Script “Flat-Earth Fear”

Move props
Hand packet to judges (process paper and bibliography)
Introduce students and title

Sir Francis Drake: Our play is called “Flat-earth Fear”
I am Cody Tew performing Sir Francis Drake (bow then hands to your sides)
I am Lana Roy performing Ferdinand Magellan (bow then hands to your sides)
I am Brie Lynn McLean performing Juan Sebastián Elcano (bow then hands to your sides)
I am Celeste Packard performing Antonio Pigafetta (bow then hands to your sides)

Pigafetta: What was the barrier that needed to be broken?
In the year, 1515, sailors who wanted to explore the world had a problem. Hold up paper with ship
No one wanted to sail on ships beyond the horizon (where they couldn’t see land anymore) because they were afraid the ships would fall off the edge. Nudge off ship
Show picture of Greeks and globe. Even though Greek scientists had figured out centuries ago that the world was round, the masses did not believe it. They were uneducated, pause there were few books, few schools pause — so it was easier to believe in hesitate myths.

Magellan and King of Spain enter to the front of the stage
Magellan: (to the Spanish King bowing) Your royal Majesty, thank you for receiving me so I can make my request. — Hold up globe
“I have come to see if you will sponsor me for an expedition to the Spice Islands traveling westward. I believe that the world is round. I believe that if we travel west we will reach a destination called “El Paso” which will shorten the trip.”

The king takes the globe and considers Magellan’s request
King of Spain: Magellan… I will sponsor you for your trip. I will give you 5 ships, a crew of men, food, water, weapons, money and a reward for the spices you bring from the Spice Islands. And the spices will also be proof that you made the trip. Good luck, Captain Magellan. (king exits)

Ferdinand, Elcano and Pigafetta enter front stage
Ferdinand: (talking as if to crew on the dock)
“I want to welcome all 277 of you to this expedition. We will be traveling west to the Spice Islands. This is Antonio Pigafetta from Italy who will be journaling about the entire trip. Pigafetta holds up journal and pen as if showing it to the crowd. This is Juan Sebastian Elcano who will be my right hand man. Ready? Let’s be on our way.” Magellan and Elcano leave
Antonio Pigafetta: (steps forward) (p. 37 of journal)
“Now unfolds the beginning of my voyage…from the city of Seville, Spain, Point to Spain on the map a small fleet to the number of 5 ships ready to make that long voyage, that is, to find and discover the isles of Molucca Point to the Spice Islands on the map whence come the spices.” p. 37 277 men are on board 5 ships; Trinidad, San Antonio, Concepcion, Victoria and the Santiago Tuesday, September 20, 1519.

Steps back and continues writing in the journal
Magellan: (talking to Elcano who is listening and nodding as if receiving instructions) First we will be traveling south along the west coast of Africa. Half way down, we will turn west and head for the east coast of South America. Magellan shows on map where the ships are sailing
Magellan takes the stirring wheel of the ship and uses his telescope to look ahead. Elcano looks in the same direction.

Magellan: There have been perils! Along the coast of South America, we encountered a terrific storm that sank the ship Santiago, *Take ship off map sadly*. But the men are all rescued. *Magellan and Elcano look relieved*

Along the coast we search for “El Paso”, a water way that leads to a Sea on the other side of the continent. “El Paso” will shorten our trip. *Pigafetta steps forward and announces*: On November 1, 1520, All Saints’ Day, we found by miracle a strait which is about 140 miles long and falls into another sea, called the Pacific Sea. *(Show where it is located on map)*. On both sides of this “El Paso” are great mountains covered with snow. *(p. 51)*

Magellan: We found it!!! We are almost to the Spice Islands! Three or four days at the most!!

Elcano: But sir, the ship San Antonio gave up and turned back to Spain, taking the *emphasize* largest food supply with her. *Put ship into Atlantic heading back to Spain. Elcano and Magellan look exasperated, then Magellan brightens up*

Magellan: Don’t worry. From my calculations, we have only 3 or 4 more days. We are almost there!! *All four actors move to the map and move the continents to show the Pacific Ocean in the center.*

Afterward, 3 move back stage, Pigafetta moves forward.

Pigafetta: *Pause, shaking head. Shrug shoulders* We were NOT almost there. This was the largest ocean on earth. *Show the size with a sweep of the hand* It took us *emphasize* 98 days and 9000 unexpected miles to get to the Spice Islands!

*Magellan enters with the telescope looking for land. Elcano enters holding a skeleton.*

Elcano: Sir, another crew member has died of starvation!

Magellan and Elcano look distressed

Magellan: How many dead crew members does that make now?

Elcano: About 30.

*Magellan puts his hand over his heart. Elcano and Magellan bow their head briefly.*

Magellan: Throw him overboard.

Elcano: Yes sir! *Leaves with the skeleton*

Magellan: *(with telescope) Land ho!*

Pigafetta (steps forward): These islands *(Point to them on the map)* turned out to be the Philippines and the natives seemed friendly at first. *(Pause with a frown slowly growing and developing. Then sound angry)* But a dispute arose and the inhabitants turned hostile. On April 27, 1521, Magellan led 8 crew members on shore where they were met with combative tribesmen with lances and poisoned arrows. *(Put your hand to your face. Have a sob show in your voice.)* The crew were chased back to the ship. While recognizing the captain, the warriors fell upon him swiftly and Magellan disappeared beneath the waves. *(Hang your head. Elcano steps beside you)*

“They slew our mirror, our light, our comfort and our true guide” *(p. 88)*, *(together)* my Captain.

