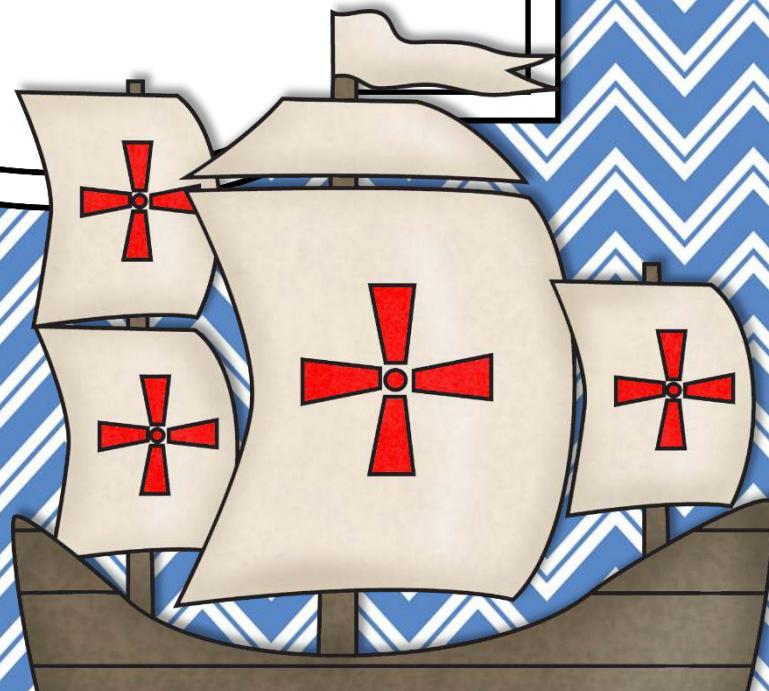
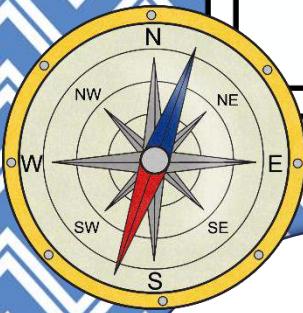


Explorers

Ideas
By Jivey



Explorers

Dear Teacher,

I hope you will enjoy using this product as much as my students and I do! I have provided some ideas on how to implement all the pieces of this product, but these are only suggestions! You should do what you think is best for your classroom and your teaching style. ☺ If you have any questions or find any errors, please feel free to email me at jessica31783@gmail.com and I will get back to you as quickly as I can!

World Maps	Students can find their own route to Asia, then on the second map, use different colors to shade in the boxes along the bottom to make a key, then use each color to show the paths the explorers took.
Western Hemisphere Maps	Students can draw the routes of the explorer and/or shade in the land that they claimed for their sponsoring country.
Articles (*copy at 85% to fit nicely in a composition notebook!)	Use close reading strategies to read about the Northwest Passage and each of the explorers. Students can highlight key details or take notes/draw pictures about the text.
Ship Organizers	Students should use the articles to find the important information to summarize each explorer.
Compare-Contrast H-Diagrams	Compare two explorers. **I like to have my students work as partners to find as many details as possible.
Opinion Writing Prompt	Using what they have learned, students should decide if they think the explorers were true heroes. (Check out this Scholastic Article for some ideas of things to do before writing!)

Explorers

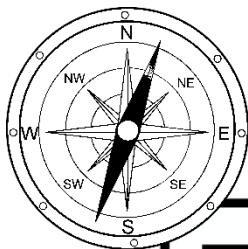
Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy in 1451. Genoa was a seaport, and Christopher learned about sailing from the sailors' stories. He went out to sea as a fisherman when he was a teenager. He also traveled with merchants who traded at Mediterranean ports. He studied mapmaking in between voyages.

