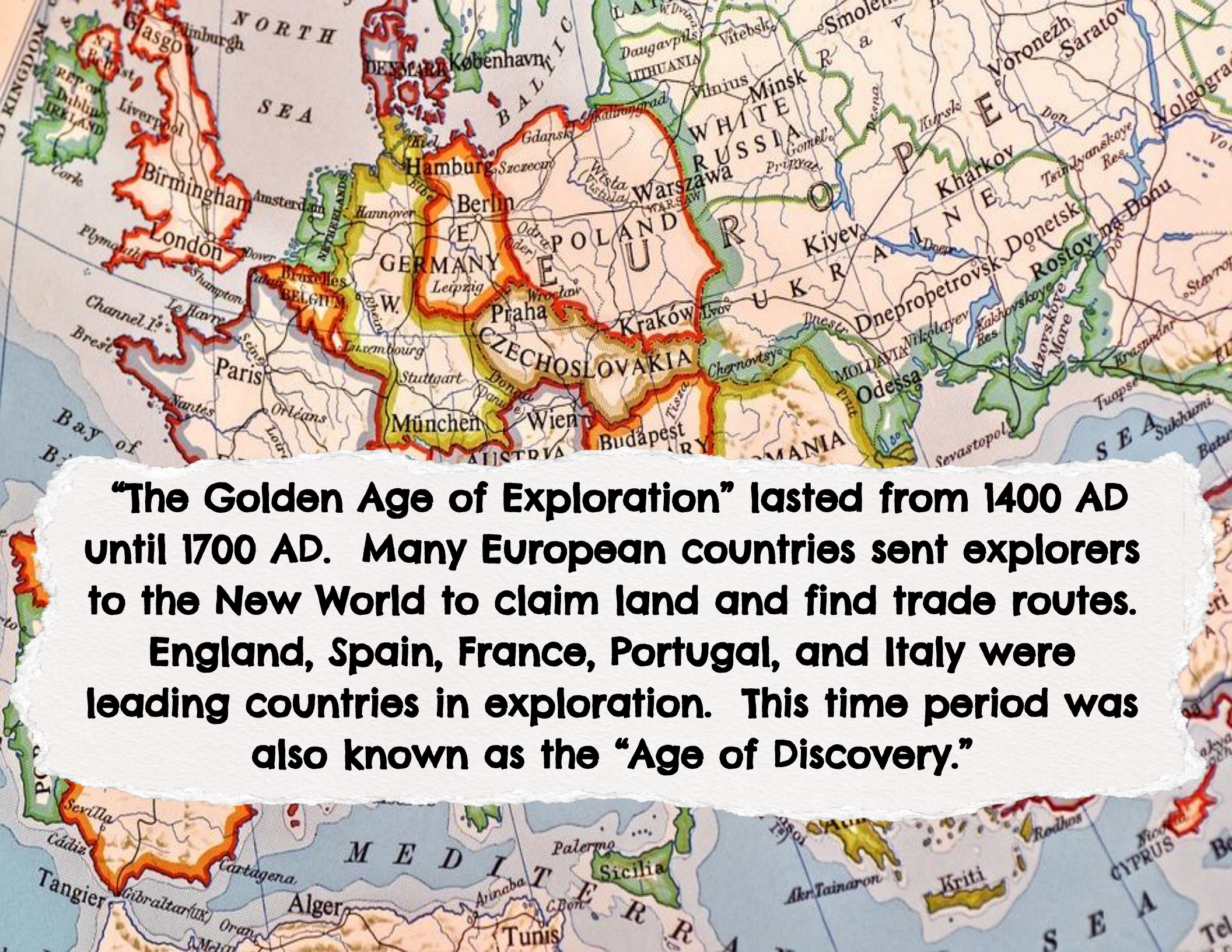

"The Golden Age of Exploration" lasted from 1400 AD until 1700 AD. Many European countries sent explorers to the New World to claim land and find trade routes. England, Spain, France, Portugal, and Italy were leading countries in exploration. This time period was also known as the "Age of Discovery."

