EARLY EXPLORERS NONFICTION RESOURCE

Social Studies:

Grades 3-5

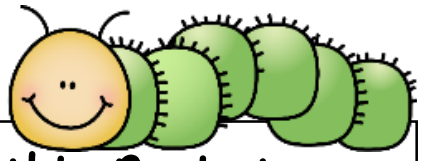
Informational Articles and Interactive Activities
for 6 Early Explorers:
John Cabot
Vasco Nunez de Balboa
Juan Ponce de Leon
Christopher Columbus
Henry Hudson
Jacques Cartier

Teacher's Notes:

Learning Goals:

Students will learn about Early Explorers with Informational Articles and Interactive Activities for 6 different early explorers:
John Cabot
Vasco Nunez de Balboa
Juan Ponce de Leon
Christopher Columbus
Henry Hudson
Jacques Cartier

This unit includes many interactive activities and learning opportunities for students including:
Anticipatory Set T/F
Vocabulary Posters
Vocabulary Flip Flaps
Informational Articles
Writing Prompts
Explorers Organizers
Explorer Timeline Mini-Booklets



How to Use this Packet:

There are lots of ways to use this packet in the classroom depending on your students and the time allotted for this unit.
Introduce the unit with Early Explorers Anticipatory Set of T/F questions to pique and build background knowledge. Whole Group: Read the informational articles: The Age of Exploration, Native Americans & Explorers, and Instruments for Navigation and complete the student activity related to each article.

Introduce the 12 vocabulary words with the real-life photo posters included. You could post these posters around the classroom and have students travel around to match up and define the words in their flip flaps or use as a center activity. These posters are excellent for a bulletin board display too. In addition, the vocabulary cards are a great hands-on challenging activity to get them thinking critically. There's also a colorful map included to help students visualize where these amazing explorers traveled to and from.

Next, create a learning station for each of the 6 explorers. In a folder at each station include: the 2 informational articles about that explorer, voyage map, and organizers for students to complete. There are also Explorer Timeline Mini-Booklets for each station for students to complete by writing 3 facts about that explorer, put the timeline dates in the correct order, coloring, cutting, and gluing inside their notebook or a lapbook. There are two articles on each explorer: the "Meet ..." ones are in color to laminate and post on a bulletin board, if desired.

The articles and writing activities are to help students think about the essential questions such as:
*Why were the Europeans interested in world exploration?
*How did the Native Americans and explorers impact each other?
*What were some of the obstacles the explorers had to overcome in the New World?

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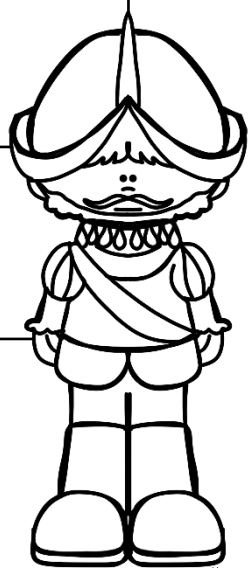
Early Explorers Anticipatory Set

Start of Unit	Directions: Answer True or False for each statement below	End of Unit
	1. During the age of exploration, many sea captains were looking for a shorter route to the Far East (Asia).	
	2. In 1513, Balboa was the first European to see the Pacific Ocean!	
	3. On his 2nd voyage, John Cabot and his crew disappeared and were never heard from again!	
	4. Jacques Cartier discovered gold and diamonds in Canada.	
	5. Hudson explored many new areas such as the coast of Canada as well as Hudson Bay and Hudson River.	
	6. On Columbus's first voyage, it took him 30 days to cross the Atlantic Ocean.	
	7. In 1493, Juan Ponce de Leon went with Christopher Columbus on his second voyage to America.	
	8. The Native Americans and European explorers respected and helped each other.	



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Early Explorers Anticipatory Set

Start of Unit	Directions: Answer True or False for each statement below	End of Unit
	1. During the age of exploration, many sea captains were looking for a shorter route to the Far East (Asia).	TRUE
	2. In 1513, Balboa was the first European to see the Pacific Ocean!	TRUE
	3. On his 2nd voyage, John Cabot and his crew disappeared and were never heard from again!	TRUE
	4. Jacques Cartier discovered gold and diamonds in Canada.	FALSE (fool's gold)
	5. Hudson explored many new areas such as the coast of Canada as well as Hudson Bay and Hudson River.	TRUE
	6. On Columbus's first voyage, it took him 30 days to cross the Atlantic Ocean.	FALSE (70 days)
	7. In 1493, Juan Ponce de Leon went with Christopher Columbus on his second voyage to America.	TRUE
	8. The Native Americans and European explorers respected and helped each other.	FALSE

Name:_____ANSWER KEY_____

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NATIVE AMERICANS & EXPLORERS

Native Americans were here long before the European explorers came to the Americas. When Columbus first landed in the Bahamas, he saw Native Americans. Columbus thought he was in the West Indies so he called the native people, Indians. Most natives were friendly to the Europeans giving them food, furs, and other gifts.

For a while, the Native Americans and Europeans traded items with each other. The Europeans mainly wanted furs, gold, silver, and natural resources like timber to build new settlements. The Native Americans wanted metal pots and copper kettles to replace their clay pots and hand woven baskets. They also wanted some of their tools like metal axes and knives which were strong and durable. The Native Americans loved the fancy jewelry, glass beads, guns, and wool blankets that the Europeans brought over to the New World.

A major European impact on the Native Americans was the introduction of diseases like smallpox. Their immune system was not prepared to fight those new diseases. The traditional Native American medicines did not work well against those diseases and some tribes were totally wiped out by the sicknesses.

Many times Europeans grew frustrated trying to communicate with the Native Americans. When they discovered that they did not have gold, jewels, or other riches the explorers wanted, they started treating them cruelly. Sometimes even making them slaves.

The Native Americans believed that the Earth and land was owned by everyone. It didn't take too long before many European settlers were building new colonies and forcing the Native Americans to change their way of life and move to new areas.

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NATIVE AMERICANS & EXPLORERS

Directions: Answer the questions in complete sentences. Use details from the articles to support your answer.

1. Why did Columbus call the Natives "Indians"?

2. How did having metal pots and kettles help the Native Americans?

3. Explain why you think it was beneficial for both the Native Americans and Europeans to trade supplies with each other.

4. How come the Native Americans couldn't protect themselves from the diseases brought over from Europe?

5. The Native Americans believed the Earth was owned by everyone. What do you think the European explorers believed about the land?

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THE AGE OF EXPLORATION

News of Columbus's journey spread quickly all throughout Europe. Some European rulers did not want Spain to gain all the wealth, riches, land, and power in the New World. England, France, Italy, and Portugal started sending explorers to find gold, silver, spices, and land to claim for themselves. They were also interested in finding a shorter passage to Asia.

During this time, countries in the Far East (Asia) such as China and India, had jewels, spices, and silk that were greatly desired in Europe. But traveling there was difficult. There were two ways to get there. They could travel over land on the Silk Road. The Silk Road was over 4,000 miles long. It took months to travel, trade, and return home with new wares. By ship was a very long journey as well because they had to go around the southern tip of Africa. Both routes proved to be long, difficult, and dangerous so explorers were always trying to find a shorter and safer route. They called it the Northwest Passage.

Items such as silk, nutmeg, pepper, cloves, cinnamon, gold, rubies, ivory, ginger, porcelain, and tea were brought back and traded all over Europe. The limited supply and high demand for these luxury items made them very valuable indeed.

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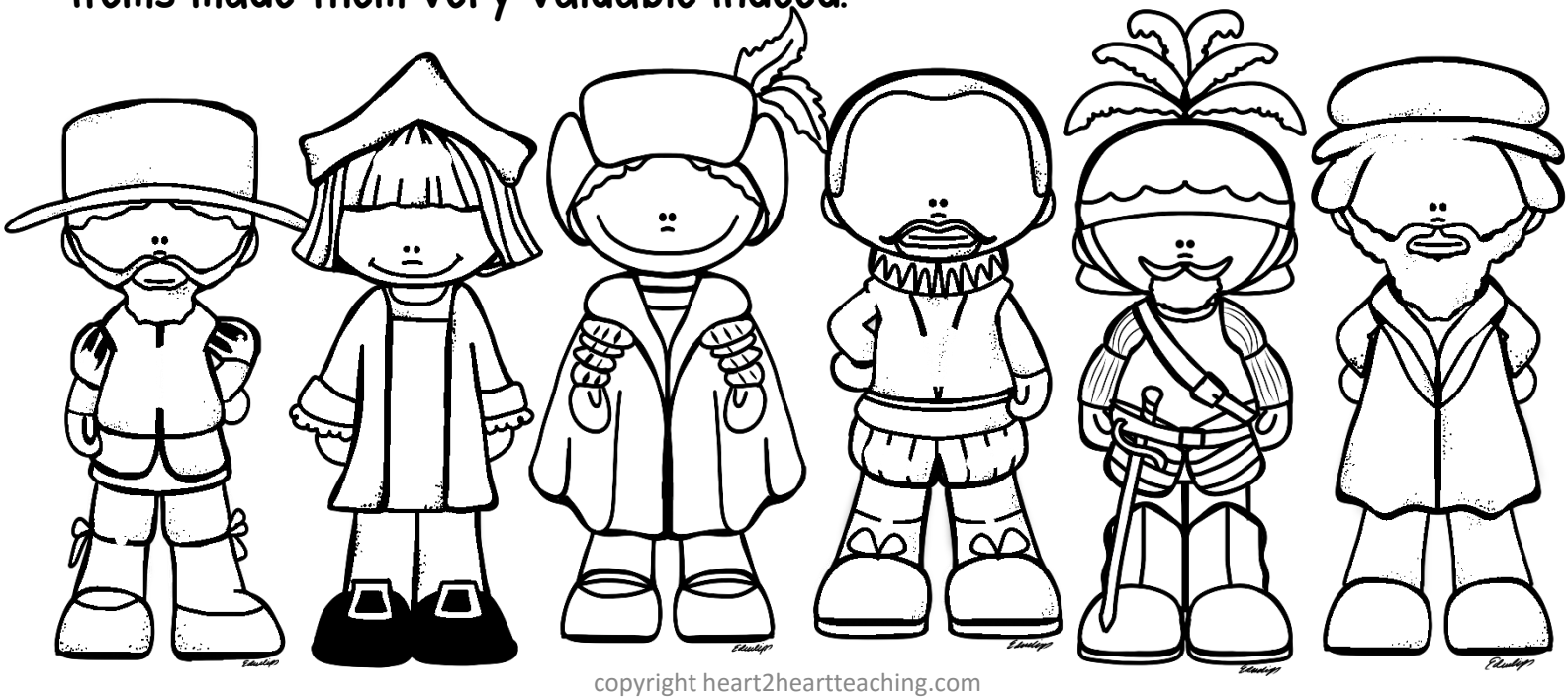

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Name: _____The Age of Exploration

Directions: Use the word bank below to complete the sentences.

News spread of Columbus's journey all throughout Europe. Some European rulers did not want Spain to gain all the wealth, riches, land, and power in the _____. Other countries started sending explorers to find gold, spices, and _____to claim for themselves. They were also interested in finding a shorter passage to _____. During this time, countries in the Far East (Asia) had jewels, spices, and silk that was greatly desired in Europe. But traveling there was _____. The _____ _____ was over 4,000 miles long. It took months to travel, trade, and return home with new wares. By ship was a very long journey as well because they had to go around the tip of _____. Both routes proved to be long and dangerous so explorers were always trying to find a _____ and safer route.

Items such as silk, _____, gold, rubies, ivory, and tea were brought back and traded all over Europe. The limited supply and high _____ for these items made them very _____ indeed.

Word Bank:

difficult	valuable	spices	New World	demand
land	Silk Road	Africa	Asia	shorter

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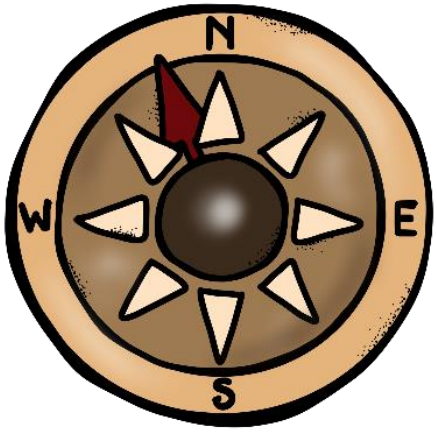
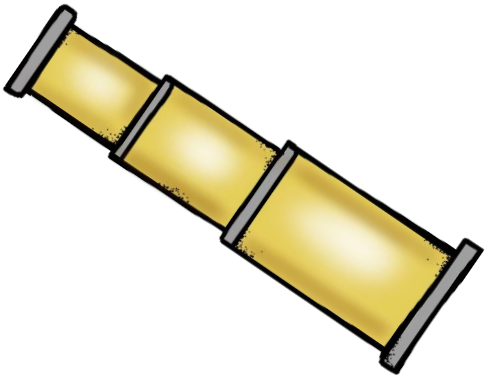
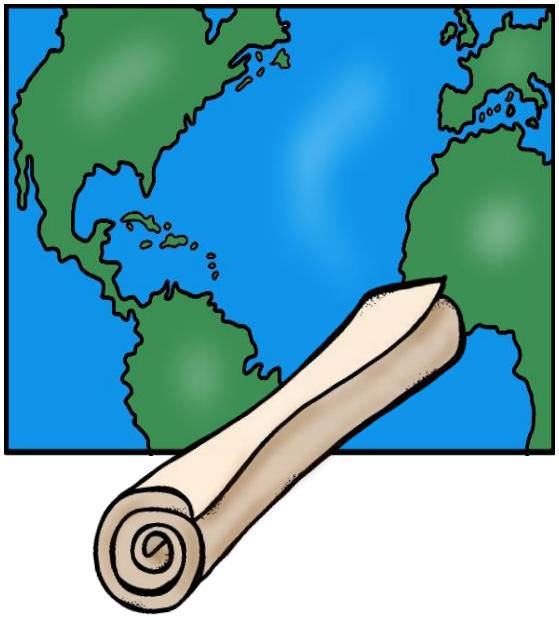
INSTRUMENTS FOR NAVIGATION



A magnetic compass was used to help sailors navigate on the open seas. A compass has a magnetic needle that always points toward true north. The Chinese invented the first compass about 2,000 years ago.

At the very top of the ship sat a crew member. He was looking through a telescope to see far into the distance. What was he looking for? He kept an eye out for dangers ahead including other ships, glaciers, huge whales, and rough seas. Of course he was always watching for land too! Land-ho!





Although maps were not completely accurate during the time of the early explorers, they definitely helped them find their way. During the Age of Exploration, mapmakers used a grid of crisscross lines as a guide. The lines helped a navigator to find the distance from port to port. Using both a compass and a map helped them sail in the correct direction across the wide ocean.

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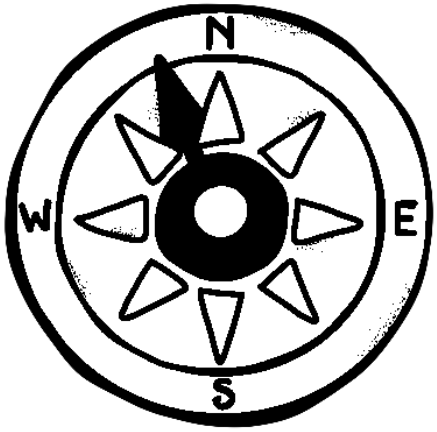
INSTRUMENTS FOR NAVIGATION



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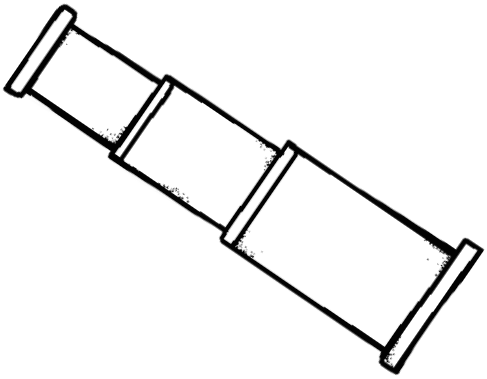

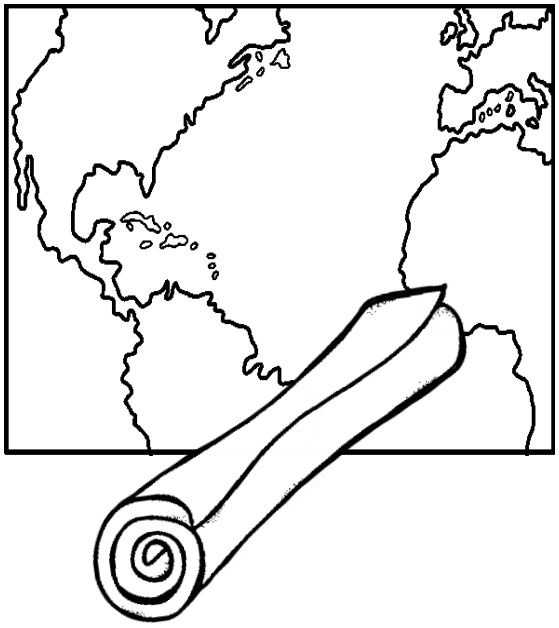

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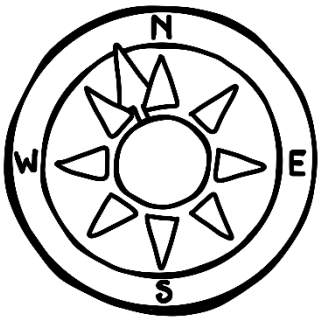
NAVIGATION MYSTERY FLAPS

Directions: Cut out flaps and glue as shown in the directions into your notebook. On the front of the flap, identify the object. Then underneath each flap tell how it was important and/or used by the early explorers.



