



American Latino Heritage



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Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo (1500-1543) led the first European expedition to explore what is now the west coast of the United States. Three months after departing from Mexico, he arrived at “a very good enclosed port,” which is known today as San Diego Bay. Cabrillo later died during the expedition, but his crew pushed on, possibly as far north as Oregon, before thrashing winter storms forced them to back to Mexico.