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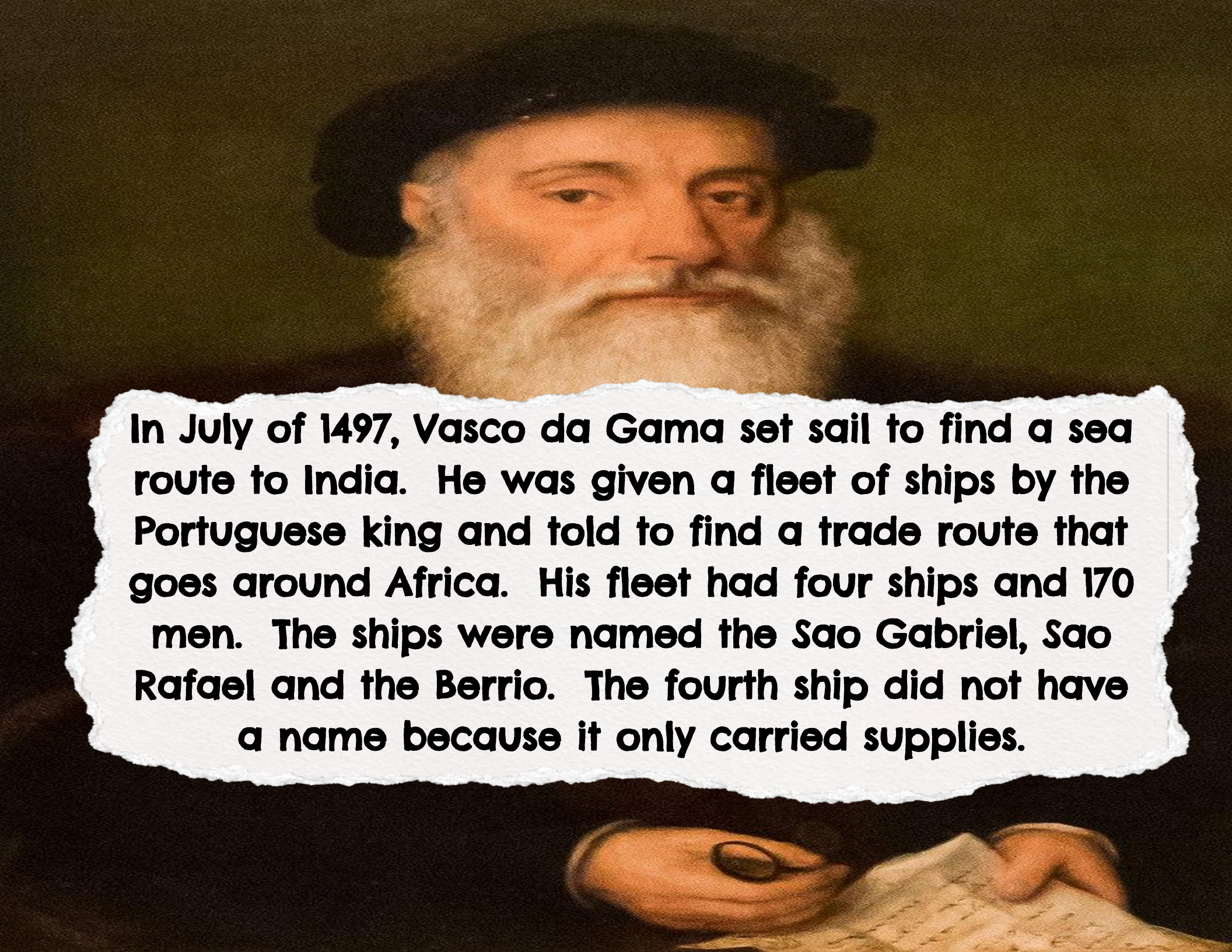