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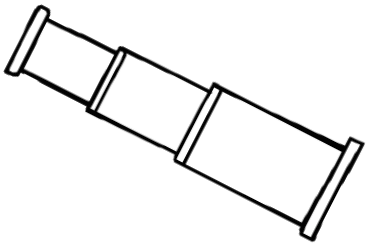

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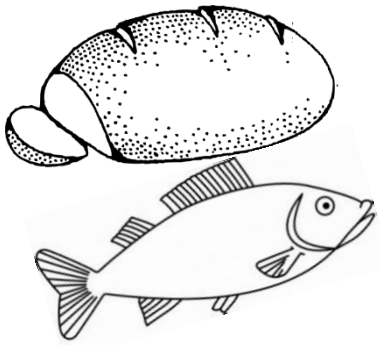

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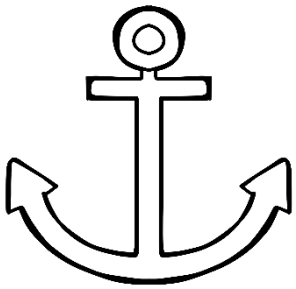

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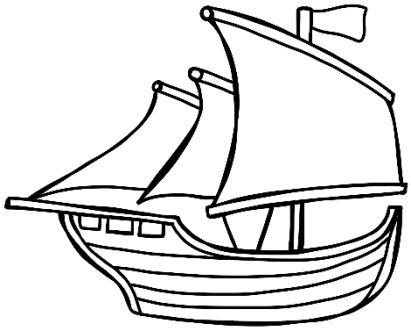

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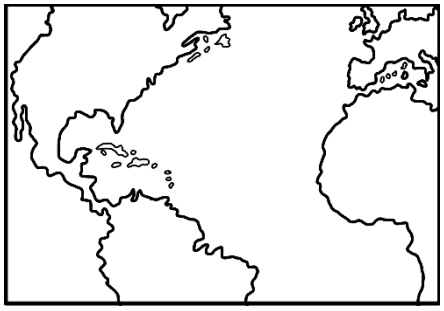

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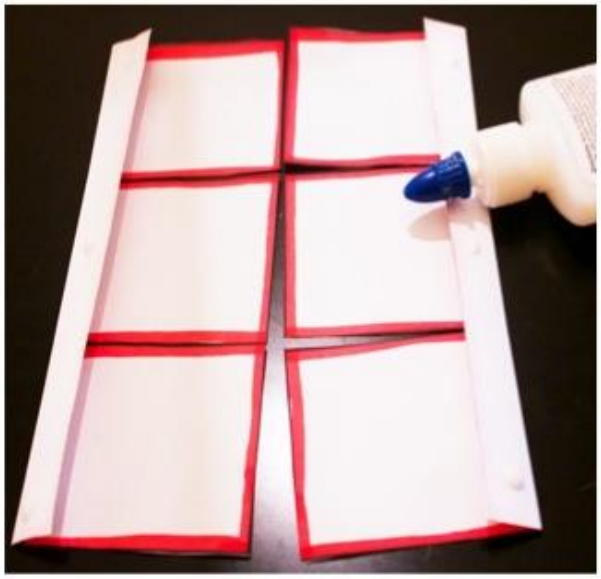
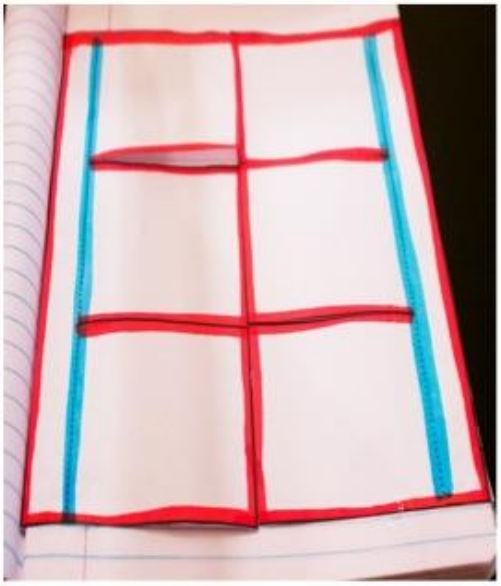
NAVIGATION MYSTERY FLAPS

1.Cut on the solid lines.

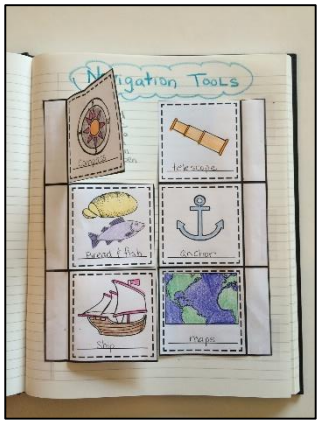
2. Fold forward on the dotted lines.

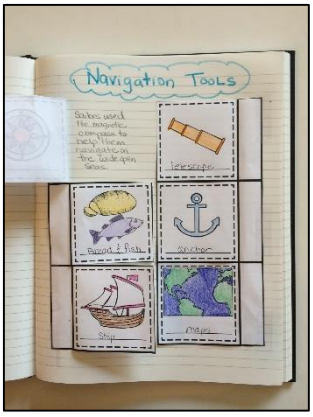


3. Dot glue on the back of the folded flaps.



4. Attach to a notebook.





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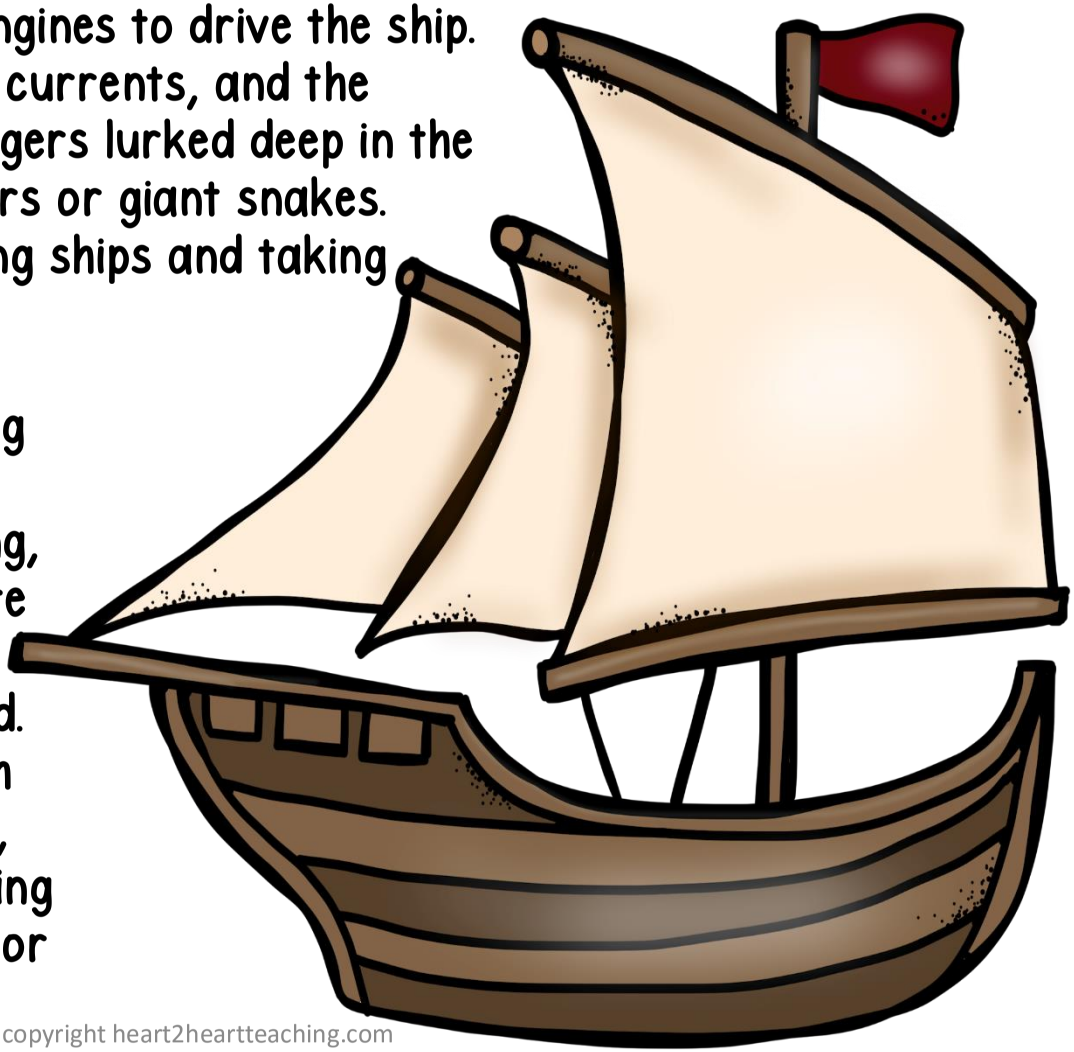
THE VOYAGE TO THE NEW WORLD

The journey across the Atlantic Ocean to the New World was not an easy one. Rough seas would pound against the ship causing the crew to get sea sickness. There was a limited supply of food and water. Everyone had to eat small rations because they never knew exactly how long it was going to take to reach land. It was a long journey depending on the destination and size of the ship and crew. The crew had to work hard to keep the ship on the right course and in tune with the wind and sea currents.

During this time, there were no motors or engines to drive the ship. They were totally dependent upon the wind, currents, and the captain's navigation. No one knew what dangers lurked deep in the ocean. Some thought there were sea monsters or giant snakes. Many had heard stories about pirates raiding ships and taking crew members as prisoners.

The crew members took turns working and directing the ship, with half the crew sleeping while the off half worked. During their off times, they kept busy by fishing, story-telling, singing songs, and playing games. There were barrels of food and supplies including rice, flour, salted meats, water, beans, and bread. They also brought fishing poles, hooks, cloth to make new sails, gunpowder, cannon balls, warm clothes, and blankets. If you were going on a trip across the ocean that would last for many weeks what would you take with you?



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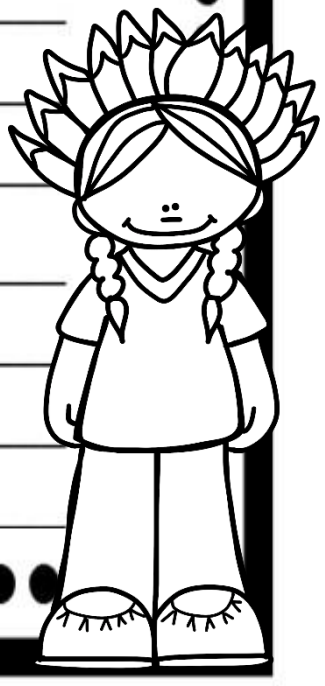
Imagine you're on the first voyage to the New World. Describe your long journey across the Atlantic Ocean. What do you see, hear, smell, taste, and do all day? Explain and support your answer with details from the articles and your knowledge of social studies.



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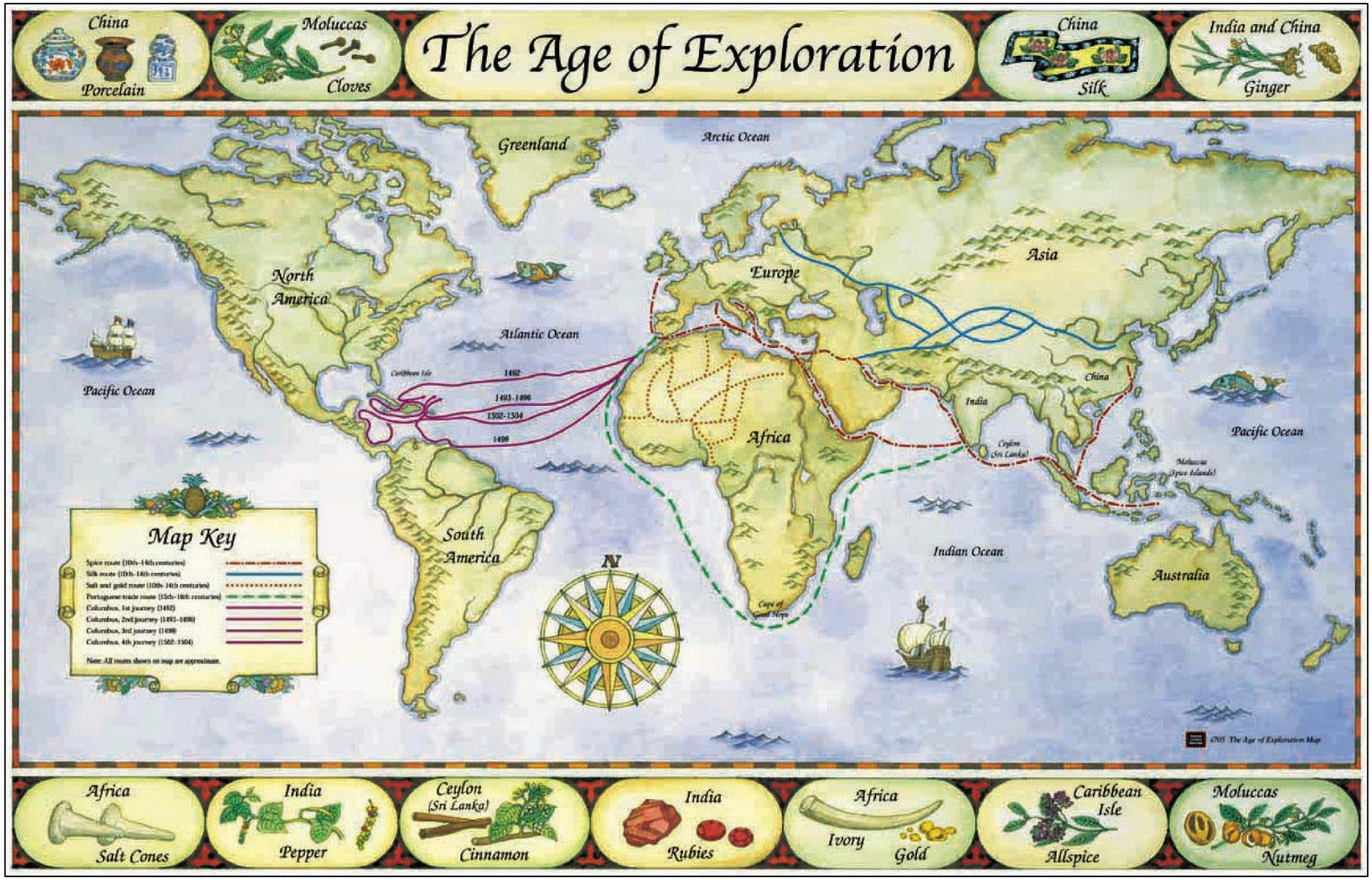

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CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Learning Station for Columbus
Includes:
Informational Articles
Columbus Organizer
Voyage Map
Columbus Mini-booklet with Timeline & Facts
Sample Product Pictures (answer key)

Name: _____

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

The GOALS of his mission were:

1.

2.

3 Words That Describe Him:

1.

2.

3.

Obstacles or Challenges:

Tell One Interesting Fact:

Sponsor Country:

_____

How many voyages?

_____

His Accomplishments Were:

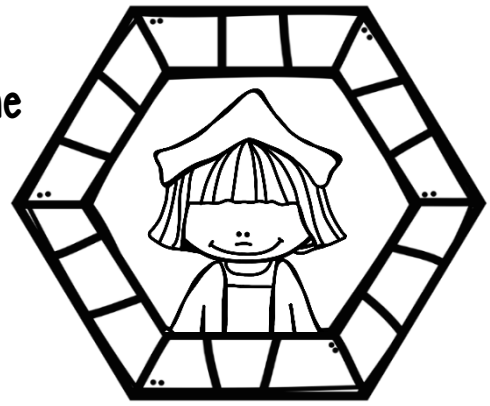
_____

_____

_____

_____

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS



Christopher Columbus was born in Italy. Even at a young age, Columbus loved the sea. He lived near the water and by his teens he was a good sailor. When he was 25, he sailed to Portugal. Pirates attacked his ship and it was destroyed. Luckily, Columbus escaped and made it back to land safely.

