

# The Spice Seekers

Has anyone ever taken a trip to a place far away from home? Where did you go? How did you get there?

The read alouds you will be hearing over the next couple of weeks are about people who took trips to faraway places. These people lived a long, long, time ago, and travel was very different then.

# The Spice Seekers

Can you guess how travel might have been different hundred of years ago? Long ago there were no airplanes, trains, buses or cars. Instead, people walked, rode on the backs of animals or traveled on ships or boats.

How do people know how to get from one place to another? Do they just guess that the grocery store is down the road and to the left? Maps are a great help to people when they travel. People use maps as guides to get from one place to another.

# The Spice Seekers

This is a world map. There are many different kinds of maps. This one is called a world map because it shows you the whole world, or the whole earth. The large blue areas represent water (oceans), and the other colored areas represent land (continents).





# The Spice Seekers

The people you will learn about in the next few read-alouds needed world maps because they were traveling from one continent to another. They were taking very long trips a long time ago.



# The Spice Seekers

*This is what a map of the world would have looked like over five hundred years ago, back in 1492.*





# The Spice Seekers



How does the map from 1492 look different from the map we have today?

# The Spice Seekers



500 years ago, new continents and oceans were still being discovered.



# The Spice Seekers



People who lived on the continent of Europe, are called Europeans. Look at Italy. What does this country look like? Today's read aloud takes place on the continent of Europe in the country of Italy.



# The Spice Seekers



Look at Asia and the countries on the islands between China and Australia, such as Indonesia and Malaysia. This area of Asia, used to be called the Indies.

# The Spice Seekers



At the time the events in today's read aloud took place, some Europeans traveled to faraway Asia, to the Indies. How do you think they got from Europe to this part of Asia?

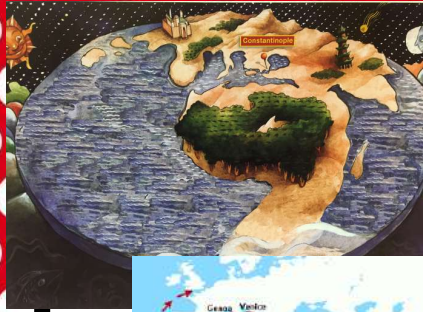


# The Spice Seekers



Sailing on a body of water was much easier than going over land, because there were no cars, trains, or buses to take them over land. People who traveled over land had to walk or ride on the backs of animals.





# The Spice Seekers



Because of this, Europeans wanted a route to Asia that involved mostly traveling on water. Look at the Mediterranean Sea. This is the route the Europeans took to Asia. They had to walk part of the way and go through a city called Constantinople.

# The Spice Seekers

You have heard of spices. I'm sure you have spices like cinnamon, nutmeg, and pepper in your kitchen at home. These strong smelling powders are called spices. Do you know how spices are used? Spices are used in many different ways: to flavor food, to preserve meats or protect them from going bad or rotting, to make perfumes and as traditional medicines. Spices come from plants.

# The Spice Seekers

These spice plants grow on the continent of Asia, but not on the continent of Europe. Spices were very expensive to buy in Europe because they came from so far away. Remember travelling to the Indies was difficult because people didn't have airplane, trains or cars back then. Spices were one of the main reasons that Europeans wanted to travel to the Indies in Asia.





# The Spice Seekers

Today's read aloud takes place in Italy over 500 years ago. This image shows a young Italian boy named Giovanni and his cousin Sofia. Giovanni is planning to take a long journey, or trip, to buy spices (like cinnamon, nutmeg, and pepper). Listen carefully to find out whether or not Giovanni goes on the trip.



# The Spice Seekers

*“Sofia! Sofia! Giovanni called out excitedly.*

*“Last night, Father told me that he and Uncle Gino are going to take me with them to the Indies!”*

*The Indies are a part of the continent of Asia.*



# The Spice Seekers

*As he tells his cousin Sofia about his plans, Giovanni imagines himself making the journey on a mule.*





# The Spice Seekers

"We are going to buy delicious, good smelling spices to make our food taste better.

Can you think of a spice that makes your food taste better? What else can we use spices for?

We'll even get some spices to use in perfume to make people smell good.