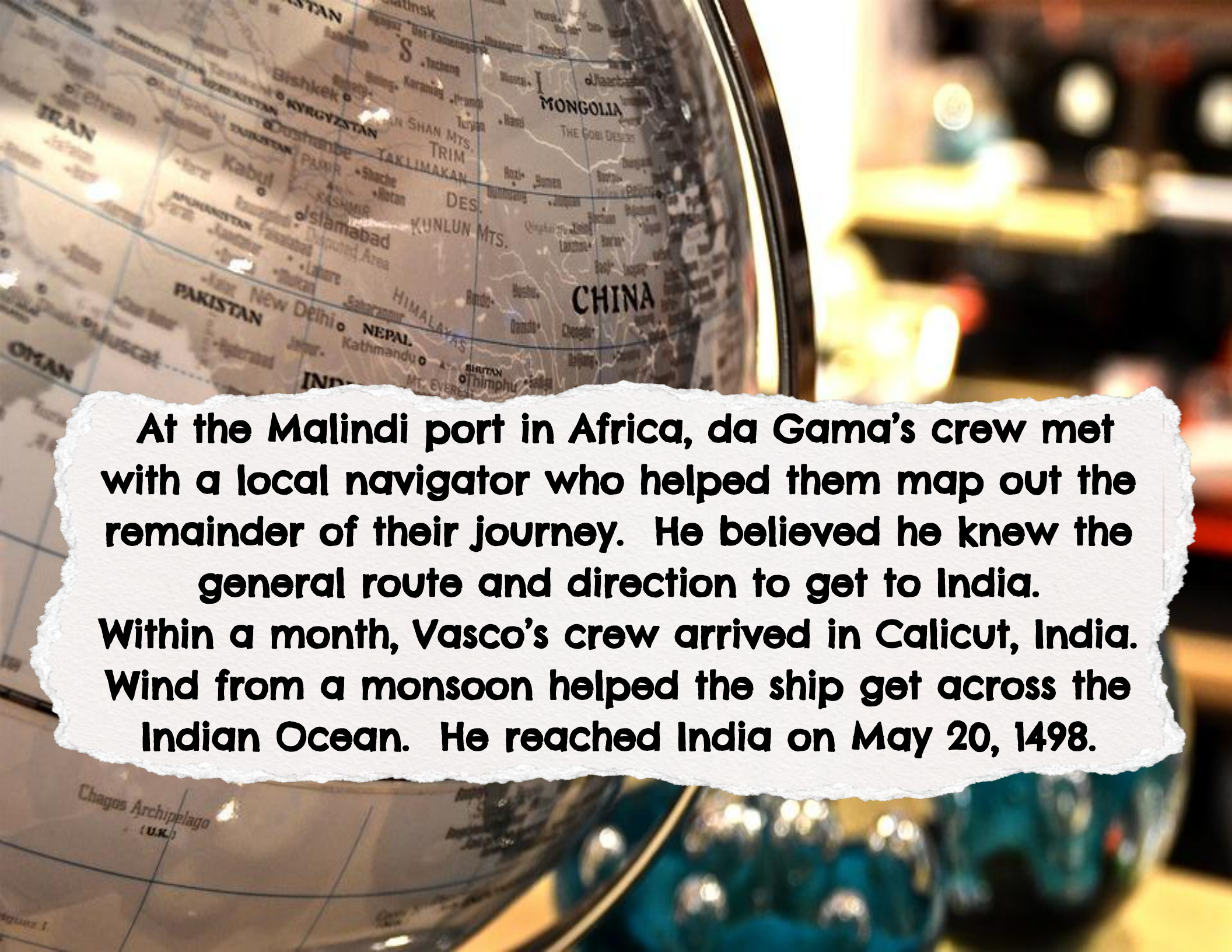
In July of 1497, Vasco da Gama set sail to find a sea route to India. He was given a fleet of ships by the Portuguese king and told to find a trade route that goes around Africa. His fleet had four ships and 170 men. The ships were named the Sao Gabriel, Sao Rafael and the Berrio. The fourth ship did not have a name because it only carried supplies.

Vasco da Gama was told to find a trade route that goes around ____.

A. Africa

B. South America

C. Australia



At the Malindi port in Africa, da Gama's crew met with a local navigator who helped them map out the remainder of their journey. He believed he knew the general route and direction to get to India.
Within a month, Vasco's crew arrived in Calicut, India. Wind from a monsoon helped the ship get across the Indian Ocean. He reached India on May 20, 1498.

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