*(Both make a big sigh)* Elcano to Pigafetta: The Concepcion is so damaged, we will have to burn the ship. The Trinidad is taking on water. Let’s leave her here with a crew to repair her. I will take over as captain of the Victoria. You come with me. After we load up with Spices in the Moluccas, we will head back to Spain.
Pigafetta (turning to the audience): “On September 6, 1522, the Victoria arrived in Spain with only slow and emphasized 18 crew members left. We were welcomed by the King. We presented him the spices from the Moluccas and [hold up] my journal as proof of the entire journey.”

(Entering now is Sir Francis Drake)

“Too bad Magellan failed at his effort to be the first man to sail around the world. In 1577, the queen of England commissioned me to be the first to circumnavigate the world. I also had 5 ships and this was my trip – Show on the map as you tell about the expedition

“Sailing from Great Britain, we traveled south along the African coast until we turned west. On the other side of the Atlantic we sailed along the coast of South America. I did not take El Paso but traveled all the way around the southern tip which is called Drake’s Passage. Then across the huge Pacific I landed at the Spice Islands. After gathering the spices, we sailed across the Indian Ocean, around the southern tip of Africa and landed back in Britain 2 years later. As you can see, I survived the circumnavigation. The queen knighted me for my accomplishment.”

Queen: (Enters with scepter) For your successful circumnavigation of the globe, I knight thee Sir Francis Drake. (Drake kneels and received the scepter touch on each shoulder from the queen.) Queen leaves

Drake: So, I broke the barrier.

Magellan enters

Magellan: No, I was the one who broke the barrier. It was my idea to get sponsors and to sail around the world going west. My planned expedition made it all the way back to Spain. That had never been done before.

Elcano enters

Elcano: But you died! I was the one who steered the ship back to Spain. I actually survived the entire journey!

Drake: Wait a minute…..

Everyone all together: “What was the barrier?”

Pigafetta steps forward with his journal:

Pigafetta: The barrier that kept people from sailing beyond the horizon was created by people’s fear and ignorance. By convincing the masses that the world was not flat but round, the fear of exploration would be abated.

I agree that you brave explorers [stretch out your hand to all of them in a sweeping motion] were an important ingredient for [emphasize each word] calming the fear. (Pause nodding at them)

But listen to my claim.

I not only survived the entire trip, I wrote and published a journal that spread the news (hold it up and pause) about how people lived in different parts of the world. From the giants in South America, [point to South America] to the penguins close to Antarctica [Add the penguin to the southern tip of SA], to the extent of the huge Pacific Sea that we never knew about before, people heard the stories. Because of my journal, the common people were finally convinced that the world is round. Mass fear was overtaken by [pause and then emphasize] curiosity [pause and smile] and excitement. Because the flat-earth fear was gone, (pause and raise arms) the Age of Discovery began
Elcano: (approaching Pigafetta) So you are saying that: If it had not been for your journal, the barrier of ignorance about the spherical world would have stayed hidden for most of Europe’s population.

Pigafetta: Exactly.

Drake: (speaking to Magellan) Magellan, I admit that your voyage inspired me and many others from all over Europe. It wasn’t long before the Americas were explored and settled as well as Australia, Africa and smaller areas. The entire earth became mapped and inhabited in the next couple of centuries after you.

(Everyone looks impressed or amazed and pats Magellan on the back.)

Magellan: (Looking into a crystal ball) Way into the 20th century, man’s curiosity will move him to explore beyond this planet and Magellan will reappear, this time sailing not on the oceans but into space, headed for the planet Venus.

Elcano: (looking into the crystal ball) Another Magellan expedition!!

Drake moves quickly to the crystal ball to see then holds up Magellan picture

Pigafetta: It should be called the Pigafetta spacecraft. (Everyone turns and stares at Pigafetta.)

(Pigafetta looks into crystal ball) Instead of writing in a journal, there were instruments to map and keep records of discoveries on Venus in picture form. (Show picture of Matt Mons)

Elcano: And similar to the first Magellan, this one also did not return home. The spacecraft Magellan burned up in Venus’ atmosphere. (Show picture of fiery entry)

Magellan: Despite the fact that I did not return to Spain and the Magellan spacecraft did not return to earth, both voyages were considered a success, because they gathered valuable information.

Pigafetta holds up journal and hold up Venus picture.

Pigafetta: (shaking Magellan’s hand) All right Magellan, I’ll hand it to you.

Magellan: Great team work!

Drake and Elcano look at each other, smile and nod.

BOW
On the map, the Atlantic Ocean was at the center.
Map showing the Pacific Ocean at the center. When Magellan rounded the southern tip of S. America, he thought he was almost done. The Pacific Ocean was much larger than he realized and many men died crossing it.
Two Magellan voyages – Ocean ship and Space ship
Maat Mons – Venus Volcanic Mountain
Antonio Pigafetta kept a journal with the first Magellan. Radar captured images with the second Magellan.