

Study Guide for Explorers

	John Cabot	Vasco Nunez de Balboa	Juan Ponce de Leon
Sponsor Country	England	Spain	Spain
Obstacles	No maps	Fought with Native Americans	Fought with Native Americans
Purpose	Wanted to reach Asia	Find new land for Spanish settlers to exploit Find a quick overland route to the Pacific Ocean	Find gold and a legendary “fountain of youth”
Achievements	Landing on the eastern coast of Canada, where fish were plentiful Other Europeans went there to set up fishing companies	Sailed to present-day Panama in Central America; He crossed the mountains and jungles of Panama and became the first European to reach the eastern part of the Pacific Ocean	First European to reach Florida
Interesting facts	One of his three sons, Sebastian, also went on the trip	Once settled in South America, Balboa married the daughter of the local Native American chief	Named Florida after the Spanish word for flower
	Christopher Columbus	Henry Hudson	Jacques Cartier
Sponsor Country	Grew up in Italy, but funded by Spain	England	France
Obstacles	No maps, frightened crew	Crew mutinied in the cold climate	Sailors caught diseases
Purpose	Sail west to reach Asia	Discover the Northwest Passage to Asia.	Find a water route to Asia
Achievements	Made 3 voyages with several ships; Settled in Central and South America	Sailed up the Hudson River in present-day New York	He sailed over 1000 miles along the St. Lawrence River in Canada
Interesting facts	Columbus had to ask the King and Queen of Spain several times over several years to fund his trip before they finally agreed	Henry Hudson’s crew kicked him off the boat, and he was never heard from again	He named the area “Kanata,” the Iroquois word for “village.” He tried to create a settlement, but it didn’t last the winter.

Factors That Led To Exploration

Economic	Political	Technological
<p>-International trade was expanded (Cause and result)</p> <p>-<u>Spices</u> – Merchants brought spices from the Far East to Europe to trade for a profit.</p> <p>-<u>Portugal</u> was the first to seek a water route to Asia because of the leadership of Prince Henry and their location on the ocean.</p> <p>-<u>Economic competition</u> with Portugal influenced Spain to sponsor Columbus and others.</p> <p>-<u>Silk</u> – The Chinese had learned how to weave silk cloth. The demand for silk grew. People from Europe and Africa wanted silk. Silk was worth its weight in gold.</p>	<p>-<u>Competition</u> between nation-states. When the Spanish found gold and silver, it made them the most powerful nation in Europe. English explorers were then sent to the New World to compete.</p>	<p>-Advancements in shipbuilding</p> <p>-<u>Caravel</u> – a smaller, faster ship with triangular sails that could sail into the wind.</p> <p>-Improvements in <u>navigational skills</u> allowed sailors to venture further out to sea.</p> <p>-<u>Astrolabe</u> – measures the height of the sun above the horizon.</p> <p>-<u>Magnetic Compass</u></p> <p>-<u>Reading of celestial stars</u> aided sailors in plotting their location and course.</p> <p>-<u>Cartography</u> – map making skills improved and helped them to share their knowledge with others. This was taught at the Portuguese School of Navigation.</p> <p>-<u>Printing Press</u> – the invention of the printing press allowed information to be shared more easily.</p>

Areas Claimed

1. **Spanish** – Spanish conquistadors defeated the Aztecs in Central America and the Incas in South America. Spanish explorers claimed Florida and the southwest region of what is today the United States and called all of this land New Spain.
2. **French** – The French explored the St. Lawrence River, the headwaters and the length of the Mississippi River to what is now New Orleans (LaSalle) and claimed this land as New France.
3. **Dutch** – The Dutch claimed the area around the Hudson River and established New Netherlands and New Amsterdam in what is today New York.
4. **English** – The English claimed the coast of North America based on the explorations of Cabot and called this land Virginia and New England.

Columbian Exchange

*European settlers introduced: wheat, rice, coffee, horses, pigs, cows and chickens to America. The introduction of the horse significantly affected the way that the Native Americans of the Plains were able to hunt bison.

*European settlers learned to grow: corn, potatoes, peanuts, and squash through observation and working with the Native Americans.

*Diseases carried by the explorers such as diphtheria, measles, smallpox and malaria killed many Native Americans.

Vocabulary for Explorers

Jacques Cartier

French Explorer who traveled up the St. Lawrence River.

Henry Hudson

An English Sea Captain who set sail from the Netherlands on his ship, the Half Moon. As a result of his voyage, the Dutch claimed the land along the Hudson River.

Juan Ponce de Leon

A Spanish explorer. The first person to find and name Florida.

Vasco Nunez de Balboa

A Spanish explorer. He sailed to present-day Panama in Central America. He crossed the mountains and jungles of Panama and became the first European to reach the eastern part of the Pacific Ocean.

Columbus

Believed he could find Asia by sailing West from Europe. On Oct 12, 1492, he landed on one of the Bahama Islands. He thought he was in India.

colony

a settlement ruled by another country.

colonist

People who live in the colony.

New Netherland

The new Dutch colony, includes parts of New York, New Jersey and Delaware. In 1624, the first colonists sailed for New Netherlands.

governor

A person in charge of a colony.

longitude

meridians, or imaginary lines on a map or globe that measure the distance east & west of the prime meridian.

latitude

measure of how far north or south a place is from the equator. Also called parallels.

prime meridian

the first line, or starting place, for measuring lines of longitude. It is marked 0 degrees on the map.