# The Spice Seekers

*And in the Indies they have bright, beautiful cloth for making clothes much finer than ours. Father says that if we can bring these things home, we can sell them for a lot of money and be rich! We might even find gold there and be even richer!*





# The Spice Seekers

Sofia looked horrified. "But Giovanni, everyone knows that is a long, dangerous journey. A journey is a very long trip. Sometimes it takes years to get to the Indies and back, if you make it home at all. You must walk or ride on the backs of mules and horses. Bandits hide out in mountain passes, waiting to ambush travelers and steal their money.





# The Spice Seekers

Travelers are people who go to places far away from where they live. If you get past the bandits, you still have to cross wide, dry deserts. If you run out of water there, you will die of thirst, and...

What is Sofia imagining will happen on Giovanni's journey?



# The Spice Seekers

“Stop, Sofia!” said Giovanni, holding up his hand. “Uncle Gino knows people who have made the trip, so don’t worry so much. Here the word trip means a journey or travel. The word trip also means to miss a step and fall. They’ve told him all about it. We’ll make it--you’ll see--and I will bring you back so beautiful cloth so you can make a dress wear.”





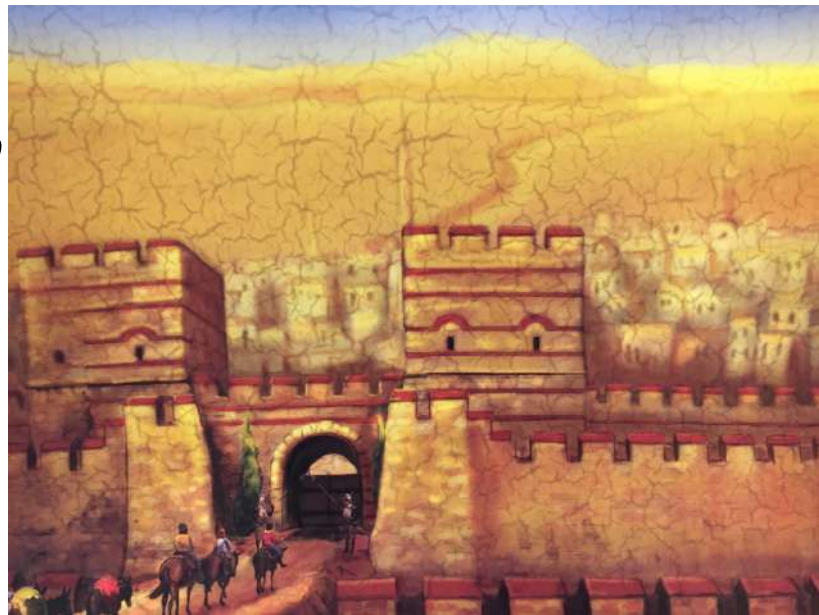
# *The Spice Seekers*

*Sofia was not convinced, but Giovanni seemed sure that he was right.*



# The Spice Seekers

Just a few days later, however, Giovanni sadly told his cousin, "We cannot go after all. In order to get to the Indies, we must pass through the great city of Constantinople. Father has just learned that the people of Constantinople have decided not to let Europeans travel through their city anymore. They are blocking our passage."





# The Spice Seekers

Look at the path from Italy through the city of Constantinople, shown by the marker--and then to the Indies in Asia. If the road is blocked in Constantinople, Giovanni and his people cannot get to the Indies by land. Why do you think the people of Constantinople would block the passage to the Indies?



# The Spice Seekers

Giovanni sadly continued, "The people of Constantinople don't want us to go and get our own gold, spices, and other things. They want to send their own people east to buy these valuable items, and then sell them to us for a much higher price, a lot more money."





# The Spice Seekers

Giovanni was upset, but Sofia was secretly glad he would not try to make the dangerous journey.



# The Spice Seekers

Giovanni and his family were not the only disappointed people. All over Europe, people wanted things they could get only from Asia, the lands to the east. Some of these people were kings and queens. They thought, "We are rich and powerful. We could be even richer if we could buy Asian spices and sell them for higher prices in other parts of Europe."





# The Spice Seekers

Giovanni and his family were not the only disappointed people. All over Europe, people wanted things they could get only from Asia, the lands to the east. Some of these people were kings and queens. They thought, "We are rich and powerful. We could be even richer if we could buy Asian spices and sell them for higher prices in other parts of Europe, just as the people of Constantinople want to do with us."



# The Spice Seekers

*But how can we do this? We have people we could send, and money enough to pay for their trip, but now the road is closed to them."*





# The Spice Seekers

Can you think of any other way that people from Italy might be able to travel to the spice lands other than by land--walking or riding on the backs of animals? We said that they didn't have airplanes, trains, or buses back then, but what did they have?