In 1476, Columbus moved to Portugal. He became an expert at navigating a ship. He studied all of the travels of Marco Polo. Polo had been to Asia and wrote about the land being rich in spices, jewels, and silks. Columbus wanted to travel to Asia, too. All of the sailors that had been to Asia always traveled east, but Columbus thought it would be faster to sail west. He didn't know that the Americas stood in his way!

For ten years, Christopher Columbus asked many European rulers if they would fund his voyage. Finally, in 1492, Spanish rulers King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella agreed to pay for three ships: the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa María. Columbus and a crew of 90 men sailed across the Atlantic Ocean. It was a difficult voyage. The crew members were very unhappy with Columbus because it was taking so long. Some even talked of turning the ship back to go home.

Finally, on October 12, 1492, land was sighted! Columbus and his crew landed on an island in the Bahamas which Columbus named San Salvador. He thought he had landed in the East Indies, so when the native people of the island came to investigate the strange ships, Columbus called them Indians. For the next ten weeks, they sailed around the Caribbean exploring the islands, including Hispaniola and Cuba. When Columbus returned to Spain, he was treated like a hero. Columbus traveled to the Americas three more times before he died in 1506, always believing he was in Asia.



Name: _____

Explorers

Years of
Exploration

Christopher
Columbus

Reasons for Exploration:

Sponsoring
Country:

Obstacles:

PREVIEW

PREVIEW

PREVIEW

PREVIEW

PREVIEW

PREVIEW



Name: Key

Explorers

Years of Exploration

1492
(and 3 other trips, too)

Sponsoring Country:

Spain

Christopher Columbus

Reasons for Exploration:

to find a way to go west
to get to Asia

Obstacles:

funding
didn't know about the Americas

PREVIEW

PREVIEW

PREVIEW

PREVIEW

Accomplishments:

discovered new land (San Salvador)

traveled 4 times

PREVIEW

PREVIEW



Vasco Núñez de Balboa was born in Spain in 1475. He was a conquistador, or a Spanish soldier and explorer. He was not looking for a northwest passage like other explorers. Instead, he went on an expedition to South America in 1513. He explored the coast of present-day Colombia, and due to a leaky ship, he had to stop at the island of Hispaniola and try his luck at pig hunting! Balboa didn't have any luck, but he got his game because many of the natives believed pigs to be gods, so they would eat them. Balboa ended up on a ship to the island of Panamá. When the ship arrived, he found that the colony had been burnt to the ground. There were only a few colonists left. Balboa convinced the colonists to move on and create a new colony. They founded the town of Darién on the Isthmus of Panama (a small strip of land) and it connects Central America and South America, as well. Balboa became the governor.

Vasco Núñez de Balboa heard that there was gold to the south. So, he went to find it and to go north. He had to go through many jungles. Although he did not find anything, he did find something that made him European to see the Pacific Ocean. He and all the ships he men spent months conquering the land along the coast, as well as

After his discovery created jealousy in a man named Ávila de Avila. Ávila framed Balboa for treason, which is the act of betraying one's country. Vasco Núñez de Balboa was beheaded in January 1519.

Juan Ponce De León was born in Spain in 1460. He became a soldier as a young man. He sailed with Christopher Columbus on his second expedition to the New World in 1493. He did not return to Spain with Columbus and his crew. Instead, he stayed in Santo Domingo (present-day Dominican Republic) and became the governor there. He discovered a nearby river and called it the Río Brinquen, which means 'brown water'. In 1506, he was sent by King Ferdinand II of Spain to explore the coast of Florida. Ponce de León and fifty other conquistadors battled the Native Americans in the land and claimed the land for Spain. He was eventually named governor of Puerto Rico.

In 1513, Ponce de León led an expedition to Bimini, an island in the Bahamas, to find more gold. He also found a fountain of youth. This fountain and he, in it, they sank from the ship. He did not end up in the Bahamas, though. Instead he landed on the west coast of Florida (which means 'a lot of flowers'), because of its lush forests and vines. They continued the expedition by traveling from the Atlantic Ocean to the Gulf of Mexico, what is known today as the Caribbean. This current would later become very important for other ships from Europe to America.

