

John Cabot Encyclopedia Article

John Cabot

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John Cabot

c. 1450-c. 1500

Italian navigator, also known as Giovanni Caboto, who was the first European to discover the North American mainland. In 1497 he set out with his three sons on a voyage for Henry VII of England to seek a western route to Asia. On June 24 he discovered Cape Breton Island but believed that he had reached northeast Asia. He undertook another voyage the following year and probably died at sea.