The Strait of Magellan

The Strait, named after the explorer Magellan, is a waterway linking the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean. Magellan discovered the strait in October of 1520. It took a month for his ships to pass through the strait. Positioned mostly in the territorial waters of Chile, the strait is about 100 miles long and anywhere from 2 to 20 miles wide.

Fernão de Magalhães (Ferdinand Magellan) was born in Portugal around 1480. Sailing for the King of Spain, he became the first person to circumnavigate the globe. He died in 1521 following a fight with natives on the Pacific island of Mactan.

Magellan gave the name “Pacífico” (Spanish for ‘peaceful’) to the ocean he saw when he came out of the strait.

Sources:
- Detail from Magellan’s Ship Victoria (Public Domain) https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Magellan%27s_ship_Victoria.png
- Satellite Image of the Strait of Magellan (Public Domain) http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=3335
- Map of Tierra del Fuego Library of Congress (Public Domain) https://blogs.loc.gov/maps/les/2016/02/Whatintheworld_map_example.jpg

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