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Eldorado was a mythical city supposedly located somewhere in the uncharted interior of South America. It is said to be unimaginably rich, with whimsical tales of gilded streets, golden temples and rich mines of gold and silver. Between 1530 and 1650 or so, thousands of Europeans searched the jungles, plains, mountains and rivers of South America for Eldorado, many of them losing their lives in the process. Eldorado never existed, except for the feverish fantasies of these seekers, so it was never found. The myth of El Dorado is rooted in vast fortunes found in Mexico and Peru. In 1519, Hernan Cortez captured Emperor Montezum and plundered the mighty Aztec empire, taking away thousands of pounds of gold and silver and making rich people conquistadors who were with him. In 1533, Francisco Pizarro established an Inca empire in Aires. Taking a page from Cortez's book, Pizarro captured the Inca emperor Atahualpa and held him for ransom, earning another fortune in the process. Small New World cultures such as the Maya in Central America and Muisca in present-day Colombia have yielded fewer (but still significant) treasures. Tales of these fates were surrounded by Europe, and soon thousands of adventurers from all over Europe went to the New World, hoping to become part of the next expedition. Most (but not all) of them were Spaniards. These adventurers had little or no personal fortune, but great ambitions: most of them had some experience fighting in many of Europe's wars. They were cruel, ruthless people who had nothing to lose: they got rich on the gold of the New World or died trying. Soon the ports were flooded by these new conquistadors, which would form large expeditions and set off in the unknown interior of South America, often after vague rumors of gold. There was some truth in the Eldorado myth. The people of Muisca Cundinamarca (present-day Colombia) had a tradition: kings covered themselves with sticky juice before covering themselves with gold powder. Then the king warmed up to the center of Lake Guastavite and, in front of thousands of his subjects watching from the shore, jumped into the lake, revealing it clean. Then the big festival will begin. This tradition was neglected by Muisca by the time they were discovered by the Spaniards in 1537, but not before the word about it reached the greedy ears of European intruders in cities across the continent. El Dorado is, in fact, a Spanish gilded one: the term first refers to the personality, the king who has covered himself with gold. According to some sources, the person who coined this phrase was conquistador Sebastian de Benalc'zar. After conquering the Cundinamarca plateau, Spanish dredging on Lake Guatavita in search of Eldorado gold. Some gold was indeed found, but not as much as the Spaniards had hoped. So they reasoned optimistically, Muisca should not be true Eldorado, and he still has to be there somewhere. Expeditions consisting of recent arrivals from Europe, as well as veterans of conquest, went to all directions to find it. Legend grew as illiterate conquistadors passed the legend word of mouth from one to the other: Eldorado was not just one king, but a rich city of gold, with enough wealth for a thousand people to become rich forever. Between 1530 and 1650 or so, thousands of people made dozens of forays into the unmapped interior of South America. A typical expedition went something like this. In a Spanish coastal city on the South American mainland, such as Santa Marta or Coro, a charismatic, influential man announces an expedition. From a hundred to seven hundred Europeans, mostly Spaniards will register, bringing their own armor, weapons and horses (if you have a horse you have a large share of treasure). The expedition will force the natives together to carry heavy gear, and some of the better-planned ones will bring livestock (usually pigs) to slaughter and eat along the way. Combat dogs were always brought with them, as they were useful in the fight against militant natives. Managers often borrowed heavily to purchase supplies. After a couple of months, they were ready to go. The expedition will head seemingly in any direction. They will stay away for a long time from a few months to four years, searching the plains, mountains, rivers and jungles. They will meet the natives along the way: these they will either torture or ply with gifts to get information on where they could find the gold. Almost always the natives pointed in some direction and said that some variations of our neighbors in this direction have the gold that you are looking for. The natives quickly learned that the best way to get rid of these rude, violent men is to tell them what they wanted to hear and send them on their way. Meanwhile, illness, desertion, and native attacks will be nullified by expeditions. However, expeditions proved remarkably resilient, flaunting mosquito-infested swamps, hordes of angry natives, blazing heat on the plains, flooded rivers, and frosty mountain passes. Eventually, when their numbers became too low (or when the leader died), the expedition gave up and returned home. Over the years, many people have searched in South America for the legendary lost golden city. At best, they were improvised explorers who treated the natives they encountered relatively fairly and helped map out the unknown interior of South America. At worst, they were greedy, obsessed butchers who tortured their way through the indigenous population, killing thousands in their fruitless quest. Here are some of eldorado's most prominent seekers: Gonzalo Pizarro and Francisco de Orellana: In 1541, Gonzalo Pizarro, brother of Francisco Pizarro, led an expedition east of Quito. A few he sent his lieutenant Francisco de Orellana in search of a search Orellana and his men instead found the Amazon River, which they followed to the Atlantic Ocean. Gonzalo Jimenez de Kesada: Kesada left Santa Marta with 700 men in 1536. In early 1537, they reached the Cundinamarca Plateau, where the Muisca people were located, which they quickly conquered. Kesada's expedition was the one who actually found Eldorado, although the greedy conquistadors at the time refused to accept that Muisca's mediocre techniques were a legend, and they continued to search. Ambrosius Echingier: Echingier was German; at that time part of Venezuela was ruled by the Germans. He went in 1529 and again in 1531 and led two of the most brutal expeditions: his men tortured the natives and relentlessly laid off their villages. He was killed by the natives in 1533 and his men went home. Lope de Aguirre: Aguirre was a soldier on Pedro de Urza's expedition in 1559, which left Peru. Aguirre, a paranoid psychopath, soon turned people against Ursai, who was killed. Aguirre eventually took over the expedition and began the reign of terror, ordering the killing of many of the original explorers and capturing and terrorizing the island of Margarita. He was killed by Spanish soldiers. Sir Walter Raleigh: This legendary Elizabethan courtier is remembered as the man who introduced potatoes and tobacco to Europe and for his sponsorship of the doomed Roanoke colony in Virginia. But he was also an Eldorado seeker: he thought it was in the highlands of Guyana and made two trips there: one in 1595 and the second in 1617. After the failure of the second expedition Raleigh was executed in England. So, has El Dorado ever been found? Sort of. The conquistadors followed Eldorado's stories in Cundinamarca, but refused to believe they had found a mythical city, so they continued to search. The Spaniards did not know this, but the civilization of Muisca was the last major native culture with any wealth. The Eldorado they sought after 1537 did not exist. However, they searched and searched: dozens of expeditions containing thousands of people scoured South America around 1800, when Alexander von Humboldt visited South America and concluded that Eldorado was a myth all along. Currently, you can find Eldorado on the map, although this is not the one the Spanish were looking for. There are cities called Eldorado in several countries, including Venezuela, Mexico and Canada. There are at least thirteen cities in the United States called El Dorado (or Eldorado). Finding Eldorado is easier than ever... just don't expect the streets to be paved with gold. The El Dorado legend proved his resilience. The notion of a lost city of gold and desperate people who are looking for it is simply too romantic for writers and artists to resist. Countless songs, book stories and poems (including one by Edgar Allan Poe) have been written on the subject. There's even a superhero named El Dorado. Cinematographers, in particular, were fascinated by the legend: as recently as 2010, a film was made a modern scientist who finds the keys to the lost city of Eldorado: action and gunfire ensue. Occur. pelicula el dorado disney. pelicula el dorado shakira. pelicula el dorado john wayne. pelicula el dorado animada. pelicula el dorado personajes. pelicula el dorado 1988. pelicula el dorado dibujos. pelicula el dorado world tour

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