Many European countries began to explore other parts of the world during the 1400s and 1500s. The reasons for this exploration were:

1. Many countries were searching for new spices to trade with. Spices were considered a luxury item and could be sold for high prices so merchants want them to sell.
2. Many people were trying to spread Christianity to parts of the world where Christianity was not accepted or heard of.
3. New technology made travel easier: compass, maps, etc.
4. Kings and queens sent explorers in search of wealth to claim as their own.
5. Kings and queens wanted new lands where they could send criminals and anyone not welcome in their homelands.