His Mission & Goals:

Columbus believed that the circumference of the world was less than 20,000 miles around. He thought that traveling west across the Atlantic Ocean was the fastest and safest way to get to China. His goal was to find a shorter route to India and China in his quest for gold, silk, and spices. Many people thought he was crazy but he didn't give up! Sailing trips were expensive so Columbus went to the King and Queen of Spain to ask them to pay for his journey. They agreed to sponsor him. They gave him 3 ships and a crew of 90 men. It took them 70 days, over two months, to sail across the Atlantic Ocean.

Columbus expected to see buildings of gold but instead he was greeted by the Native Americans. The Indians, as Columbus called them, were friendly and gave them food. He had landed in the Bahamas. He left a group of men behind to create a settlement and headed back home. When he made it back to Spain, he was called a hero!

Obstacles & Challenges:

Columbus faced many obstacles on his journey. First, the sailors became scared as the weeks went by at sea. Besides the rough conditions of the seas, his men were also afraid they would all starve and die. But Columbus encouraged them to stay strong by promising if they didn't find land soon, he'd turn around and go back. Within a few days, they saw land.

Accomplishments:

Columbus found the island of San Salvador, which we now call the Bahamas. He also went on to explore Cuba and Hispaniola. Over the next few years, he made three more trips and settled lands in both Central and South America. He was one of the best navigators ever to sail the seas during that time. He changed the world forever!

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MEET CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Christopher was born in 1451 in Genoa, Italy. Christopher always loved the sea and dreamed of becoming a sailor. He read as many books as he could to learn about predicting the weather based on the temperature, wind, and clouds. He knew how to read a map, navigate a boat, read a compass, and all about ocean currents.

Columbus showed his plans to travel west to find a faster route to China to the King and Queen of Spain. Seven years later, they gave him three ships for his voyage. The ships were named *The Niña, The Pinta,* and *The Santa Maria.*

The trip was long and rough. Many of the crew thought they were going to starve and wanted to turn back home. But Christopher encouraged them to stay strong. On October 11, 1492 they saw land. It was an island in the Caribbean Sea. Columbus thought it was China but it was really the Bahamas. He saw Native Americans too! When he returned to Spain from the New World with some gold he was called a hero! Columbus ended up taking 4 voyages in all, exploring and settling areas in Cuba, Hispaniola, Central America, and South America.

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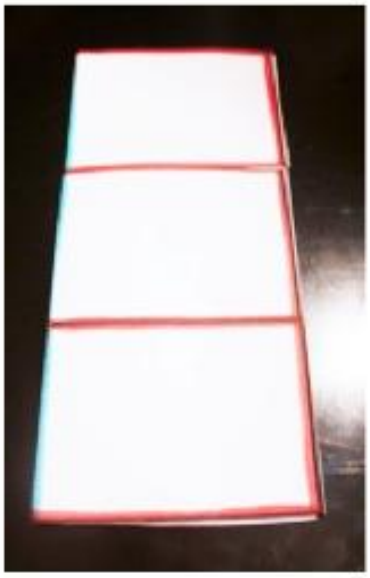
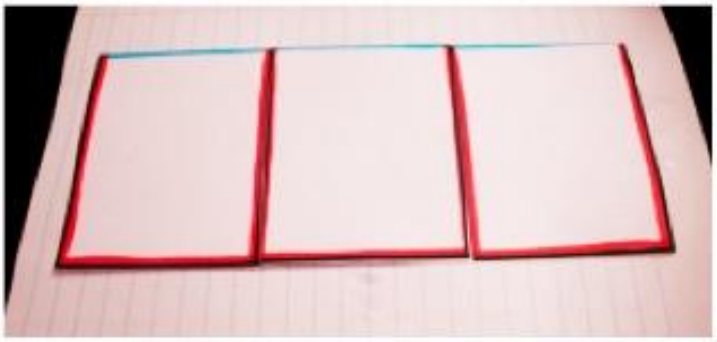
HOW TO MAKE EXPLORERS MINI-BOOKLETS

1. Cut out the template on the solid lines.



2. Fold on the dotted line.

3. Dot glue on the top side that is left (or above) the tabs.



4. Attach to a notebook.

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS MINI-BOOKLET

Columbus takes his 3rd voyage to the Americas in 1498 and explores Venezuela.

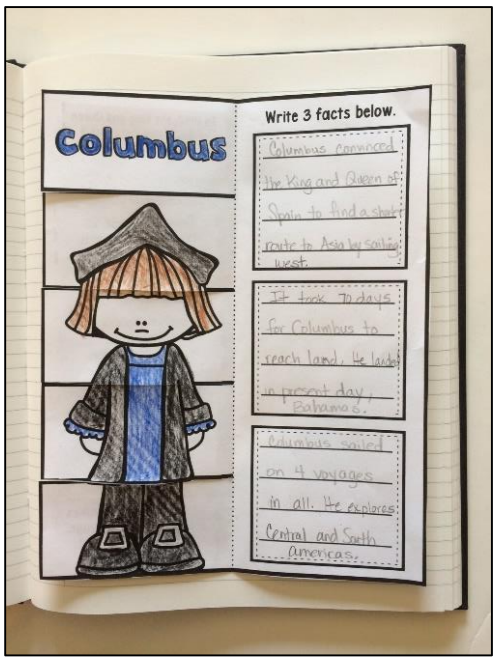
On his 1st trip, Columbus lands, 70 days later, in what is today the Bahamas.

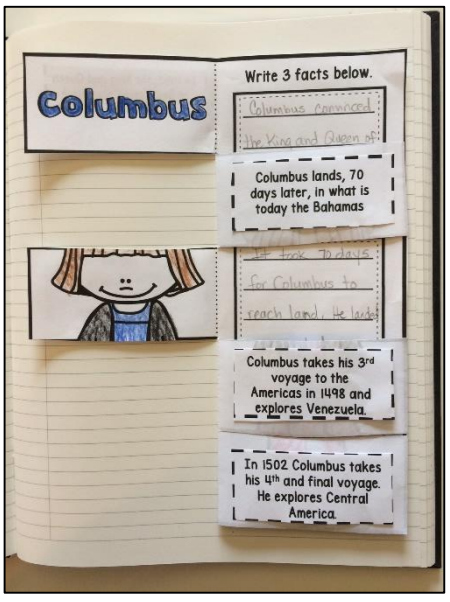
In 1492, the King and Queen of Spain give Columbus 3 ships and a crew to find a shorter route to Asia.

Columbus departs on his 2nd voyage to the New World in 1493.

In 1502 Columbus takes his 4th and final voyage. He explores Central America.

Directions: Write three facts about the famous explorer on the inside of the mini-booklet. Then cut out and glue the dates on this page in the correct order on the outside cover. Lastly, color and fold the booklet on the dotted line and glue inside your notebook as shown.





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Columbus

Write 3 facts below.

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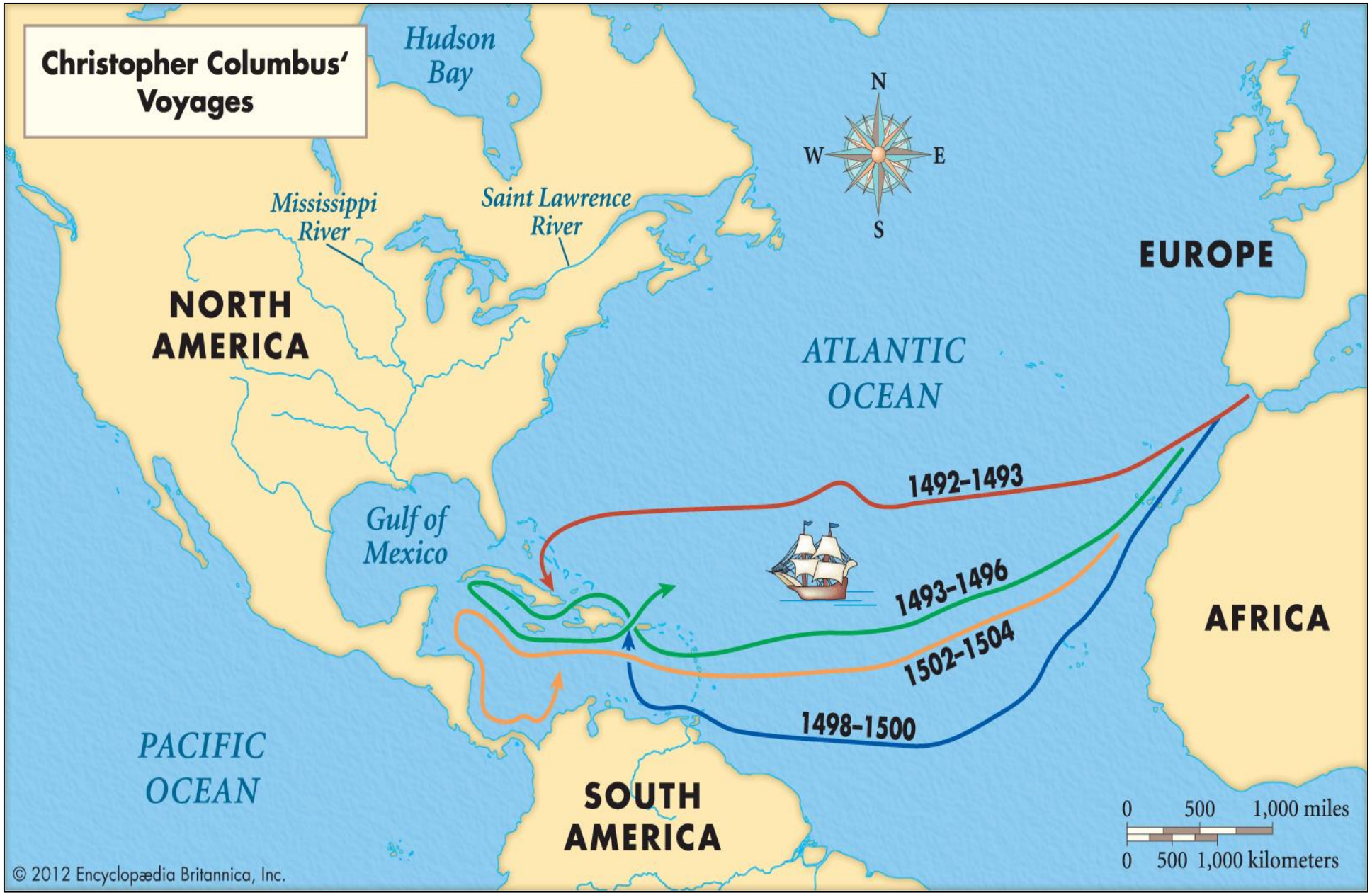
THE VOYAGES OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS



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JOHN CABOT

Learning Station for Cabot
Includes:
Informational Articles
Cabot Organizer
Voyage Map
Cabot Mini-booklet with Timeline & Facts
Sample Product Pictures
(answer key)

Name: _____

The GOALS of his mission were:

1.

2.

3 Words That Describe Him:

1.

2.

3.

JOHN CABOT

Obstacles or Challenges:

Tell One Interesting Fact:

Sponsor Country:

_____

How many voyages?

_____

His Accomplishments Were:

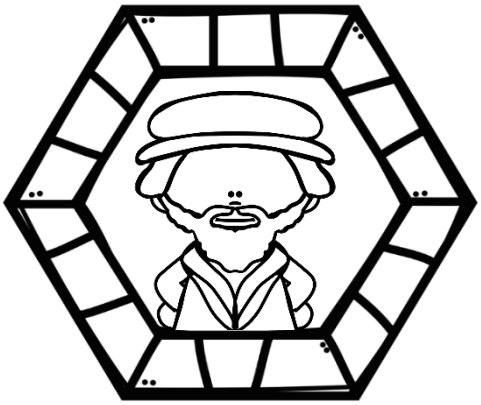
_____

_____

_____

_____

JOHN CABOT & SEBASTIAN



Giovanni Caboto was born in Italy. Even at a young age, he loved the sea. When he was 40, he changed his name to John Cabot and moved his family to England. He knew that England's king wanted to explore new lands so he told him of his idea. Cabot believed he could sail westward across the Atlantic Ocean to reach Asia.

His Mission & Goals:

Cabot was given one small ship, called the *Mathew*, and a crew of 18 men for his voyage. One of the crew member's was Cabot's son, Sebastian. It took five weeks to cross the Atlantic Ocean. Cabot thought he was in China, but he had landed on an island near Canada. Cabot named the island St. John. Cabot returned to England to share his success. He was given the title of "The Great Admiral." The king was happy and paid for a second longer trip to explore this "New Found Land" as it was called. Cabot was given 5 ships, 300 crew members, and permission to start a colony in the new land.

Obstacles & Challenges:

Cabot faced many obstacles on his journey. The sailors sailed through many rough storms at sea. One of his ships was damaged and landed in Ireland for repairs while the other four ships continued on their journey. However, Cabot and his crew were never heard from again after that. Till this day, no one knows what happened to him, the crew, or his four ships.

Accomplishments:

Cabot explored and claimed land in Canada for the King of England. John Cabot passed down his knowledge as an expert sailor and navigator to his son, Sebastian. Sebastian went on to become an explorer just like his father. Ten years after his father's disappearance, Sebastian set sail on his first voyage. He landed in Greenland and sailed down into the Hudson Bay in Canada. Sebastian led a second voyage that landed and explored part of Argentina. He went on to become a skilled mapmaker for the Spanish Navy. His new map of the world was published in 1544. Sebastian's map had so much new information that later world maps were based on it. What an adventurous father-son explorer team!

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MEET JOHN CABOT

Giovanni Caboto changed his name to John Cabot when he moved to England. He knew that England's king wanted to explore new lands so he told him of his idea. Cabot believed he could sail westward across the Atlantic Ocean to reach the Far East. King Henry liked his plan but only gave John one small ship called the *Mathew* and 18 crew members. Luckily, John took his teenage son, Sebastian, with him as one of the crew members. He landed on an island in eastern Canada and claimed it for England. He named it St. John. Then he continued along the coastline exploring. He believed that China was not too far away so he returned to England to ask for more men and ships so he could explore further.

King Henry was happy with John's success and gave him the title of "Great Admiral." A second voyage was approved and this time John was given 5 ships, 300 men, and permission to start a colony on the "New Found Land." But the trip did not go as planned. Instead John Cabot and his crew disappeared and were never heard from again!

Ten years later, Sebastian followed in his father's footsteps and went on to become a famous explorer too!

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JOHN CABOT MINI-BOOKLET

In 1498,John Cabot departs on his 2nd voyage and is never heard from again.

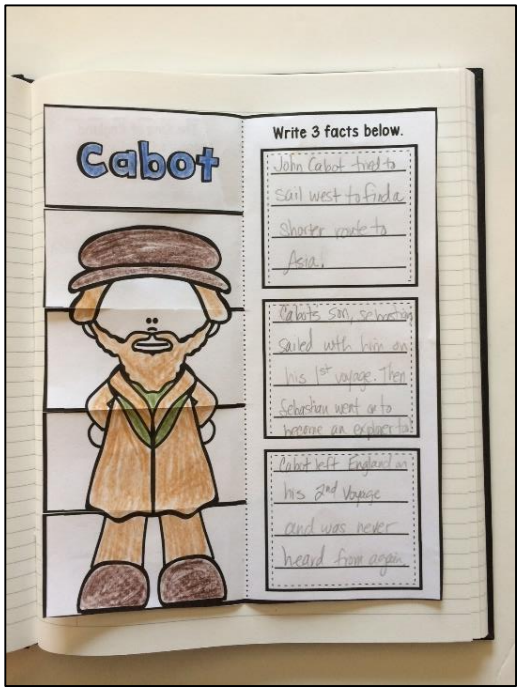
The King of England sponsors Cabot's 1st voyage to find a route to Asia by sailing west.

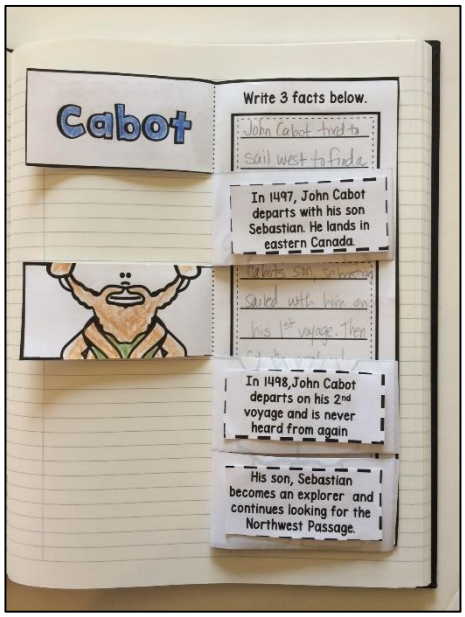
In 1497, John Cabot departs with his son Sebastian. He lands in eastern Canada.