Juan Ponce de León and his crew continued searching for Bimini, but found other islands instead. On his final trip to search for Bimini, Ponce de León and his 200 men landed on the west coast of Florida and were met by Native American warriors who shot them with arrows. He died of an arrow wound in 1521.

Henry Hudson was born around 1565 in England. Little is known about his early life; not even his exact year of birth. Historians believe that, like many other explorers, Hudson sailed on other ships as part of the crew before becoming a leader of his own ship in 1607.

In 1607, an English company, the Muscovy Company, hired Hudson to find the Northwest Passage. Hudson brought his son, John, on the voyage. Even though they left in the spring, they had problems with ice. They could only pass Fanoe Greenland on the trip because of the ice.

His next voyage in 1608 wasn't any better. This time it was the Lost Indias Company that hired Hudson in 1609 to find a route to Asia. In a ship called the Half Moon, he sailed north of Russia as instructed, but when ice created problems, he set off again. Hudson turned back and sailed west. They stopped in Novaya Zemlya and sailed all the way down to the Chukchi Sea Bay. Then to New York. There they took a river up which he named for himself, the Hudson River. When Hudson met his home, the king was upset, so he got another job sailing for the Dutch.

He did not stop there. In 1610, he was hired by the English East India Company to sail to the Far East. This time he was the skipper. The ship he was on ran aground on the shore of what is now Canada. He and his crew began on this trial trip back to England. Hudson had to leave his last trip. He was not able to get another job for a long time.

He ended up in a boat with a group of men who were also named for him. The Hudson River. The men were James Bay, and much farther north. Hudson's crew was lost without supplies. They were unable to find food or shelter. The crew put him, his son, and their emmigrants into a small boat and sent them adrift in the icy bay. Henry Hudson was never seen again.

Explorers like Jean Cabot, Jacques Cartier, and Henry Hudson were in search of the Northwest Passage to get to Asia. Marco Polo was the first explorer to travel to Asia and he traveled through the many canals and seaports that could be used to travel there. At the time, Europeans did not have an easy way to get to Asia. Some felt that if they could travel west, they could find the Northwest Passage. If one could find the Northwest Passage, it would enable ships to travel west to Asia. This title did not mean that it was safe, there was rough land in the way...North America!

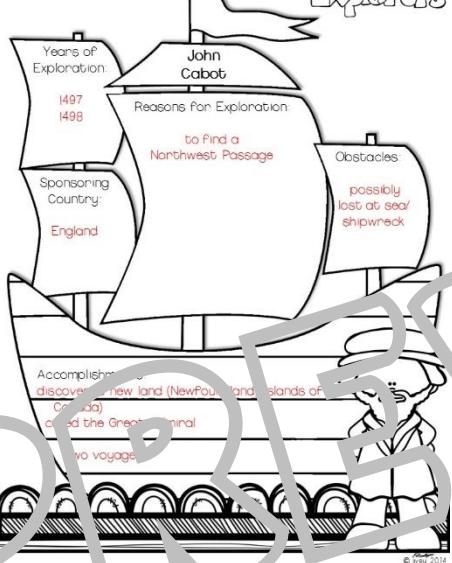
Explorers sailed west from Europe instead of east on their long journeys. They set out of all a waterway that would take them to North America and then to Eastern Asia. They searched for land without success. Sometimes they would go far enough north, but there was so much ice that the water was impassable and they were forced to turn back.

