

Explorers Test Study Guide

Name _____ # _____ Date _____

All explorers discovered new lands for various countries which is why we study them today!!!

Motivations: Gold, God, Glory (3Gs)

- Countries were eager to find a new route to Asia because the country that found the new route to Asia first would make more money and have more power over other countries.
- It took too long to travel along the unsafe routes of the Silk Road

Marco Polo: Wrote a book about his travels to China which made others want to go to Asia to get silk, spices, etc...

Silk Road – trade routes that connected Europe to China

Christopher Columbus:

Reasons for sailing: sailed west instead of east looking for a new route to the Indies (Asia)

Who sponsored the trip: Spain

Obstacles: Had to try multiple times before getting a sponsor; sailing into the unknown; ship wrecks

Accomplishments: landed in the Bahamas & accidentally discovered the “New World” – inspired other explorers – led to exchange of goods, ideas & diseases between the old & new worlds – set up Spanish colonies in the New World – found some gold

Relations with others: inspired other explorers ; didn’t treat natives very well ; converted natives to Christianity; called the Taino people Indians b/c he thought he was in the Indies

Columbian Exchange: The movement of plants, animals, peoples, & diseases across the Atlantic Ocean

- Benefits of the Columbian Exchange:

Europeans & Natives both received foods and goods they had never seen before

It connected the world and encouraged exploration

Europeans gained knowledge of astronomy, while European technology made work easier for the natives.

- Negative effects of the Columbian Exchange:

Natives died from European diseases

Natives were brought back to the “Old World” as slaves

Natives were forced to give up their beliefs and convert to Christianity

Juan Ponce de Leon:

Reasons for sailing: searched for gold & the “Fountain of Youth”

Who sponsored the trip: Spain

Obstacles: unfriendly natives

Accomplishments: claimed Florida for Spain

Relations with others: conflicts with natives (killed)

Nunez de Balboa:

Reasons for sailing: looking for gold

Who sponsored the trip: Spain

Obstacles: mountains & rough terrain; navigated to thick jungles

Accomplishments: 1st European to see the Pacific Ocean from the Americas & claimed the land & the waters for Spain

Relations with others: followed in Columbus's footsteps when he also attempted to find a route to Asia by sailing west; was accused of treason & beheaded by his own country, Spain

John Cabot:

Reasons for sailing: searching for the Northwest Passage through North America

Who sponsored the trip: England

Obstacles: bad weather; conflicts with the crew; failure to find the Northwest passage; food shortages

Accomplishments: discovered Newfoundland off the eastern shores of Canada & claimed the land and the rich fishing area off the coast (Grand Banks) for England

Relations with others: conflicts with crew;

Henry Hudson:

Reasons for sailing: Searching for a Northwest Passage through North America for 1st Merchant Company – Dutch East India Company

Who sponsored the trip: Sailed for both the Dutch and the English

Obstacles: never found the Northwest Passage; icy waters; bitter cold weather; sailing into the unknown

Accomplishments: Claimed present day New York for the Dutch & has at least 3 waterways named for him

Relations with others: Mutiny!!! His crew set him adrift in a small boat and he was never seen again!

Jacques Cartier:

Reasons for sailing: Searching for the Northwest Passage

Who sponsored the trip: France

Obstacles: sailing into the unknown

Accomplishments: Discovered the St. Lawrence River and claimed the land and waters for France

Relations with others: Friendly with natives, set up trading posts to trade furs

Northwest Passage: A water route through North America that connected the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean; Europeans believed this would help them find a shorter route to Asia

Navigation tools/improved transportation/technologies: Astrolabe, Compass, Caravel, chronometer, guns, and steel swords