John Cabot lands on an island and names it St. John and then returns to England.

His son, Sebastian becomes an explorer and continues looking for the Northwest Passage.

Directions: Write three facts about the famous explorer on the inside of the mini-booklet. Then cut out and glue the dates on this page in the correct order on the outside cover. Lastly, color and fold the booklet on the dotted line and glue inside your notebook as shown.





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Cabot

Write 3 facts below.

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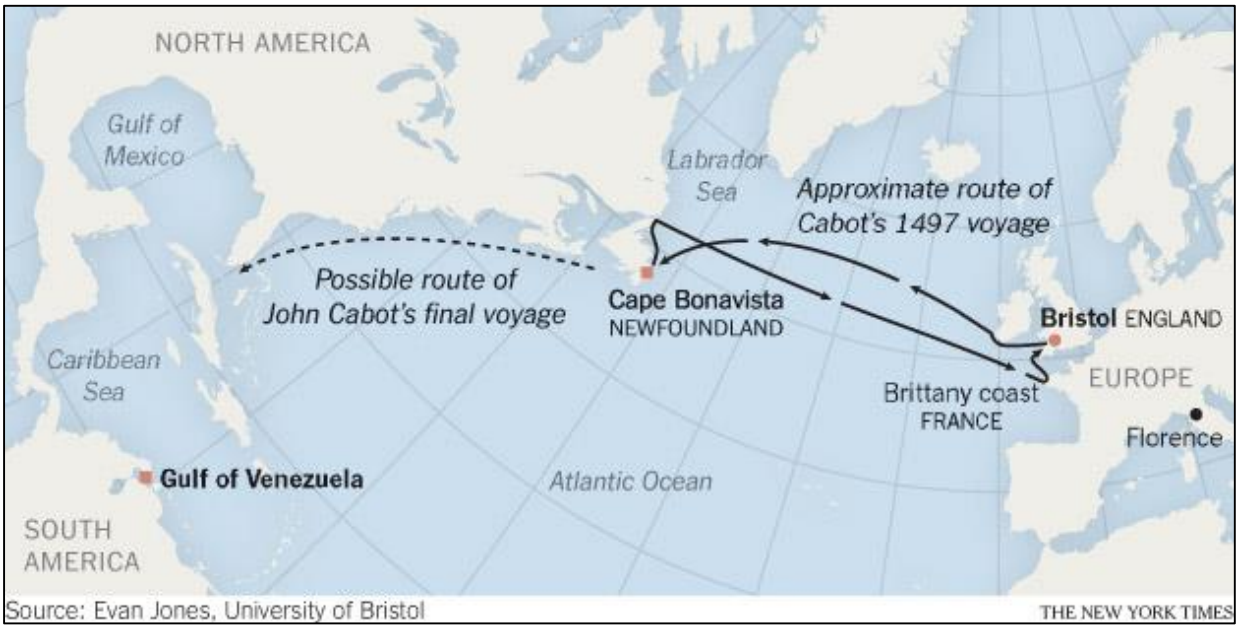
THE VOYAGES OF JOHN CABOT



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HENRY HUDSON

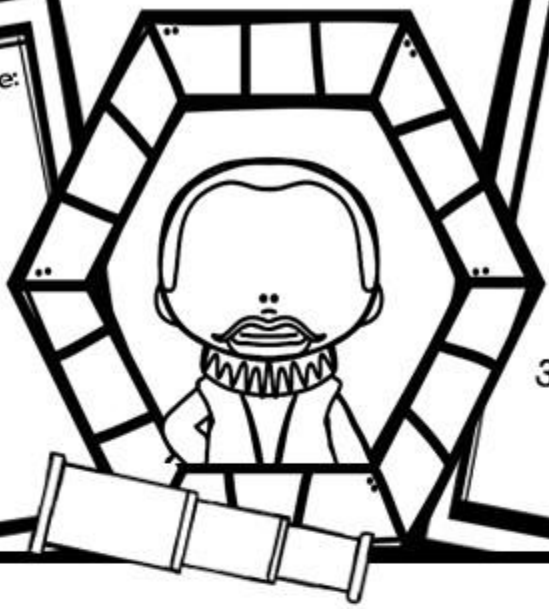
Learning Station for Hudson
Includes:
Informational Articles
Hudson Organizer
Voyage Map
Hudson Mini-booklet with Timeline & Facts
Sample Product Pictures (answer key)

Name: _____

The GOALS of his mission were:

1.

2.



3 Words That Describe Him:

1.

2.

3.

HENRY HUDSON

Obstacles or Challenges:

Tell One Interesting Fact:

Sponsors:

_____

How many voyages?

_____

His Accomplishments Were:

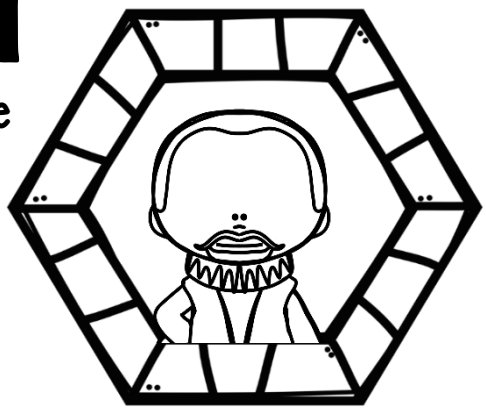
_____

_____

_____

_____

HENRY HUDSON



Henry Hudson grew up in London, England. As a teen he served as a cabin boy on several voyages. He decided then that he wanted to spend his life exploring new places. It wasn't long before he became the captain of a ship in search for a new trade route to the Far East.

His Mission & Goals:

During this time, countries in the Far East such as China and India, had valuable jewels, spices, and silk that were greatly desired in Europe. But to get to Asia was a very long journey around the tip of Africa so explorers were always trying to find a shorter route. Henry believed he could find a shorter trade route to Asia by sailing north into the Artic Ocean. The leaders of the Muscovy Company agreed to pay for his voyage and gave him a ship called the *Hopewell.* Hudson, with his son John, and his crew traveled around the coast of Greenland and Norway. There he saw a large body of water filled with so many whales that he named it Whales Bay. He trip was stopped short by glaciers and freezing cold weather. But Henry's discovery of whales led to the valuable Whaling Industry. His second voyage was also cut short due to a wall of ice that blocked his way.

Obstacles & Challenges:

Henry Hudson faced many obstacles such as freezing temperatures, stormy weather, and mammoth glaciers. Most of his crew became unhappy as he always pushed onward through dangerous weather and limited supplies. On his fourth and final journey, Henry explored the coast of Canada before his ship became trapped by ice in the Hudson Bay. Angry crew members put Henry, his son, and loyal crew members in a small boat afloat on their own without any food, water, or supplies. They were never seen or heard from again.

Accomplishments:

Hudson's first voyage proved to be a success because of his discovery of whales. Whales were used for their meat, blubber, and bones. Blubber was useful for making oil and soap. Whaling became big business after his discovery. On his third and fourth voyages, he explored many new areas such as the coast of Canada as well as Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait, and Hudson River (all named after him). Europeans learned more about the world because of his many voyages. Today, Henry Hudson is still thought of as one of the world's greatest explorers!

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MEET HENRY HUDSON

Henry Hudson grew up in London, England. He decided as a teen that he wanted to spend his life traveling and exploring. It wasn't long before he became the captain of a ship looking for a new trade route to the Far East.

During this time, countries such as China and India, had valuable jewels, spices, and other items that people loved. But to get to Asia was a very long journey around the tip of Africa so sailors were always trying to find a shorter route. Henry believed he could find a shorter trade route by sailing north into the Arctic Ocean.

Henry went on four voyages in all. On his first voyage, he sailed around the coast of Greenland and Norway and discovered whales. In fact, there were so many whales they were bumping the sides of his ship so he named it Whales Bay. Whaling became big business afterwards as whales were used for their meat, blubber, and bones.

Hudson explored many new areas such as Whales Bay, Hudson Bay, Hudson Strait, and Hudson River, all named after him. His explorations led to many new settlements in North America and helped people learn about the New World.

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HENRY HUDSON MINI-BOOKLET

In 1610, Hudson sets sail and explores the coast of Canada.

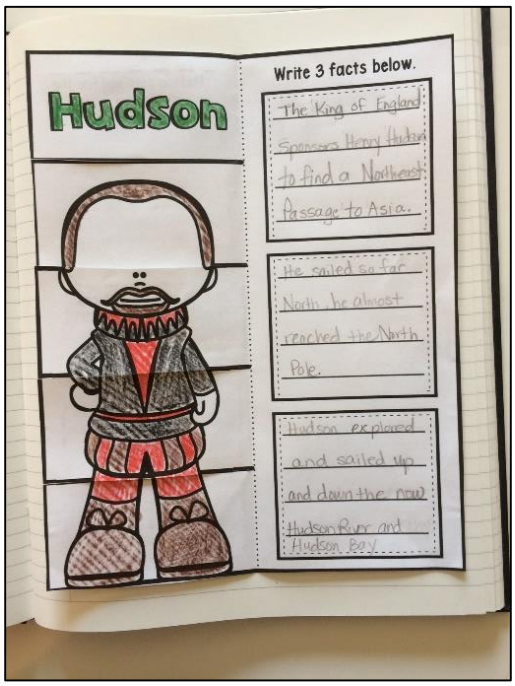
In 1609, the Dutch hires Hudson to sail to North America. He explores the Hudson River and Bay.

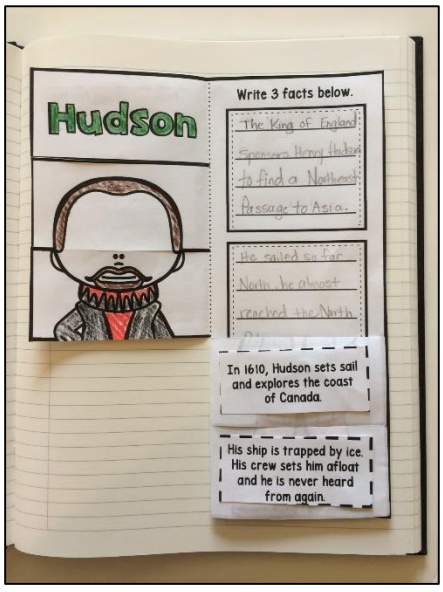
His ship is trapped by ice. His crew sets him afloat in a small boat and he is never heard from again.

In 1608, Hudson departs on his 2nd voyage searching for the Northeast Passage.

Hudson sets sail for the King of England in 1607. He discovers whales and names the area Whales Bay.

Directions: Write three facts about the famous explorer on the inside of the mini-booklet. Then cut out and glue the dates on this page in the correct order on the outside cover. Lastly, color and fold the booklet on the dotted line and glue inside your notebook as shown.





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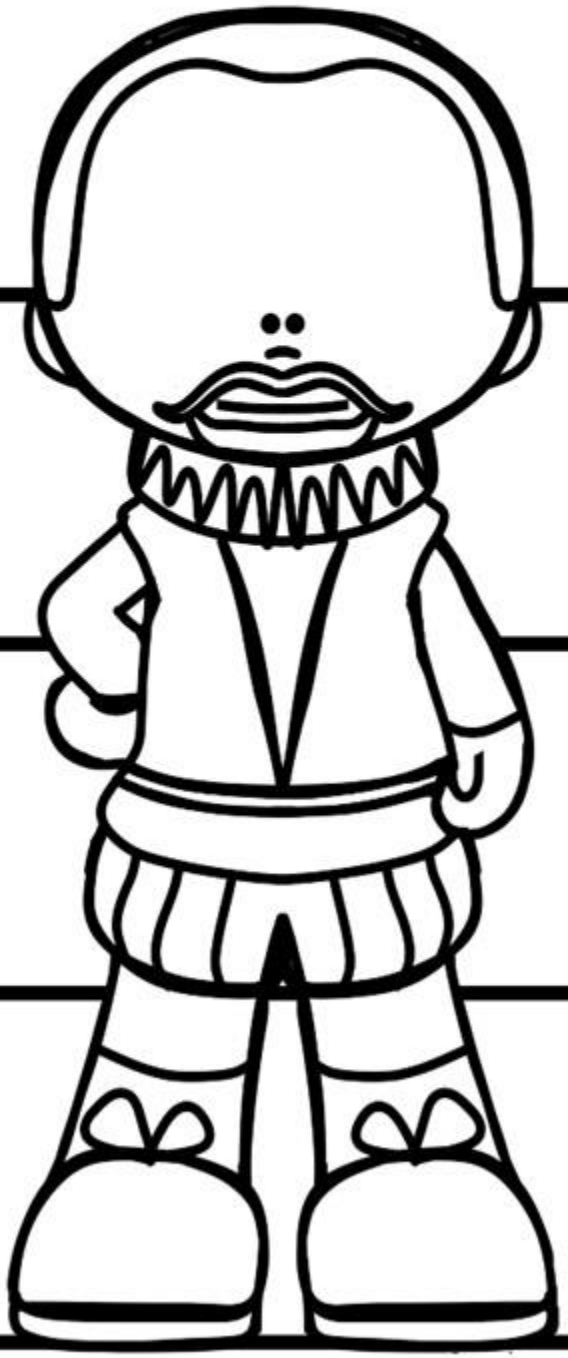
Hudson



Write 3 facts below.

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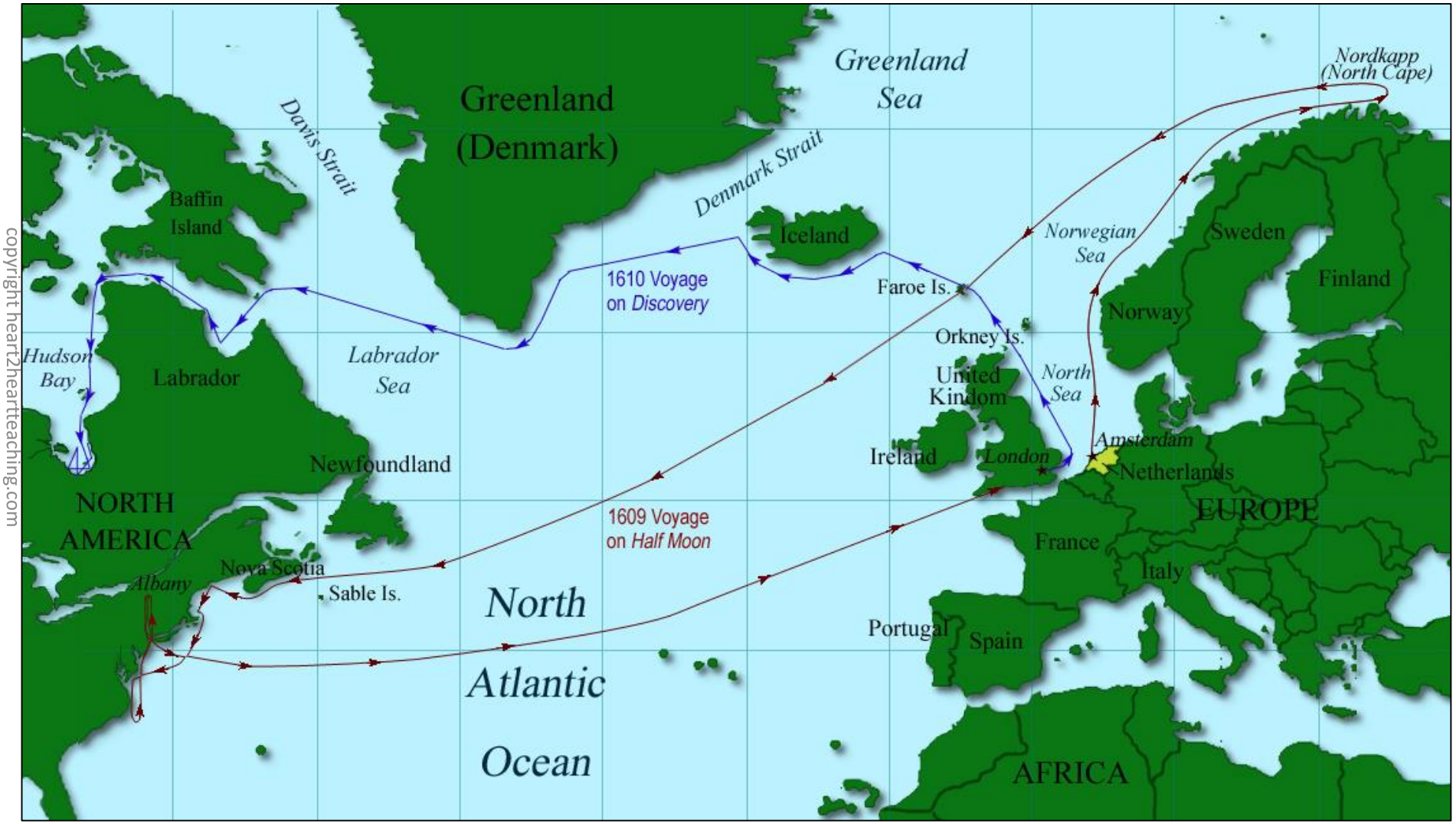
THE VOYAGES OF HENRY HUDSON



