

I LOVE SPENDING TIME ON THE JAMES RIVER!

COWABUNGA!

YES, THE RIVER IS A GREAT WAY TO COOL OFF. DID YOU KNOW THAT BODIES OF WATER SUCH AS RIVERS, LAKES, GULFS, AND OCEANS HAVE PLAYED AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE HISTORY OF OUR COUNTRY?



SEE, SCORPY? THE UNITED STATES IS BORDERED BY TWO OCEANS, THE ATLANTIC ON THE EASTERN SIDE AND THE PACIFIC ON THE WESTERN SIDE.



THAT'S THE GULF OF MEXICO!

YES, THE GULF WAS IN THE NEWS A LOT LAST FALL DURING HURRICANE SEASON.




WE ALSO HAVE IMPORTANT BODIES OF WATER IN THE INTERIOR OF THE COUNTRY. MANY MAJOR LAKES AND RIVERS SERVED AS WATER HIGHWAYS FOR EARLY EXPLORERS AND SETTLERS, ALLOWING THEM TO EXPLORE OUR COUNTRY BEFORE WE HAD A SYSTEM OF ROADS.

WOW! CAN WE EXPLORE SOME OF THESE BODIES OF WATER??

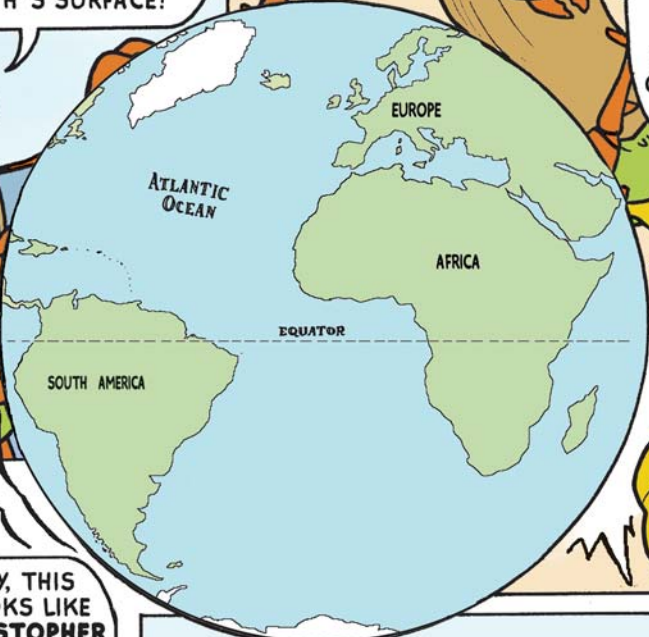
PACK YOUR BAGS, SCORPY - SURF'S UP!




I LOVE BEING NEAR THE OCEAN!



SO DO I, SCORPY. WE'RE IN THE ATLANTIC OCEAN, THE SECOND-LARGEST OCEAN IN THE WORLD. IT COVERS ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE!



THE ATLANTIC OCEAN'S NAME COMES FROM GREEK MYTHOLOGY AND MEANS "SEA OF ATLAS." THE ATLANTIC BORDERS NORTH AMERICA AND SOUTH AMERICA ON THE WEST AND EUROPE AND AFRICA ON THE EAST. IT OCCUPIES ABOUT 41,100,000 SQUARE MILES!

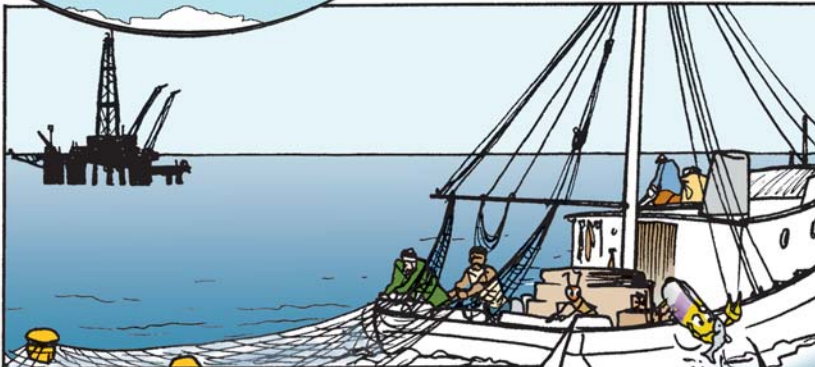


WOW, THAT'S A LOT OF WATER.



