Early Texas Exploration

Early explorers came to Texas seeking wealth and adventure – and also to expand their European Empires in the Americas. In the timeline below, match each event in the early exploration of Texas with its corresponding date.

A. Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca becomes the first European explorer to set foot in Texas and wrote the earliest descriptions of Texas and its people.

B. Alonso Álvarez de Pineda is the first European conquistador to explore and chart the Texas coast.

C. Conquistador Juan de Oñate founded the first European settlement in the upper Rio Grande.

D. Hernando de Soto’s exploration of the Gulf Coast marked the first European crossing of the Mississippi River.

E. Christopher Columbus sailed from Spain to explore a new route to Asia and discovered the Americas.

F. French explorer René Robert Cavelier established a French settlement on the Texas coast.

G. Francisco Vázquez de Coronado led an expedition to find Cibola, the Seven Cities of Gold.