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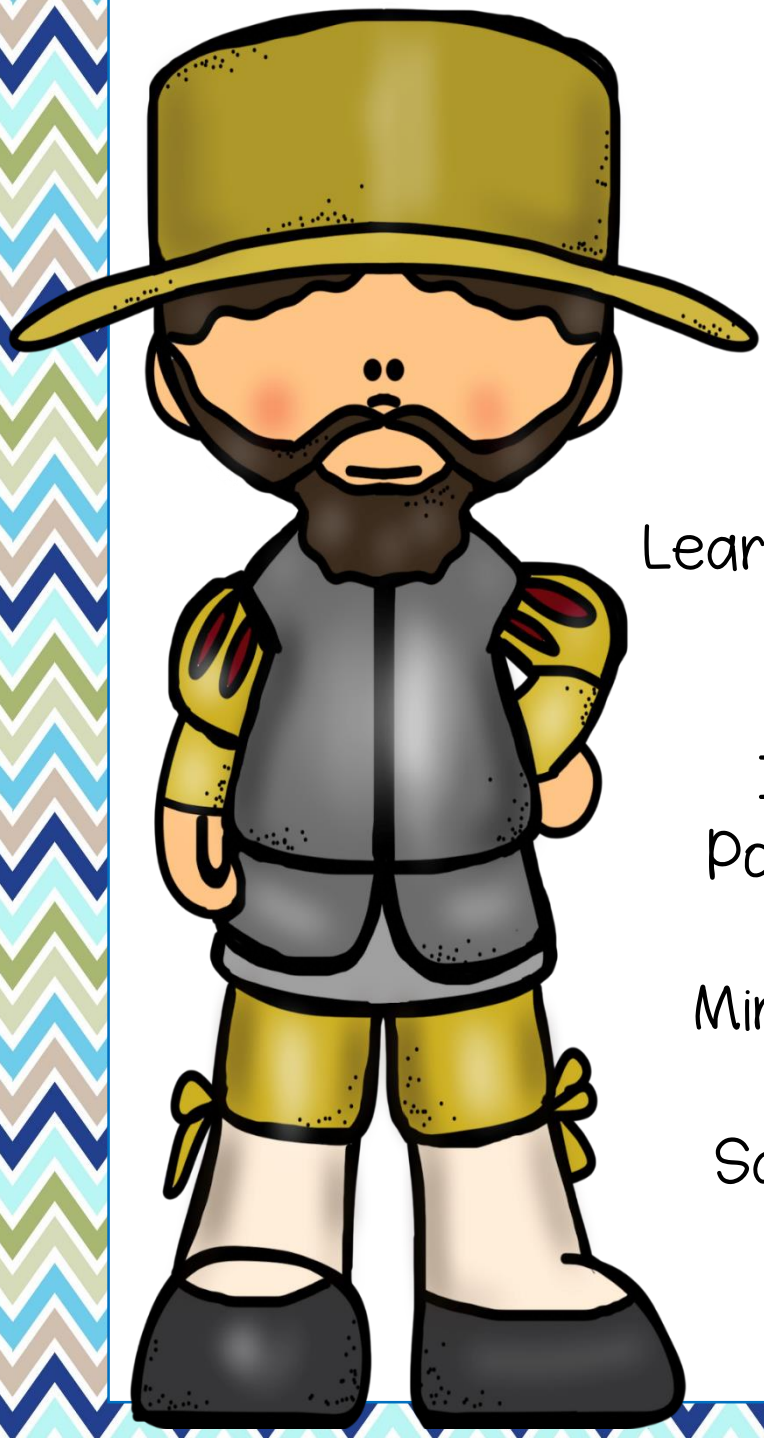
PONCE DE LEÓN



Learning Station for Ponce de León

Includes:

Informational Articles

Ponce de León Organizer

Voyage Map

Mini-booklet with Timeline & Facts

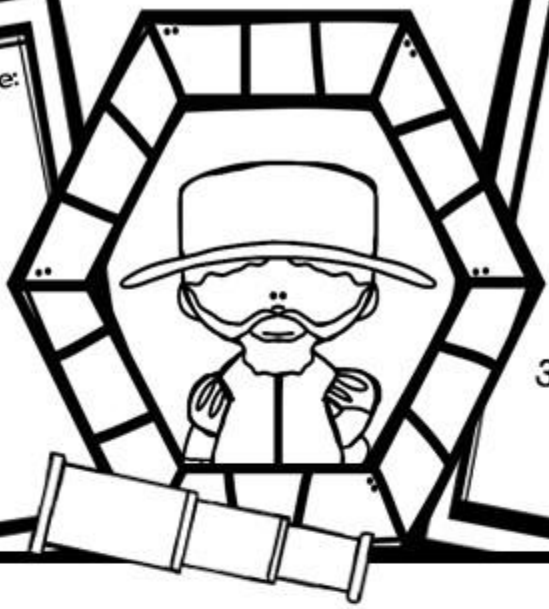
Sample Product Pictures (answer key)

Name: _____

The GOALS of his mission were:

1.

2.



3 Words That Describe Him:

1.

2.

3.

JUAN PONCE DE LEÓN

Obstacles or Challenges:

Tell One Interesting Fact:

Sponsor Country:

_____

How many voyages?

_____

His Accomplishments Were:

_____

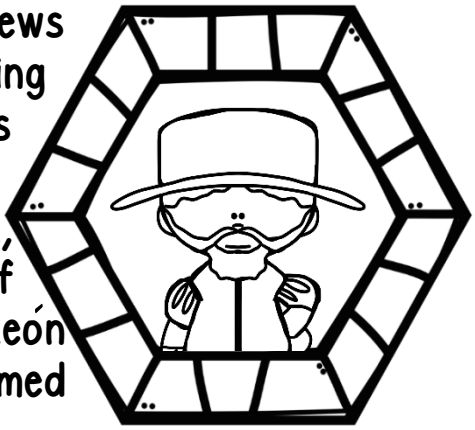
_____

_____

_____

JUAN PONCE DE LEÓN

Juan grew up during an exciting time in Spain. Christopher Columbus had just returned from his first voyage and news about a New World spread quickly. Columbus was planning to set sail again soon and was looking for men to join his crew. Juan Ponce de León sailed with Columbus on his second trip to the Americas. After arriving in Hispaniola, Juan was sent to lead the forces to the nearby island of Puerto Rico. Many claimed it was full of gold. Ponce de León was a mighty leader and conquered Puerto Rico and named the first city San Juan.



His Mission & Goals:

Juan Ponce de León went to the King of Spain and asked to discover new lands and riches for Spain. He told King Ferdinand a legend he had heard about a Fountain of Youth that had special healing waters. It was believed that if you drank from it you would stay young forever. The king agreed to the mission and gave him 3 ships and 60 crew members. About one month later, they landed on a warm, sunny, beautiful place. Ponce de León named it Florida, which means "covered in flowers" in Spanish.

Obstacles & Challenges:

Ponce de León and his crew faced many struggles during their voyage. When they tried to sail up the coast they got stuck in a very strong current that is known today as the Gulf Stream. The Gulf Stream is like a river in the Atlantic Ocean. Once they were able to get past this powerful current and come back ashore, they were attacked by Native Americans. They retreated and sailed down around the tip of Florida. After many battles with the Native Americans, they headed back home to Spain. King Ferdinand was pleased with Ponce de León's news. He sent him back to Florida to start a new colony and made him the governor of it. Soon after being awarded this honor, Ponce de León was wounded by an arrow during a battle with the Native Americans. The wound became infected and without antibiotics, it cost him his life.

Accomplishments:

Although Juan Ponce de León never found the Fountain of Youth, he did discover and claim valuable lands like Puerto Rico and Florida for Spain. He also established the first city in Puerto Rico called San Juan. He discovered the Gulf Stream but didn't realize the importance of it at the time. He was the first European explorer to set foot in what is now the United States.

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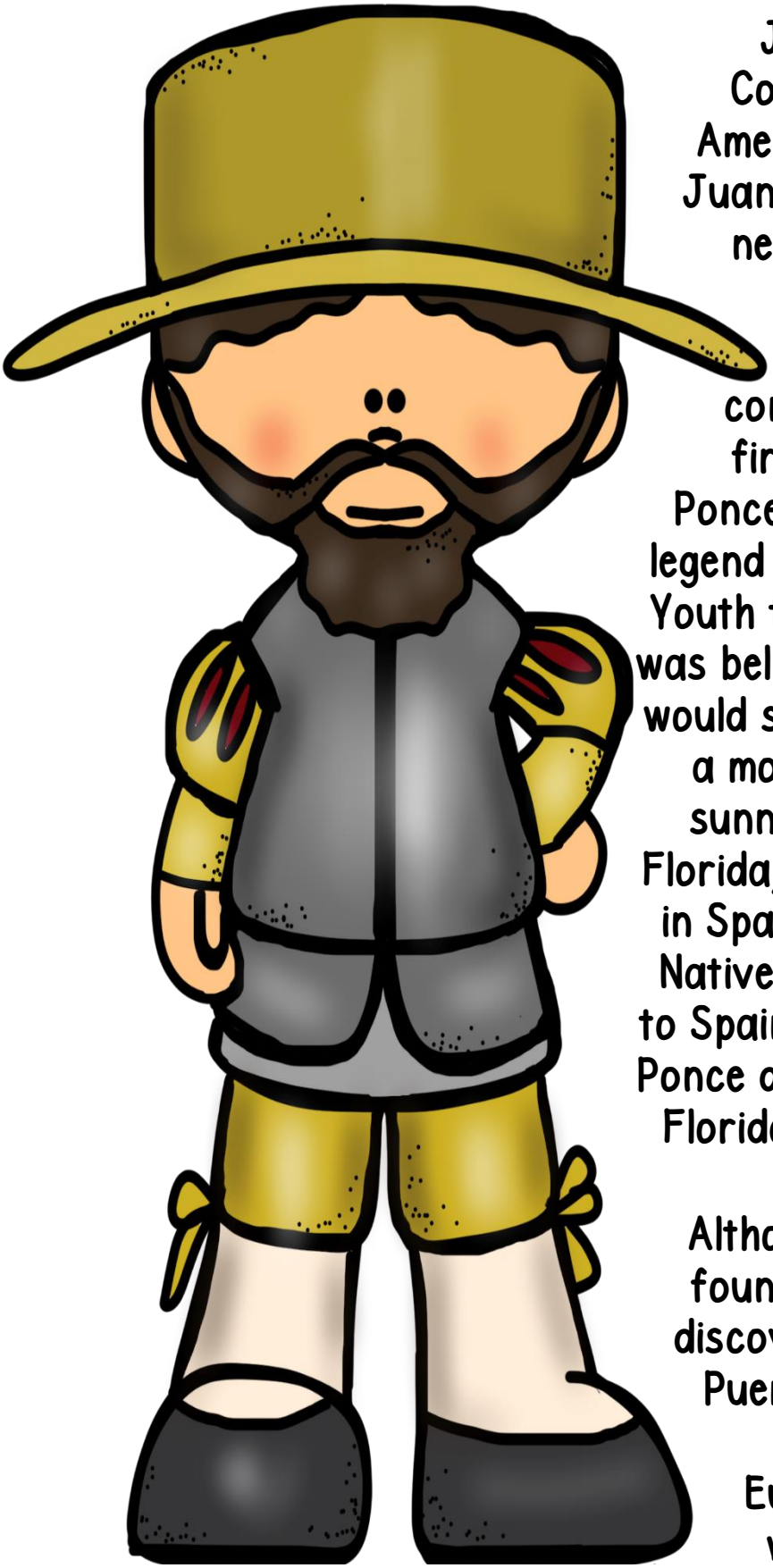
MEET JUAN PONCE DE LEÓN



Juan Ponce de León sailed with Columbus on his second trip to the Americas. After arriving in Hispaniola, Juan was sent to lead the forces to the nearby island of Puerto Rico, that many claimed was full of gold.

He was a mighty leader and conquered Puerto Rico, naming the first city, San Juan, after himself.

Ponce de León told the king of Spain a legend he had heard about a Fountain of Youth that had special healing waters. It was believed that if you drank from it you would stay young forever. He set sail and a month later landed on a warm and sunny place. Ponce de León named it Florida, which means "covered in flowers" in Spanish. After many battles with the Native Americans, he headed back home to Spain. King Ferdinand was pleased with Ponce de León's news. He sent him back to Florida to start a new colony and made him the governor of it.

Although Juan Ponce de León never found the Fountain of Youth, he did discover and claim valuable lands like Puerto Rico and Florida for Spain.

Ponce de León was the first European explorer to set foot in what is now the United States.

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PONCE DE LEÓN MINI-BOOKLET

In 1502, Juan is put in charge of all military forces in Hispaniola.

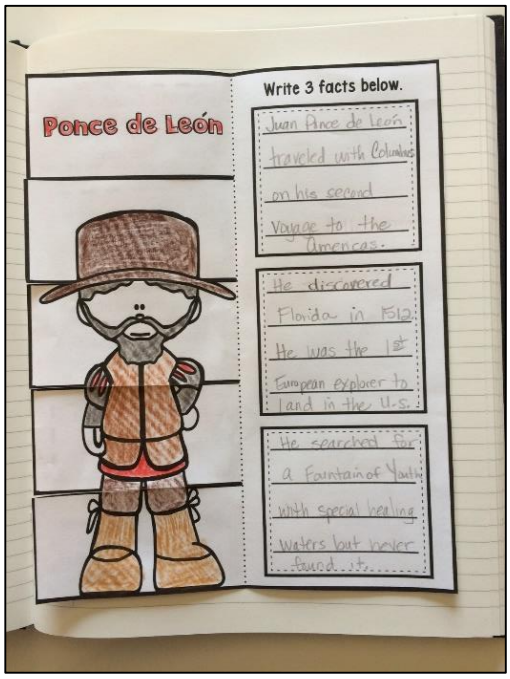
In 1493, Columbus takes Ponce de León with him on his 2nd voyage to the Americas.

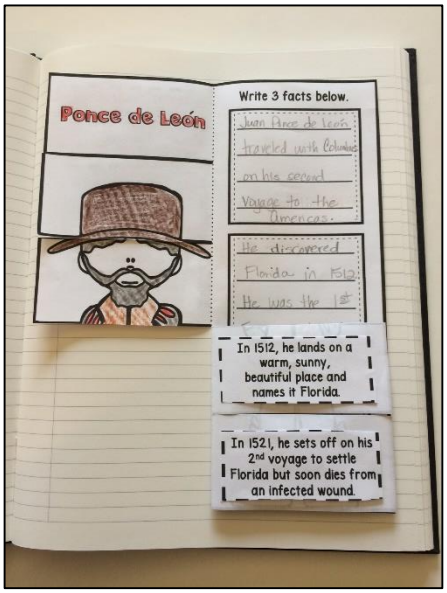
After his 1st trip he tells the King of Spain about a Fountain of Youth that has healing waters.

In 1521, he sets off on his 2nd voyage to settle Florida, but soon dies from an infected wound.

In 1513, he landed on a warm, sunny, beautiful place and names it Florida.

Directions: Write three facts about the famous explorer on the inside of the mini-booklet. Then cut out and glue the dates on this page in the correct order on the outside cover. Lastly, color and fold the booklet on the dotted line and glue inside your notebook as shown.





