Known as the Three-Jewel Eunuch Admiral, Zheng He was China’s greatest explorer. 17th century manuscript with maps dating to Zheng He’s voyages of the 15th century (Credit: Public domain). Commanding the world’s mightiest fleet of 300 ships and as many as 30,000 troops, Admiral Zheng made 7 epic voyages to southeast Asia, south Asia, the Middle East and Africa between 1405 and 1433. Often called the discoverer of the New World, Christopher Columbus embarked on 4 voyages across the Atlantic Ocean between 1492 and 1504. Under the sponsorship of Ferdinand II and Isabella I of Spain, he had originally set sail hoping to find a westward route to the Far East. Instead, the Italian navigator found himself on an island that later became known as the Bahamas. Find the complete Great Explorers of the World book series listed in order. Great deals on one book or all books in the series. Free US shipping on orders over $10. Related Series: Decades of the 20th and 21st Centuries, Green Issues in Focus, Inventors Who Changed the World, African-American Heroes, Saving Endangered Species. The Great Explorers of the World book series by multiple authors includes books Hernando de Soto: Spanish Conquistador in the Americas, Vasco Da Gama: Discovering the Sea Route to India, Cortes: Conquering the Powerful Aztec Empire, and several more. See the complete Great Explorers of the World series book list in order, box sets or omnibus editions, and companion titles. 12 Books. 20 of the World’s Greatest Explorers. Before I get into these daring endeavours and brilliant biographies, there’s something worth bearing in mind—basically, some great explorers were also part of great atrocities! Be it the slave-trade, colonisation, or even mass genocide, the more you learn about pioneering exploration of old, the more you realize how closely it’s tied to a plethora of historical horrors. Take the famed conquistadors of 16th Century Spain and Portugal. These armour-clad individuals were explorers of the highest calibre. In fact, The Guinness Book of Records literally has him down as the world’s greatest living explorer. That’s high-praise, and it’s thoroughly deserved. Fiennes is the sort of guy you read about and instantly feel like a wuss. Explorers span the world, everyone’s heard about Darwin and Stanley/Livingstone’s adventures, but who knows about Henri Mouhot (French naturalist) and Francisco Moreno (Argentinian naturalist)? We do now, thanks to this versatile book. I’m so glad DK and Smithsonian make books that pique children’s interests. The best thing I can say about this book is that it’s clearly taken some inspiration from the recent trends of stuff like Good Night Stories for Rebel Girls. That’s the level of love that has gone into the book, with a diverse cast of characters from different parts of the world and different periods of history, each with their own brilliant illustrations.