HEY, THIS LOOKS LIKE **CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS**, THE GUY WHO DISCOVERED AMERICA WAY BACK IN 1492.

IT IS COLUMBUS! THE ATLANTIC SERVED AS THE WATER HIGHWAY FOR EARLY EXPLORERS, SETTLERS, AND LATER IMMIGRANTS THAT WERE SEEKING A BETTER LIFE IN THE UNITED STATES. AFTER COLUMBUS EXPLORED THE SHORES OF THE ATLANTIC, OTHER EUROPEAN EXPLORERS CAME TO THIS NEW LAND, AND MANY TRADE ROUTES AND SETTLEMENTS WERE ESTABLISHED.



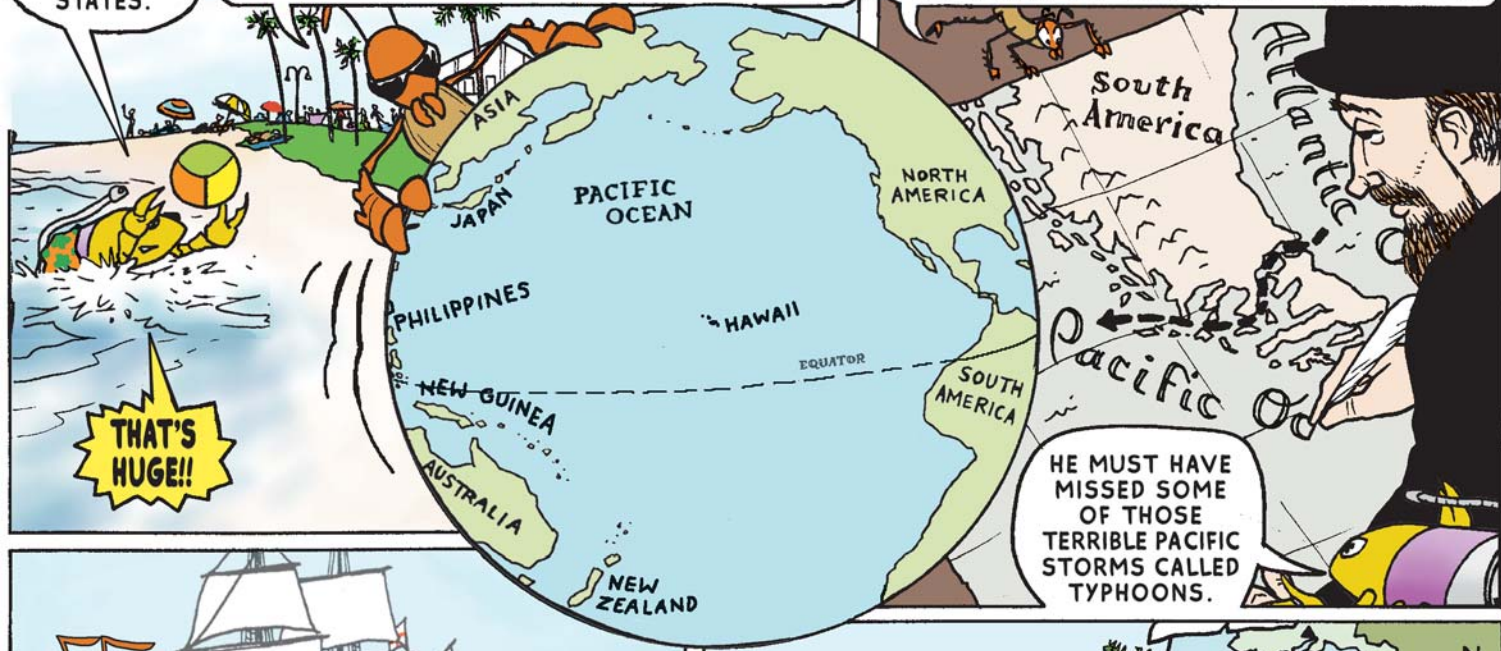
THE ATLANTIC OCEAN STILL SERVES AS A MAJOR TRANSPORTATION ROUTE BETWEEN EUROPE AND THE AMERICAS. IT ALSO HAS ABUNDANT PETROLEUM DEPOSITS THAT PROVIDE A SOURCE OF ENERGY TO THE ENTIRE WORLD — AND DON'T FORGET IT'S THE WORLD'S RICHEST FISHING RESOURCE!