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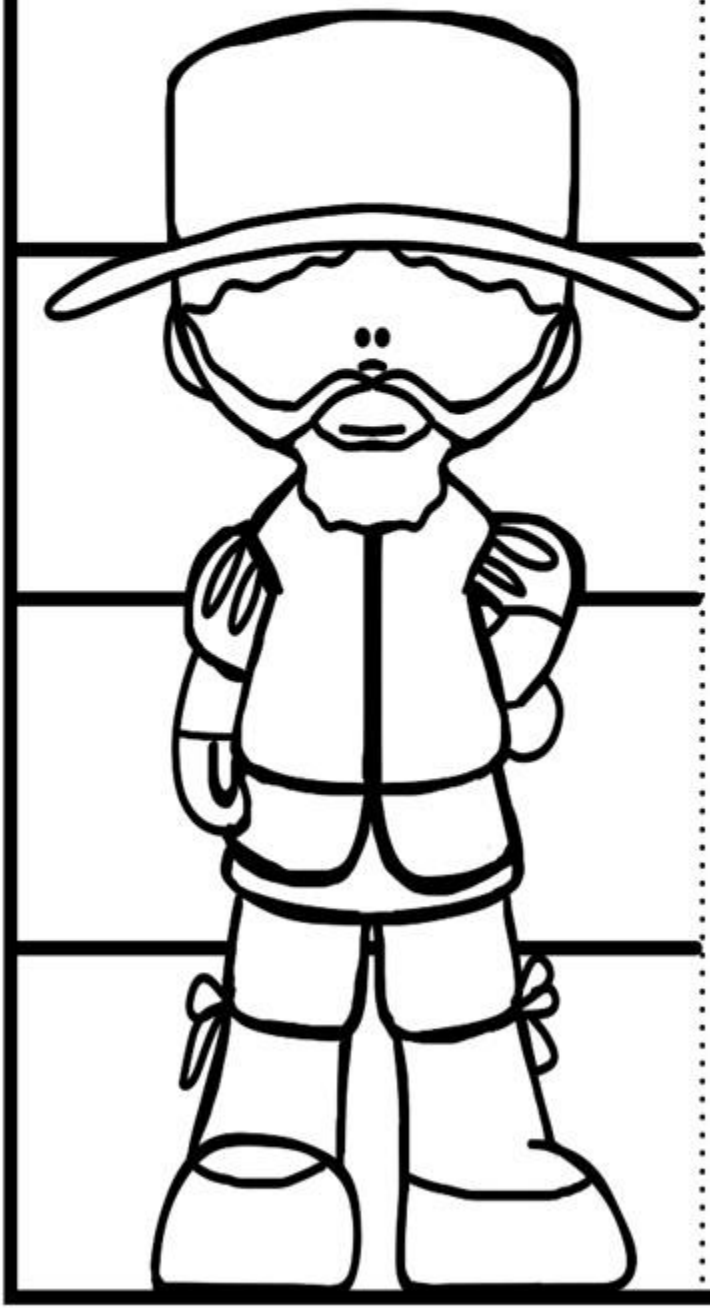
Ponce de León



Write 3 facts below.

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THE VOYAGES OF JUAN PONCE DE LEÒN

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JACQUES CARTIER

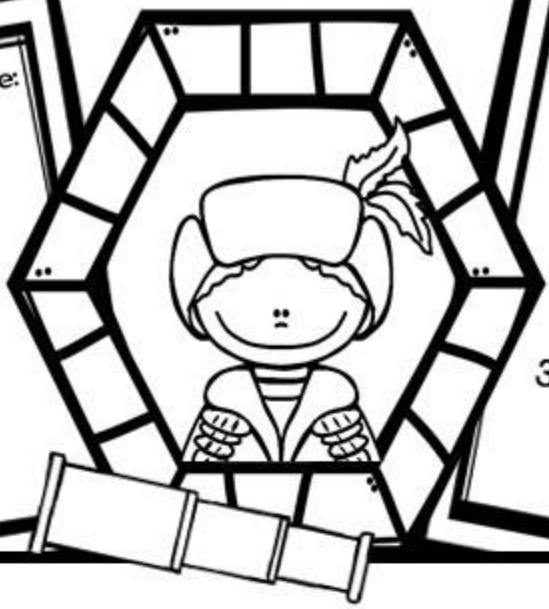
Learning Station for Cartier
Includes:
Informational Articles
Cartier Organizer
Voyage Map
Cartier Mini-booklet with Timeline & Facts
Sample Product Pictures
(answer key)

Name: _____

The GOALS of his mission were:

1.

2.



3 Words That Describe Him:

1.

2.

3.

JACQUES CARTIER

Obstacles or Challenges:

Tell One Interesting Fact:

Sponsor Country:

_____

How many voyages?

_____

His Accomplishments Were:

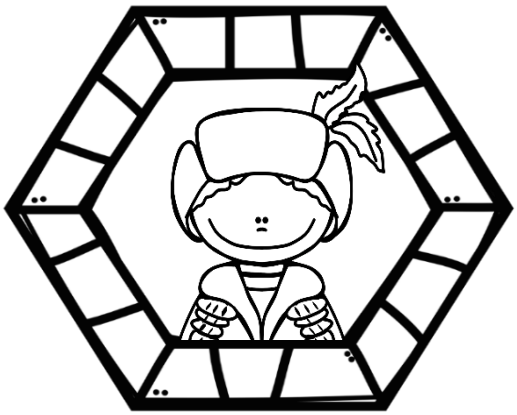
_____

_____

_____

_____

JACQUES CARTIER



Jacques began sailing with French explorer Giovanni da Verrazano on his explorations of the coast of Canada when he was young. It was not long after that trip that the King of France sent Jacques Cartier on his own voyage to explore the New World.

His Mission & Goals:

In 1534, the King of France sent Jacques Cartier to find riches and a northwestern passage to Asia. Jacques landed about a month later at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River in what is now Canada. He sailed around parts of the New Foundland and through the Gulf of the St. Lawrence, and then onto Quebec in Canada. Cartier followed the St. Lawrence River for over 1,000 miles during his three voyages. He hoped it would lead him to the Pacific Ocean on the other side of North America. But it did not. He also met many Native Americans who told him stories about a wealthy city full of gold, rubies, and other riches. Cartier and his men looked for this city in hopes of making France rich. They found what they thought were gold and diamonds only to find out later it was only fool's gold and sparkly stones called quartz.

Obstacles & Challenges:

Cartier overcame many obstacles during his voyages including harsh weather, icy waters, and terrible snow storms. During one of his trips, his crew became ill with a disease called scurvy. The Huron Tribe helped them by giving them a special tea made from the boiled bark of a White Spruce Tree. At first the Native Americans were friendly but when they learned that Cartier was there to claim the land and riches for France they began attacking Cartier and his crew.

Accomplishments:

Jacques Cartier tried to set up a new colony near present day Quebec. But he was forced to leave this new settlement after being attacked by the Native Americans. His travels along the St. Lawrence River paved the way for future French exploration of Canada. Today, Cartier is remembered for his discovery of the St. Lawrence River and for giving Canada its name.

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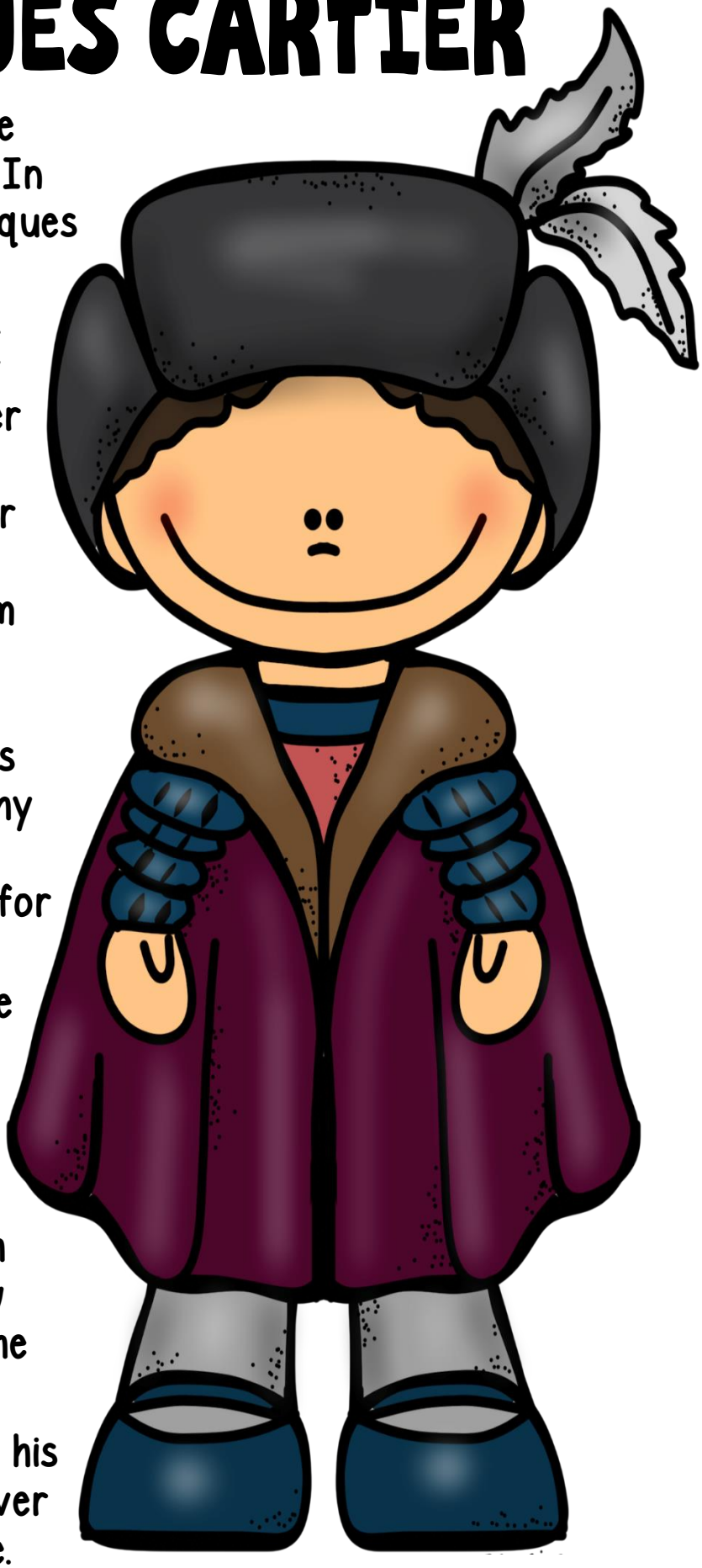
MEET JACQUES CARTIER

Jacques Cartier sailed on three voyages for the King of France. In 1534, the King of France sent Jacques Cartier to find riches and a northwestern passage to Asia. He landed about a month later at the mouth of the St. Lawrence River in what is now Canada. Cartier followed the St. Lawrence River for over 1,000 miles during his three voyages. He hoped it would lead him to the Pacific Ocean on the other side of North America.

He also met many Native Americans who told him stories about a wealthy city full of gold, rubies, and other riches. Cartier and his men looked for this city in hopes of becoming rich. They found what they thought were gold and diamonds only to find out later it was only fool's gold and sparkly stones called quartz.

Cartier overcame many obstacles during his voyages including harsh weather, icy waters, terrible snow storms, sickness, and attacks by the Native Americans.

Today, Cartier is remembered for his discovery of the St. Lawrence River and for giving Canada its name.



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JACQUES CARTIER MINI-BOOKLET

In 1534, Jacques is sent by the King of France to sail west and find a shorter route to Asia.

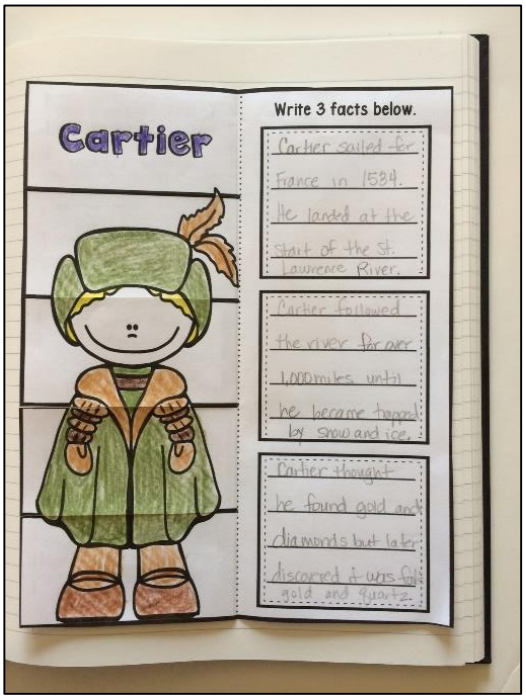
In 1541, Cartier sails to Canada on his last voyage looking for the city of riches.

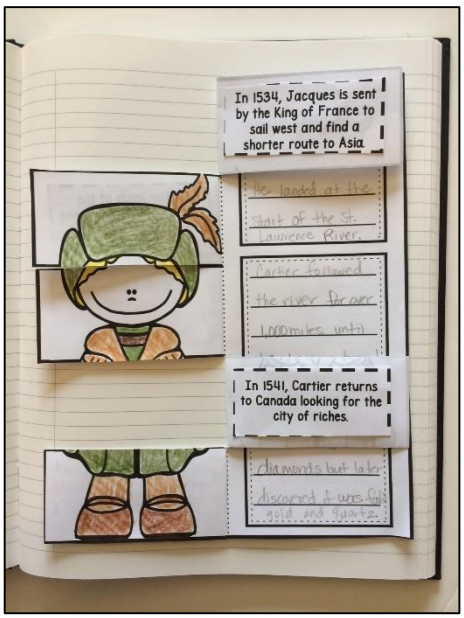
On his 1st trip Cartier discovers Canada and follows the coastline. He claims it for France.

In 1542, he returns home with what he thinks is gold only to find out later that it's fool's gold and quartz.

In 1535, Cartier sails on a 2nd voyage. He discovers the St. Lawrence River.

Directions: Write three facts about the famous explorer on the inside of the mini-booklet. Then cut out and glue the dates on this page in the correct order on the outside cover. Lastly, color and fold the booklet on the dotted line and glue inside your notebook as shown.





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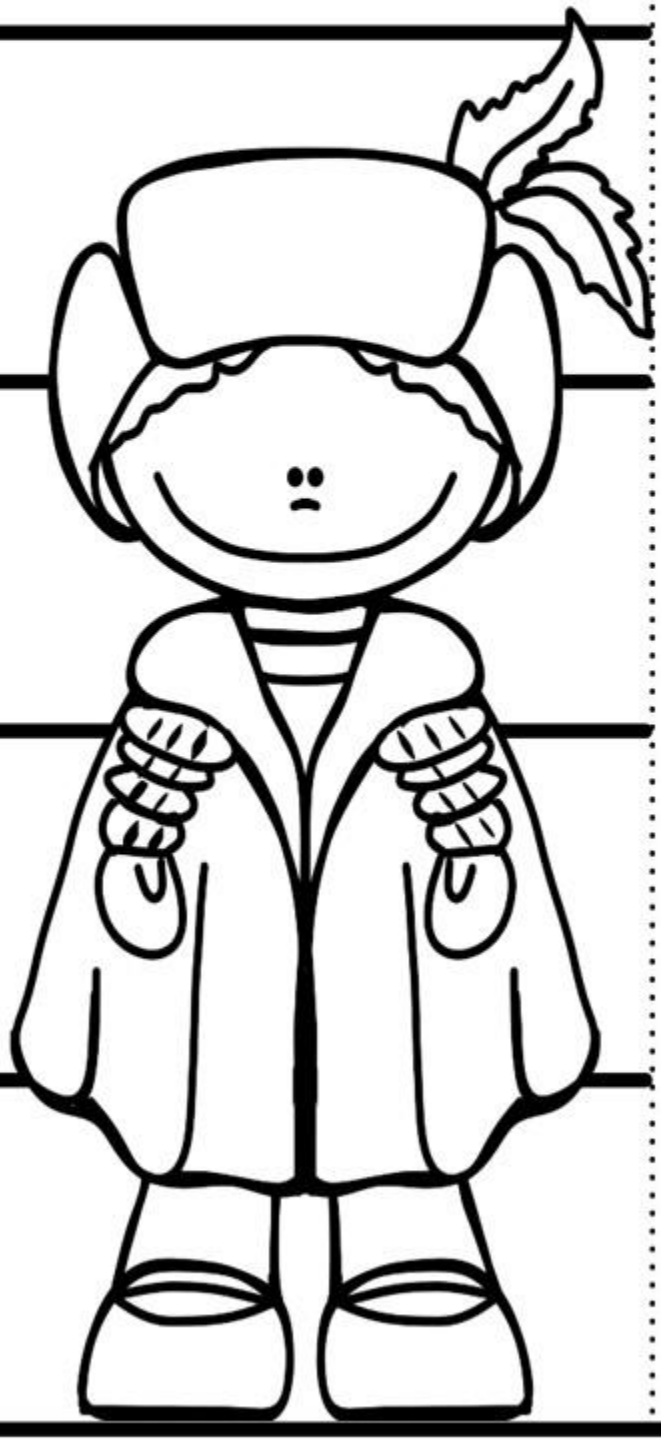
Cartier



Write 3 facts below.

