Locating and characterizing the properties of the earliest galaxies represents the final frontier in our understanding of cosmic history. The first galaxies were probably low mass objects which merged to form the larger galaxies we see at redshifts 5–6. Their abundance and star formation rates may have been sufficient to reionize the Universe bringing the ‘Dark Ages’ to a close. This lecture will describe the observational challenges we face in locating this population with present facilities, the progress made so far, and the importance of continuing this quest in preparation for more detailed studies with the James Webb Space Telescope.