# The Spice Seekers

European kings and queens had a new thought. "Maybe we could send ships or large boats sailing to the Indies. Our sailors could fill the ships with wonderful treasures, such as gold, cloth, and spices, then sail them back home. Treasures are valuable things, or that that are worth a lot of money or are important to someone.





# The Spice Seekers

“They would have to sail south in the great Atlantic Ocean, far from the lands we know well, and into waters that are new to us. They would have to go all the way down the edge of Africa, around the bottom, and then sail up the other side to get to the Indies.



# The Spice Seekers

“No one has ever done that. We don’t even know how big Africa is, or if the ocean goes all the way around it to the Indies. Maybe there are huge, hungry, sea monsters waiting to attack our ships and eat the sailors who fall into the water! Do you really think there will be sea monsters?”





# The Spice Seekers

Maybe there are strangers who would not want our sailors to travel near their countries and might try to stop them. Hmmm...sailing to the Indies may be even harder than going by land. We had better ask the smartest people we know what they think before we decide what to do."



# The Spice Seekers

So the kings and queens began looking for people who could help them. They needed to find excellent sailors and brave explorers ready for an adventure.

Do you think the sailors will be able to reach Asia by ship?





# The Spice Seekers

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

Do Giovanni and Sophia live in today's time?  
How can you tell?

# The Spice Seekers

Comprehension Questions:

**Literal**

In what country do Giovanni and Sophia live? Tell me the name of the continent on which Italy is located.

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.





# The Spice Seekers

### Comprehension Questions:

PLEASE ANSWER IN COMPLETE SENTENCES.

**Literal**

**Literal**

To where did Giovanni plan to travel? Between which two countries are the Indies located?



# The Spice Seekers

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

How did Europeans travel to Asia in those days? What was the journey like?



# The Spice Seekers

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

Was Giovanni able to go on the journey overland from Italy to the Indies? Why or why not?

# The Spice Seekers

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

What new ways were they going to try? This new path involved them traveling around another continent. What is the name of that continent?

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.





# The Spice Seekers

Comprehension Questions:

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

**Evaluative**

When you seek something, you are looking for or trying to find something. So, someone who is a seeker is somebody who is looking for something. Do you think the title of today's read aloud, "The Spice Seekers" is a good one or not?

# Think Pair. Share.



I'm going to ask you a question. I will give you a minute to think about the question, and then I will ask you to turn to your neighbor and discuss the question. Finally I will call on several of you to share what you discussed with your partner.



# Think Pair. Share.



**Evaluative:**

If you lived in Giovanni's time, which way would you rather go to the Indies, by land or by sea?  
Why?

# **Word Work**

*Explicit Vocabulary Instruction*

# The Spice Seekers

In the read aloud you heard, "But Giovanni, everyone knows this is a long, dangerous **journey**."

Say the word **journey** with me.

Whisper journey to the ceiling.

Whisper journey to your neighbor.

Let's clap it out.



## *The Spice Seekers*

*A **journey** is a long trip from one place to another.*

*Going a long distance on an airplane or a bus would be a **journey**.*

# *The Spice Seekers*

*Tell me about a journey you have taken. Use the word journey when you tell about it.*

*“I went on a journey to...”*

# *The Spice Seekers*

*What's the word we have been talking  
about?*

*Let's clap it out.*



# *The Spice Seekers*

*I am going to describe some forms of travel. If the travel I describe sounds long, thumbs up. If the travel I say, is short, thumbs down.*

# *The Spice Seekers*



Thumbs Up = Long journey

Thumbs Down = Short journey



*sailing on a ship across the ocean from  
europe to America*





# *The Spice Seekers*



Thumbs Up = Long journey

Thumbs Down = Short journey



*Swimming across the pool.*



# *The Spice Seekers*



Thumbs Up = Long journey

Thumbs Down = Short journey



*walking to your neighbor's house*





# *The Spice Seekers*



Thumbs Up = Long journey

Thumbs Down = Short journey



*Walking across the desert*





# *The Spice Seekers*



Thumbs Up = Long journey

Thumbs Down = Short journey



*Riding in the car to your school*



# *The Spice Seekers*



Thumbs Up = Long journey

Thumbs Down = Short journey



*Riding in the car from one side of  
America to the other*