LOOKS LIKE IT'S GOING TO BE FISH FOR DINNER TONIGHT! THANKS, ATLANTIC OCEAN!

HEY, THIS OCEAN IS ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE UNITED STATES.

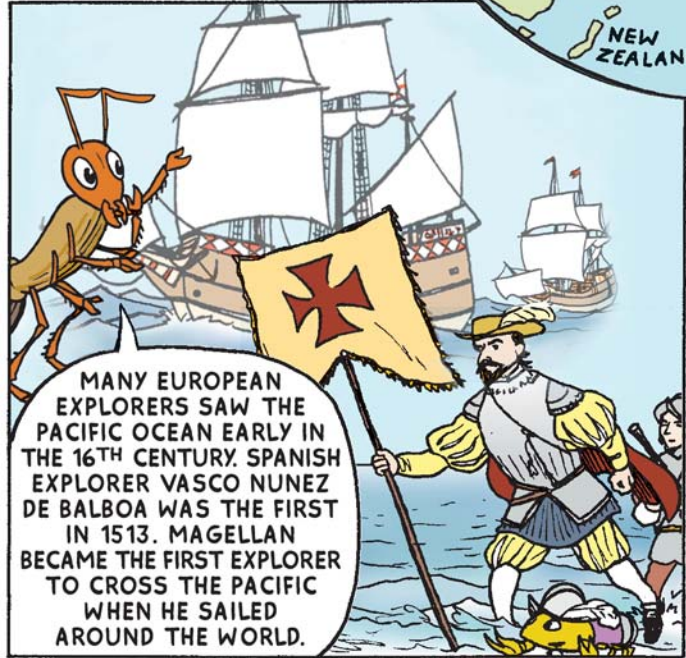
YES, IT'S THE PACIFIC, THE LARGEST OCEAN IN THE WORLD. IT COVERS A THIRD OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE. THAT'S MORE THAN 69 MILLION SQUARE MILES, WHICH IS MORE THAN ALL THE LAND SURFACE ON EARTH!

THE PACIFIC OCEAN IS DIVIDED INTO TWO PARTS, THE NORTH PACIFIC AND THE SOUTH PACIFIC. THE PACIFIC WAS NAMED BY PORTUGUESE EXPLORER FERDINAND MAGELLAN, WHO TOOK THE NAME FROM THE LATIN WORD THAT MEANS "PEACEFUL SEA."

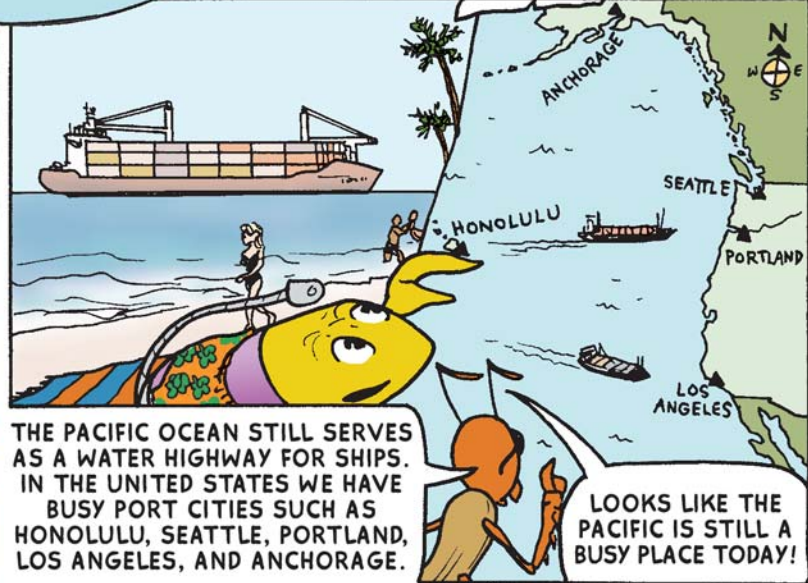


THAT'S HUGE!!