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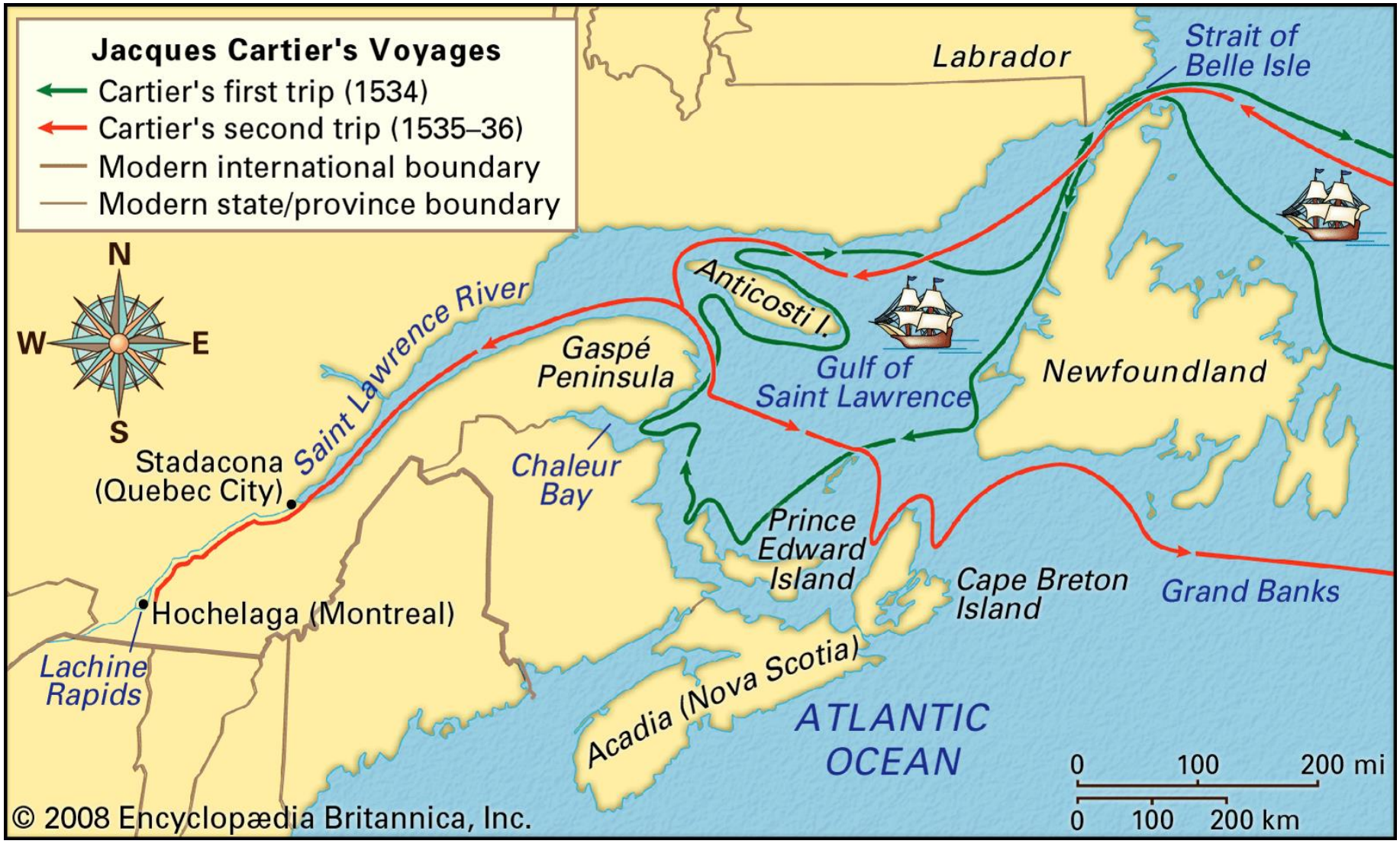
THE VOYAGES OF JACQUES CARTIER



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VASCO NÚÑEZ DE BALBOA

Learning Station for Balboa
Includes:
Informational Articles
Balboa Organizer
Voyage Map
Balboa Mini-booklet with Timeline & Facts
Sample Product Pictures
(answer key)

Name: _____

The GOALS of his mission were:

1.

2.

3 Words That Describe Him:

1.

2.

3.

VASCO NÚÑEZ DE BALBOA

Obstacles or Challenges:

Tell One Interesting Fact:

Sponsor Country:

_____

How many voyages?

_____

His Accomplishments Were:

_____

_____

_____

_____

VASCO NÚÑEZ DE BALBOA

Vasco Núñez de Balboa was born in Spain. From a young age, he wanted to become a famous explorer. As a boy he practiced fencing with a sword which helped him later in life. He came from a poor family so he decided to leave Spain looking for riches in the New World.

His Mission & Goals:

In 1501, Balboa joined an expedition from Spain to Colombia. He explored the coast of Colombia looking for gold, silver, and other riches. Because of a leaky ship, he ended up staying in Hispaniola for a short time working as a farmer. Balboa and his dog, Leoncico, stowed away on a ship going to the northern part of South America. At the new settlement, he discovered that the Native Americans had forced most of the colonists out. He persuaded the rest of the colonists to travel with him. Balboa started a new colony, named Darien. It was the first European settlement in South America! After that he traveled by land through the thick rainforests conquering villages of the natives as he went. It was here that he married an Indian princess. When he came to the other side, he saw a new body of water, it was the Pacific Ocean. He was the first European to see the Pacific Ocean!

Obstacles & Challenges:

Vasco Núñez de Balboa had many challenges during his explorations. His leaky ship forced him to stay in Hispaniola. Then he fled from there with his dog to explore more of South America. He came across many Native American tribes and had many battles with them. He was called a conquistador, or conqueror, because he took over many territories through the use of force.

Accomplishments:

Balboa is best known for discovering a land route across Panama to the Pacific Ocean. In 1513, he was the first European to see the Pacific Ocean! Then he sailed up and down the coastline of South America conquering the Native American's villages and claiming the land for Spain.

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MEET VASCO NÚÑEZ DE BALBOA

From a young age, Vasco Núñez de Balboa, wanted to become a famous explorer. He came from a poor family so he decided to leave Spain looking for riches in the New World.

In 1501, Balboa joined an expedition from Spain to Colombia. He explored the coast of Colombia looking for gold, silver, and other riches.

Balboa and his dog, Leoncico, stowed away on a ship going to the northern part of South America. At the new settlement, he discovered that the Native Americans had forced most of the colonists out. He persuaded the rest of the colonists to travel with him.

Balboa started a new colony, named Darien. It was the first European settlement in South America!

After that he traveled by land through the thick rainforests, conquering villages of the natives as he went. It was here that he married an Indian princess. When he came to the other side, he saw a new body of water, it was the Pacific Ocean. He was the first European to see the Pacific Ocean!

Then he sailed up and down the coastline of South America claiming the land for Spain.

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BALBOA MINI-BOOKLET

In 1512, Balboa married the daughter of an Native American Chief.

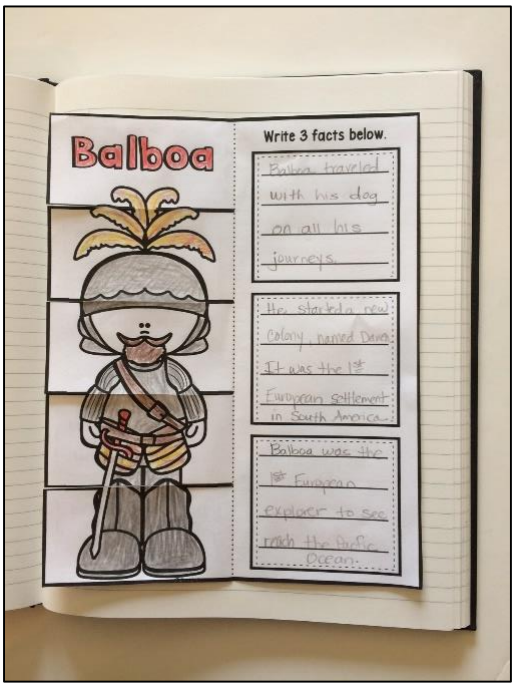
In 1509, Balboa and his dog stowed away on a ship traveling to a new part of South America.

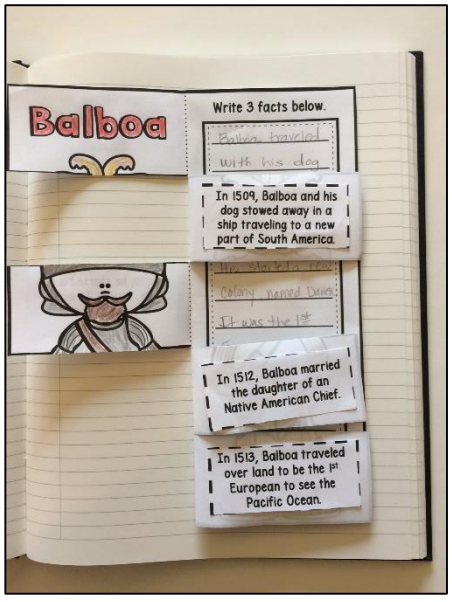
In 1510, he started a new colony, Darien. It was the 1st European settlement in South America!

In 1501, Balboa joined an expedition from Spain to Colombia.

In 1513, Balboa traveled over land to be the 1st European to see the Pacific Ocean.

Directions: Write three facts about the famous explorer on the inside of the mini-booklet. Then cut out and glue the dates on this page in the correct order on the outside cover. Lastly, color and fold the booklet on the dotted line and glue inside your notebook as shown.





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Balboa

Write 3 facts below.

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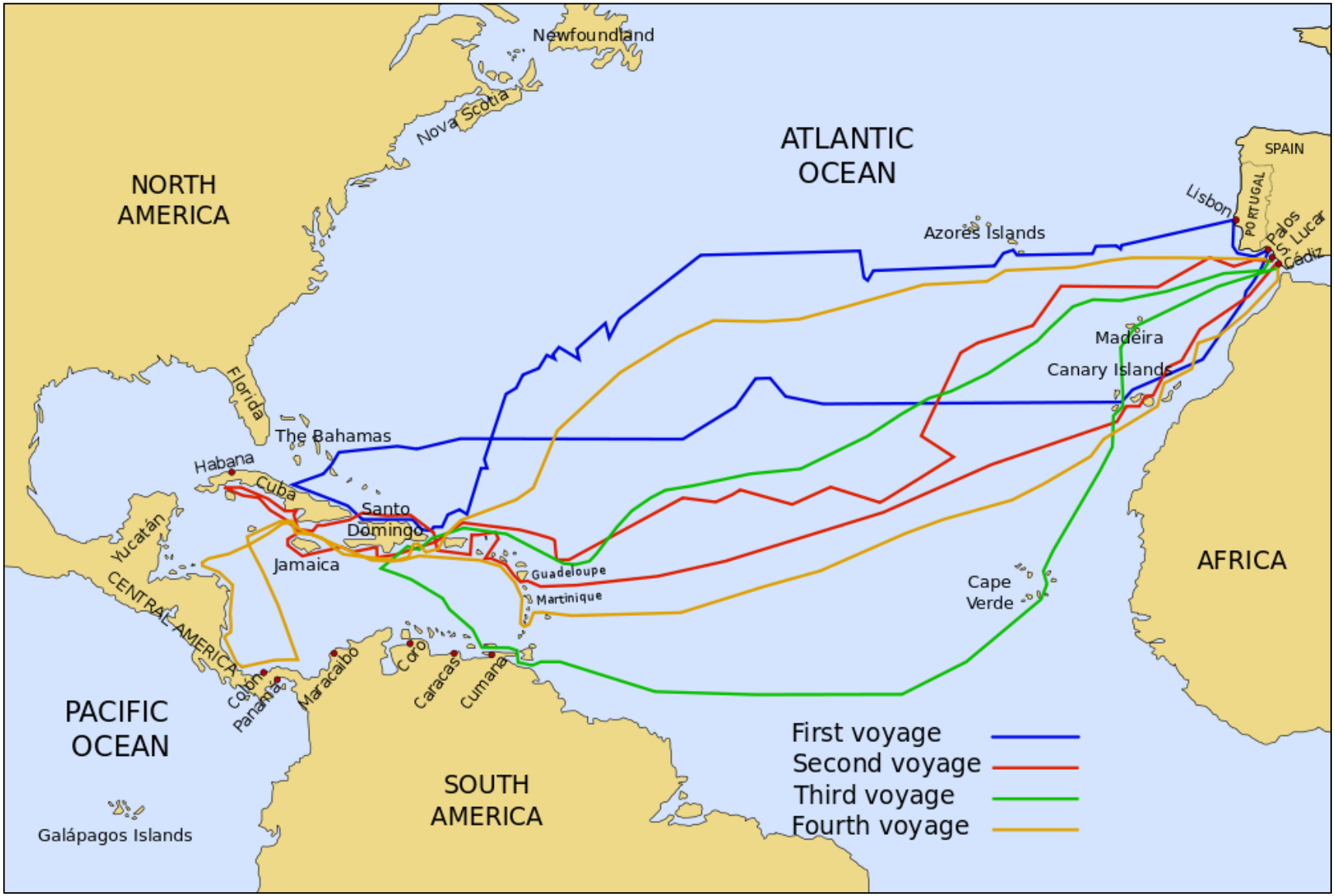
THE VOYAGES OF VASCO NÚÑEZ DE BALBOA



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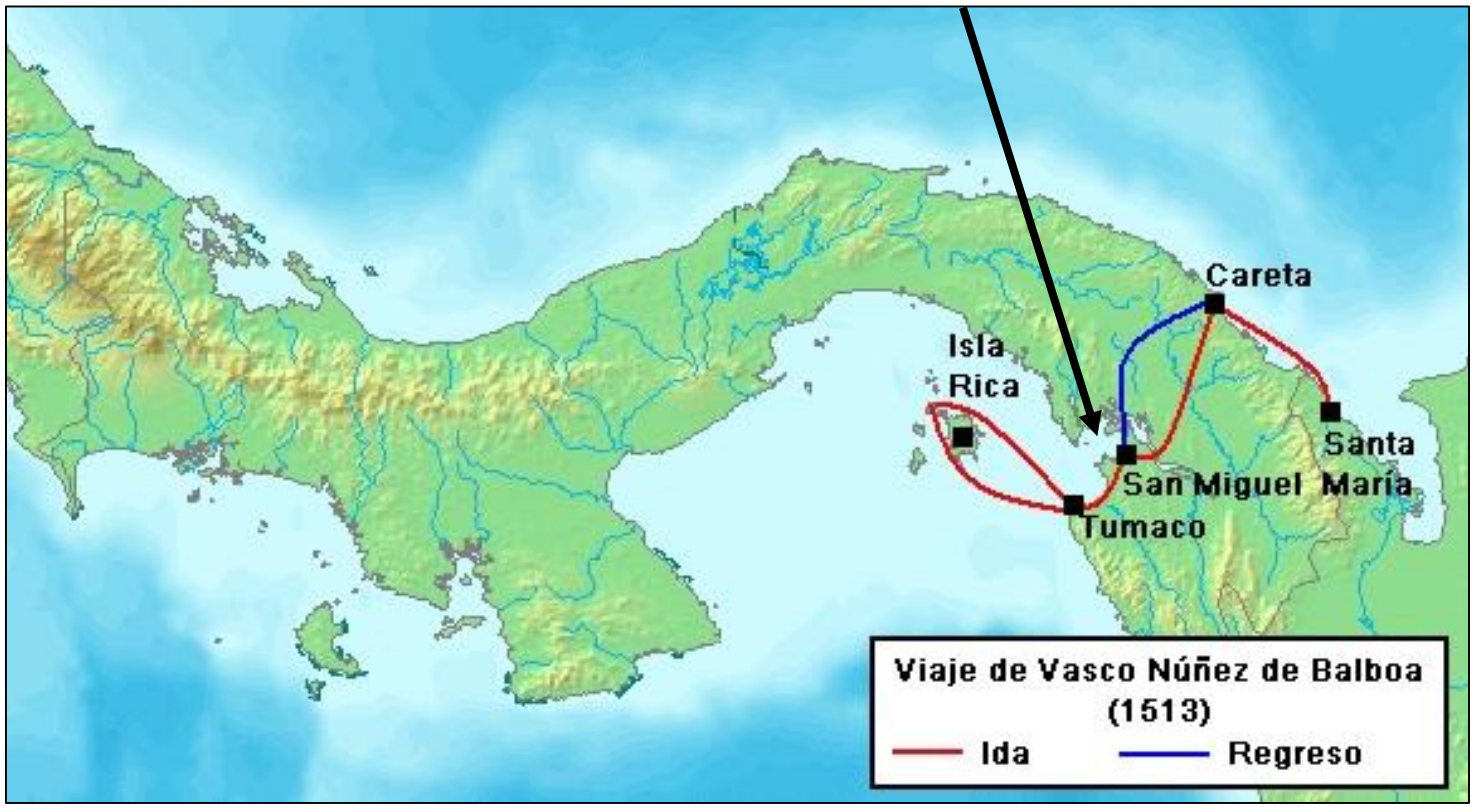
THE VOYAGES OF VASCO NÚÑEZ DE BALBOA

This is where Balboa crossed over land in 1513 to see the Pacific Ocean for the first time.