The Northwest Passage was finally found and travelled in 1906 by a Norwegian explorer named Roald Amundsen. After 400 years of explorers searching, he was first to reach the Pacific Ocean from the Atlantic Ocean. He travelled south of Greenland through Canadian islands, then through the Bering Sea between Alaska and Russia.

https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/thumb/0/0c/Hand-writen_northwest_sailage.jpg

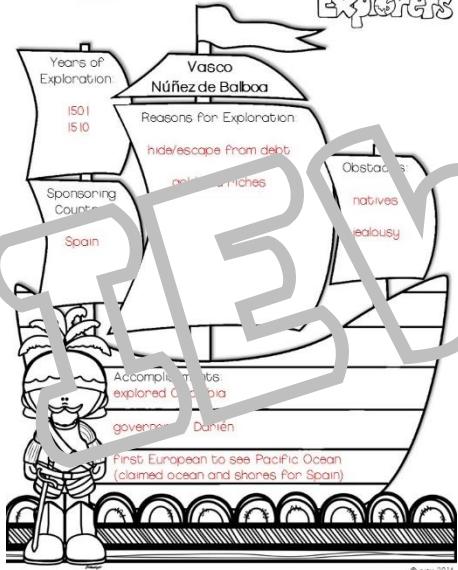
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Explorers