Age of Exploration

Why were Europeans interested in world exploration?	So they could trade (silk, spices, gunpowder and jewels)
Merchants	People who buy and sell goods for money.
Silk	A finely woven cloth, wanted by wealthy Europeans.
Northwest Passage	The supposed route across North America that European explorers were looking for but never found
What were some of the opportunity costs involved in European exploration?	There were dangers of bandits, wild animals, sickness, deserts, and very high mountains. Turks started charging a fee (money) for explorers to travel on the Silk Road.
contagious disease	A sickness that can pass from one person to another as germs are spread by touch or through the air. Ex: Flu
colony	A community ruled by another colony not by its own people
Christopher Columbus	Italian sailor who believed he could reach Asia by a new route via ocean. Set sail in August of 1492, returned in 1493. Ships: Nina, Pinta and the Santa Maria

Who Sponsored Christopher Columbus and why?	In 1492, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain sponsored him hoping they would make money from gold and spices brought back (to fund the re-conquest of Spain from the North African Muslims). They also wanted to teach other people about their religion (Roman Catholicism).
What Obstacles did Columbus face?	The voyage, which lasted more than two months, took longer than expected. His crew were restless and unsure. Because he was the first explorer, he had no maps.
What achievements is Columbus credited with?	Discovering the new world (Bahamas). Columbian exchange
Columbian Exchange	The movement of plants and animals between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres established by Columbus' travels to the Indies changed the way people eat. Corn, potatoes, tomatoes, squash, peanuts and cocoa were introduced to Europe and Asia. Horses, cattle, pigs, sheep, coffee and bananas were introduced to the Americas.
Two Interesting Facts About Christopher Columbus	He was born in Genoa, Italy, but sailed for Spain. He was arrested during his last trip and was returned to Spain in handcuffs.
John Cabot	An Italian merchant/turned explorer who believed there was a Northwest Passage to China. He set sail in May 1497 and returned in July 1497.
Who sponsored Cabot and why?	King Henry VII of England sponsored him. He wanted to claim new found lands for England and find the Northwest Passage.
What obstacles did Cabot face?	He did not have maps because he was an early explorer. Landed on the Northern most coast of North America, mistaking it for China. Explored but did not find the China. He did not have maps.
With what achievements has Cabot been credited?	He was the first European to land on mainland North America. He discovered a rich fishing ground off Newfoundland which brought many European fishing boats to area. His voyages also gave England claim to the lands that later became colonies.
Two Interesting Facts About John Cabot	Merchant originally from Italy but sailed for England. He disappeared after his second voyage.
Ponce de Leon	Spanish explorer looking for wealth, fame and the "Fountain of Youth." He set sail in 1493 and never returned.
Conquistador	Spanish explorers and soldiers who conquered new lands for Spain.

Who sponsored Ponce de Leon and why?	Spain sponsored him. They wanted him to find gold and new lands to settle.
What obstacles did Ponce de Leon face?	He faced wars with the native American tribes when trying to establish permanent settlements.
With what achievements has Ponce de Leon been credited?	He discovered and settled Florida on behalf of Spain and named it after for Easter flowers.
Two Interesting Facts About de Leon	He was the first Spanish conquistador and was fatally wounded by an arrow in an attack by Indians.
Jacques Cartier	French captain looking for Northwest Passage to China. Set sail in April 1534 and returned September 1534.
Who sponsored Cartier and why?	King Francis of France sponsored him. The crown wanted a more efficient route to China to boost trade in lucrative goods like gold, silk and spices.
What obstacles did Cartier face?	He landed in Canada, so he did not find the Northwest Passage or China. He faced hardships such as the cold climate and disease.
With what achievements is Cartier credited?	His explorations led to the discovery of the St. Lawrence River, a gateway to the Great Lakes and the interior of North America. The exploration also led to the establishment of fur trade for France, which was a great source of wealth. Cartier was appointed Admiral.
Two Interesting Facts About Cartier	He made three voyages to Canada. Given rank as admiral and utilized captured Indian as guides in his explorations.
Henry Hudson	An English sailor, searching for the Northwest passage to China. First trip was in 1607, next trip was in 1609, final trip was in 1610. Never returned after 1610 trip.
Who sponsored Hudson and why	In 1607, he was sponsored by the Muscovy Trade Company of England. In 1609 the Dutch East India Company (group of Merchants), looking for the Northwest Passage to China sponsored him. England sponsored his final voyage in 1610.
What obstacles did Hudson face?	His ship was ice bound in Hudson Bay while trying to find the passage.
With what achievements has Hudson been credited?	Because of his initial exploration, Holland laid claim to lands in around the Hudson River in North America. His subsequent exploration of the Hudson Bay, led to England's claim of the lands in the area around the bay.
Two Interesting Facts About Henry Hudson	He was sponsored by trade companies in Holland and England. His crew mutinied, set him ashore and he was never found.
What impact did the Native Americans have on European explorers	New foods were brought and grown; (Indians introduced new food (Columbian Exchange);

	taught them to survive (gather food, make shelter, find herbs for medicine, hunt and fish)
Vasco Nunez de Balboa	A Spanish explorer. He sailed to present-day Panama in Central America. He crossed the mountains and jungles of Panama and became the first European to reach the eastern part of the Pacific Ocean.