HE MUST HAVE MISSED SOME OF THOSE TERRIBLE PACIFIC STORMS CALLED TYPHOONS.



MANY EUROPEAN EXPLORERS SAW THE PACIFIC OCEAN EARLY IN THE 16TH CENTURY. SPANISH EXPLORER VASCO NUNEZ DE BALBOA WAS THE FIRST IN 1513. MAGELLAN BECAME THE FIRST EXPLORER TO CROSS THE PACIFIC WHEN HE SAILED AROUND THE WORLD.



THE PACIFIC OCEAN STILL SERVES AS A WATER HIGHWAY FOR SHIPS. IN THE UNITED STATES WE HAVE BUSY PORT CITIES SUCH AS HONOLULU, SEATTLE, PORTLAND, LOS ANGELES, AND ANCHORAGE.

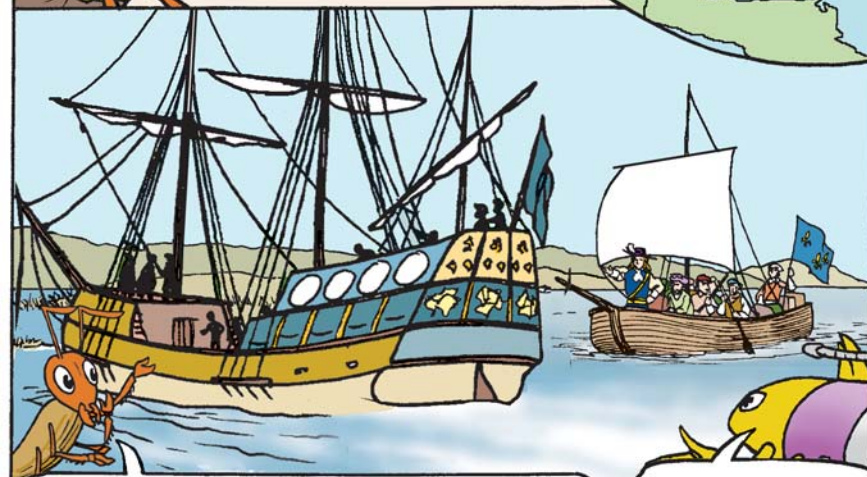
LOOKS LIKE THE PACIFIC IS STILL A BUSY PLACE TODAY!

NOW, THIS IS NOT AN OCEAN, SCORPY - IT IS THE GULF OF MEXICO!

A GULF CAN BE A PART OF AN OCEAN OR LAKE THAT IS SURROUNDED BY LAND ON THREE SIDES.

THE GULF OF MEXICO BORDERS MEXICO IN THE WEST, FLORIDA IN THE EAST, AND ALABAMA, MISSISSIPPI, TEXAS, AND LOUISIANA IN THE NORTH.

THAT LAND ON THREE SIDES LOOKS LIKE A GIANT LETTER C!



HISTORICALLY, THE GULF OF MEXICO GAVE SPANISH AND FRENCH EXPLORERS A ROUTE TO EXPLORE MEXICO AND PARTS OF THE UNITED STATES BY CONNECTING TO THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER IN NEW ORLEANS. TODAY THERE ARE STILL LARGE PORT CITIES ALONG THE GULF COAST.

HMM - ONCE AGAIN EXPLORERS USED A WATER HIGHWAY TO GET WHERE THEY WANTED TO GO.

TODAY THE GULF OF MEXICO IS HOME TO MANY OFFSHORE OIL RIGS GETTING OIL FROM DEEP BELOW THE WATER. THE GULF COAST IS A BIG TOURIST DESTINATION. SHRIMP AND CRAB ARE ALSO A BIG PART OF THE GULF COAST'S ECONOMY.

I CAN TASTE WHY!!