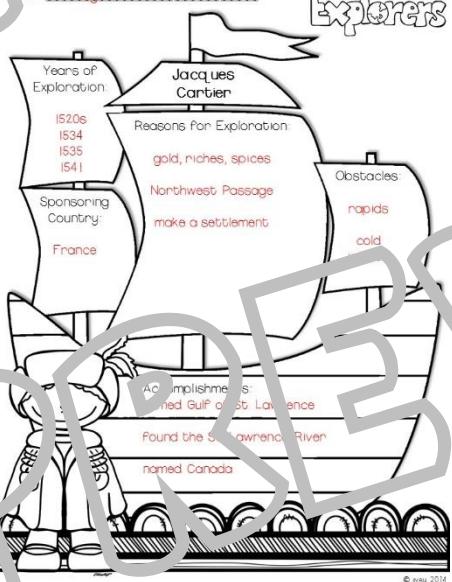
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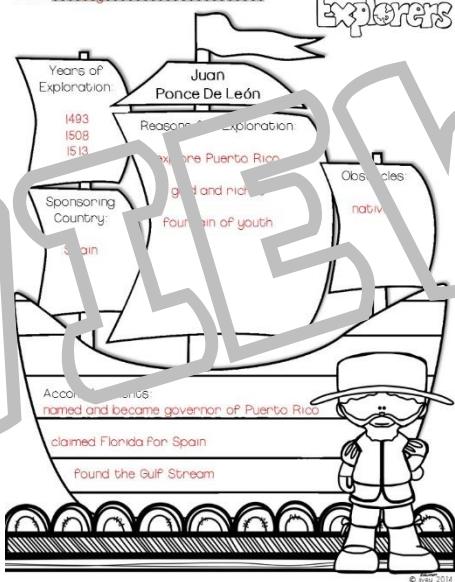
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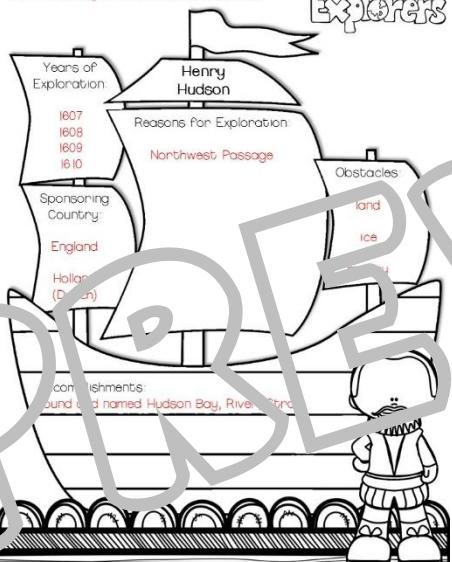
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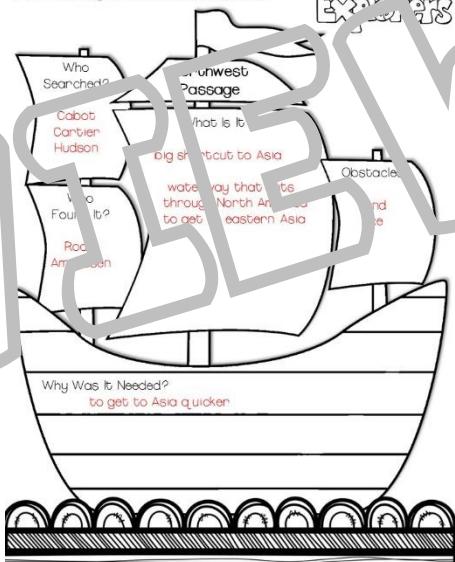
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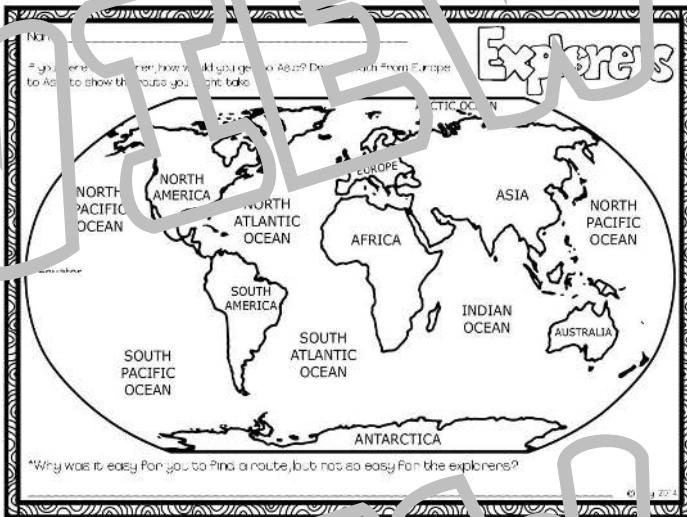
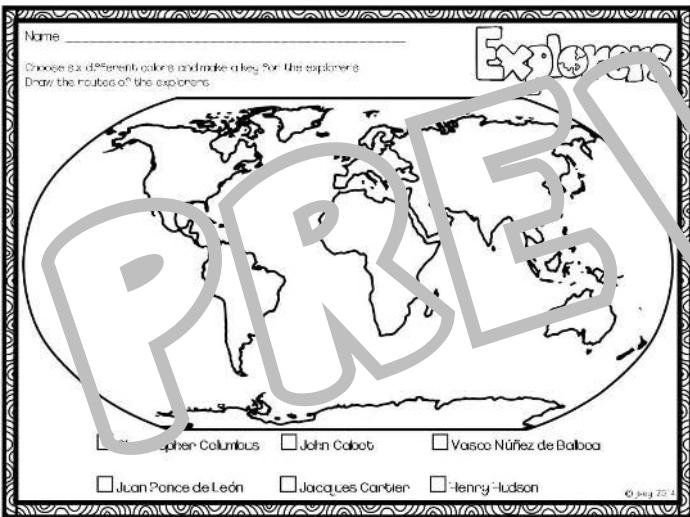


Name: Key

Explorers



Map Activities



Vasco
Núñez de Balboa



Juan
Ponce De Leon



Christopher
Columbus



John
Cabot



Jacques
Cartier



Henry
Hudson



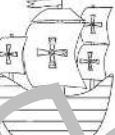
Compare & Contrast Activities

PREVIEW

Compare Columbus and Cabot.	
Columbus	Cabot
similarities	
	

Compare Cartier and Hudson.	
Cartier	Hudson
similarities	
	

Compare Balboa and Ponce De León	
Balboa	Ponce De León
similarities	
	

Compare famous explorers	
similarities	
	

In your opinion, were the explorers heroes?

Opinion Writing Prompt

←