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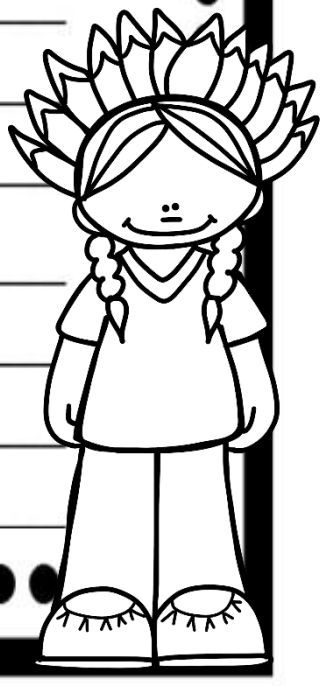
EARLY EXPLORERS NONFICTION RESOURCE

Writing Prompts
Superstar Writing Checklist
Explorer Mystery Flaps
Vocabulary Posters
Vocabulary Flip Flaps
If I were to go on an expedition...

How do you think the Native Americans felt when the European explorers came to the New World and starting taking control over the land? Explain and support your answer with details and examples from the articles and your knowledge of social studies.



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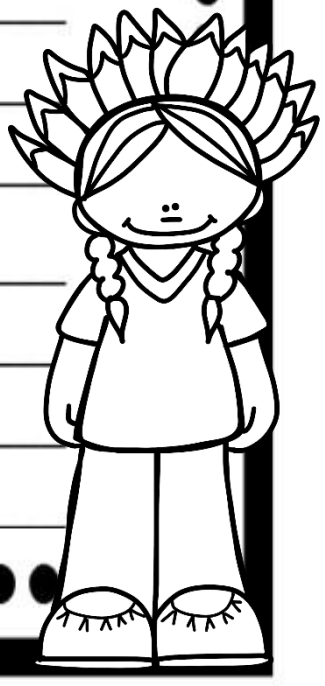
How did the Europeans impact the Native Americans and their way of life? Explain and support your answer with details and examples from the articles and your knowledge of social studies.



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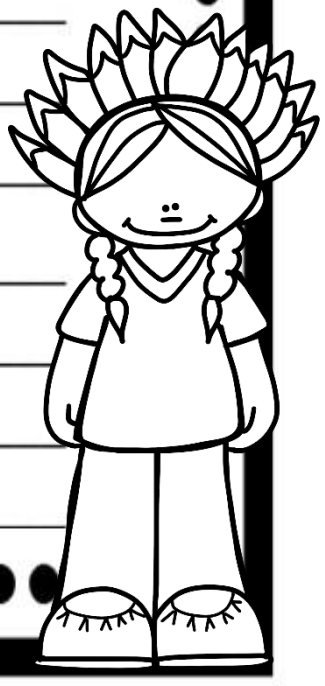
What impact did the Native Americans have on the explorers? Explain and support your answer with details and examples from the articles and your knowledge of social studies.



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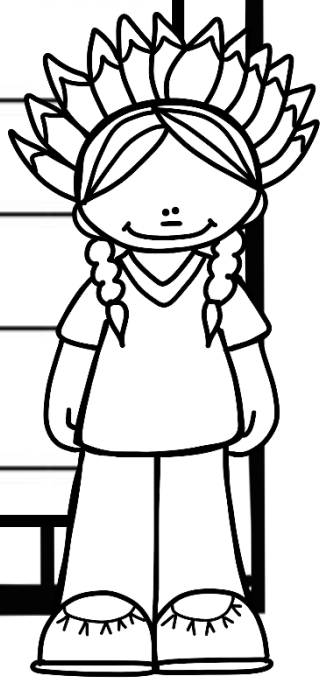

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Superstar Writing Checklist:

___ Did you answer all parts of the question?

___ Did you write your answer in complete sentences?

___ Did you give examples and supporting details?

___ Did you include an introductory and concluding sentence?

___ Did you check over your writing: Does it make sense?

___ Did you check your spelling and punctuation?

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Superstar Writing Checklist:

___ Did you answer all parts of the question?

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___ Did you give examples and supporting details?

___ Did you include an introductory and concluding sentence?

___ Did you check over your writing: Does it make sense?

___ Did you check your spelling and punctuation?

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Directions for Flip Flap Books

1. Fold the flap forward on the dotted line.

2. Cut on the lines (or line).

3. Dot glue on the folded flap.

4. Attach to a notebook.

Explorers Unit Vocabulary

Explorer

Native

Sponsor

Navigator

Settlement

Vessel

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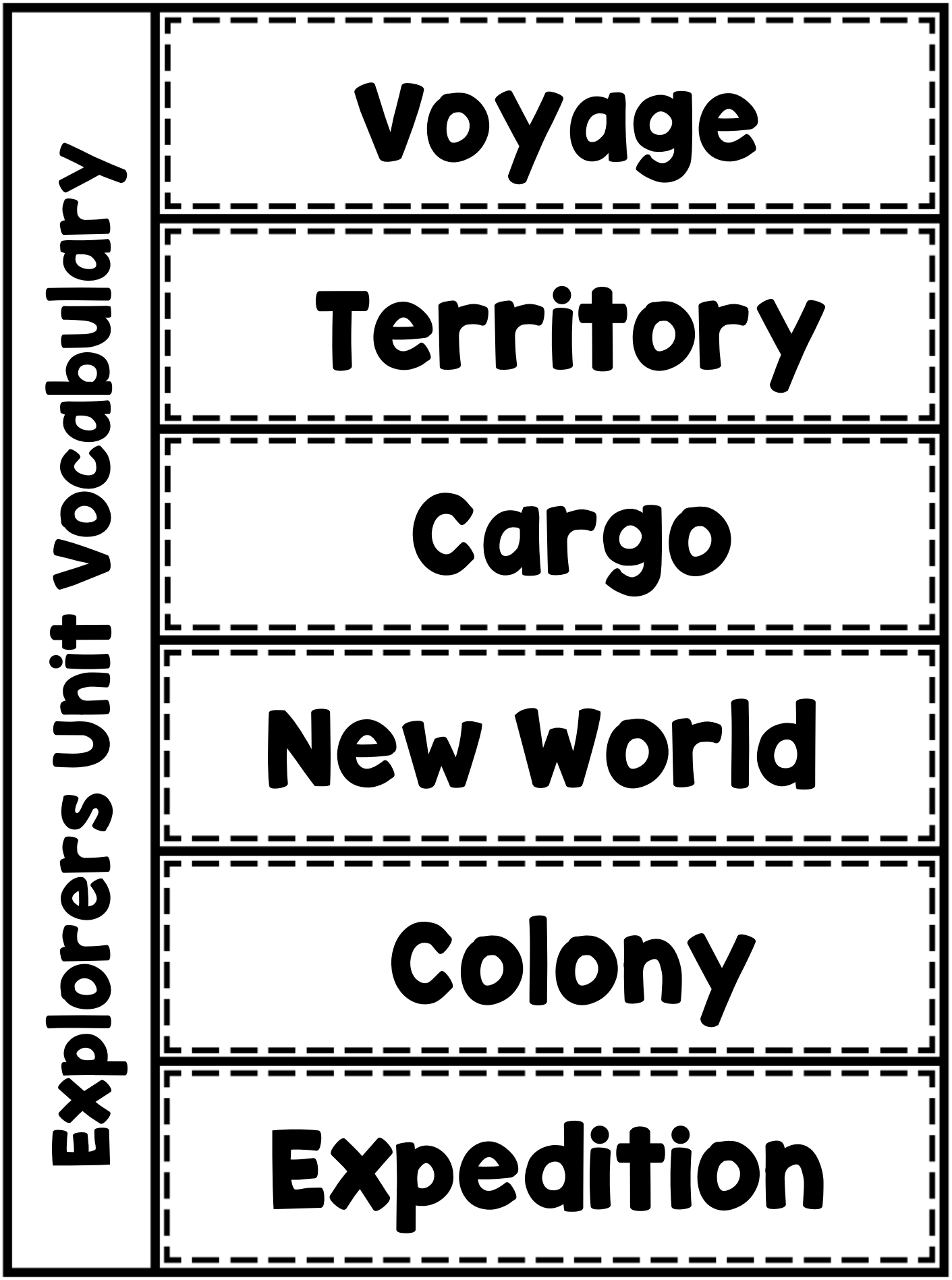

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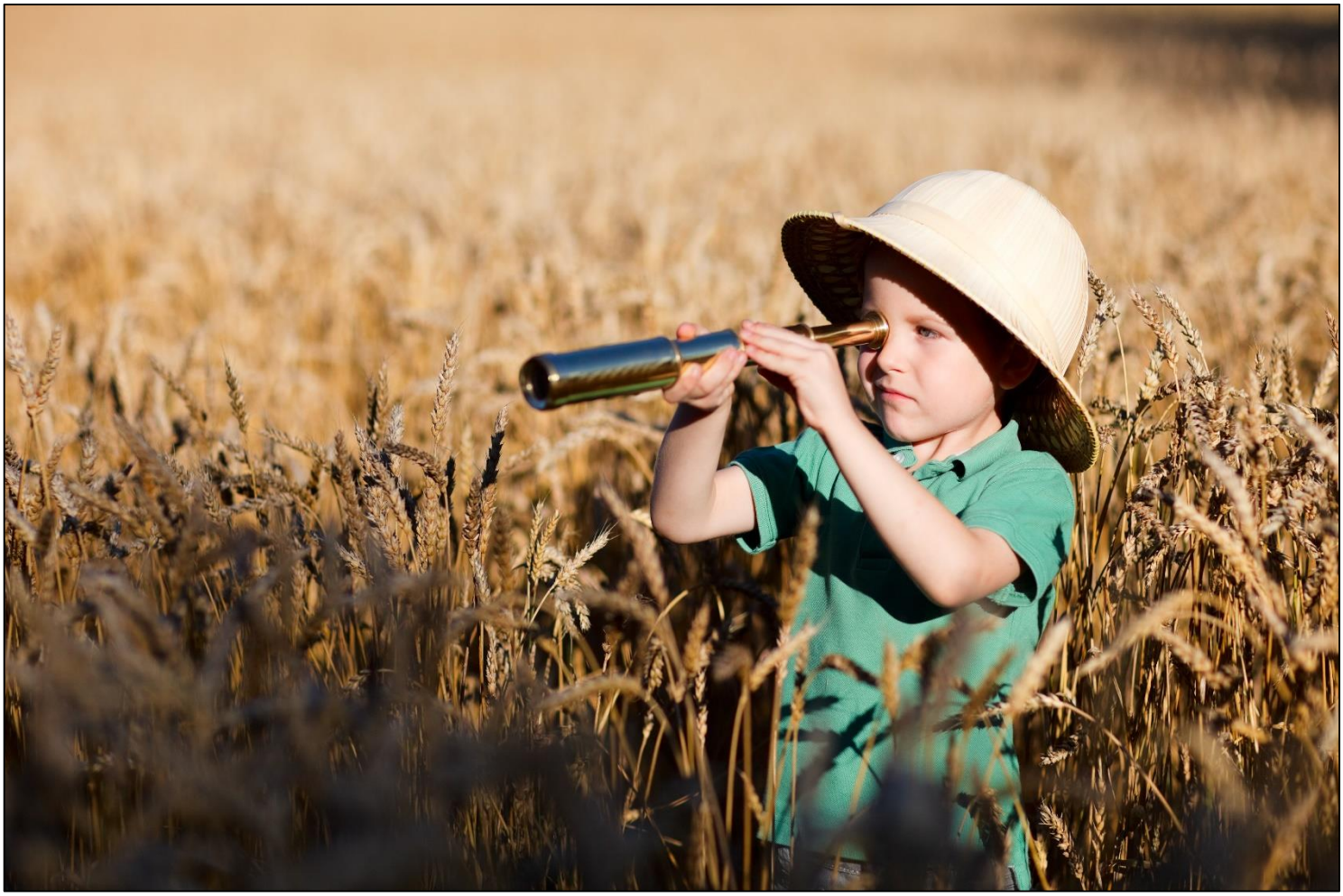
EXPLORER



A person who travels to unknown places usually in search of something valuable or rare like gold, silk, and jewels.

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NATIVE

A person who was born in the country in which she or he currently lives.

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SPONSOR

A person, country, or business that agrees to pay for a project or activity in exchange for new information, land, or valuables.

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NAVIGATOR

The person in charge of plotting and directing the course of a ship.

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SETTLEMENT

A place where a group of people live.

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VESSEL

A ship or large boat.

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VOYAGE

A trip by water, over land, by air, or through space.

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TERRITORY

Any large area of land.

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CARGO

Goods carried by a ship, airplane, truck, or other vehicle.

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NEW WORLD

The name sometimes used for North and South America.

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COLONY

Lands settled and ruled by people from another country.

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EXPEDITION

A journey or voyage taken by a group of people with a goal or purpose in mind.

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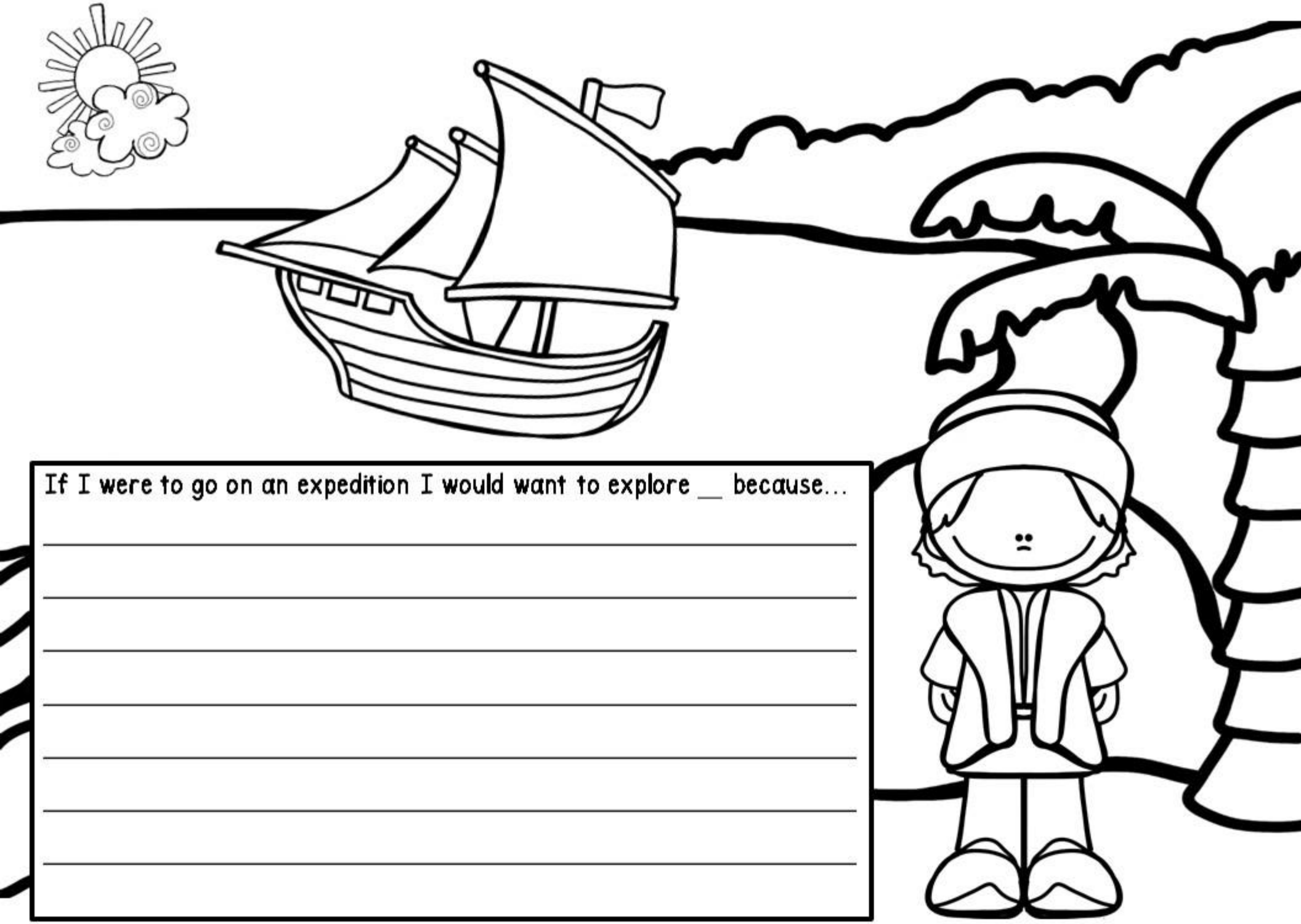

If I were to go on an expedition I would want to explore __ because...

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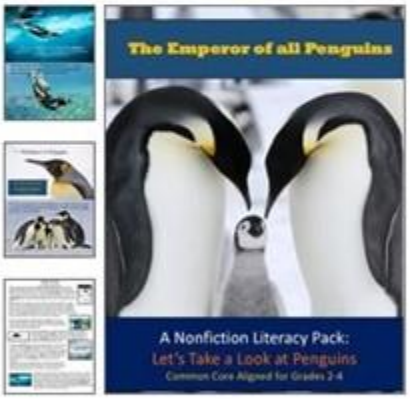

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