Routes and Reasons

Spanish expeditions and their effects on Indigenous peoples

SS24.3.9 "Explain reasons for European expeditions and the establishment of early settlements and colonies in North America during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. 9a Trace and compare routes of early explorers of North and South America..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two reasons Spain sent people across the ocean or built a settlement, circle places on the explorers' routes, and write 1 and 2 beside two ways de Soto's trip harmed Indigenous people.

Two Routes to Florida and Beyond

1. In the 1500s, Spanish leaders sent ships across the Atlantic Ocean. They wanted gold, new land, and more people to follow Christianity. In 1513, Juan Ponce de León sailed from islands in the Caribbean Sea to the coast of Florida. His route was mostly over water. Florida was not empty land. Indigenous peoples had lived there for many years.

2. In 1539, Hernando de Soto sailed from Cuba to Florida. Unlike Ponce de León, he then led a large group on foot across the land. They moved north and west, reaching what is now Alabama in 1540. De Soto hoped to find gold and claim land for Spain. His group took food and forced Indigenous people to carry supplies.

3. In Alabama, de Soto's group met Chief Tuskaloosa and his people. In 1540, they fought at a town called Mabila. Many Indigenous people died, and the town burned. Contact with Europeans also brought diseases that harmed Indigenous communities. In 1565, Spain started a settlement called St. Augustine in Florida. Spain wanted a lasting base to guard its ships and hold land.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How were Ponce de León's route and de Soto's route different after they reached Florida?

2. Trace de Soto's route from Cuba to what is now Alabama.

3. Give one reason de Soto traveled and one reason Spain started St. Augustine.

4. What happened at Mabila? Name one other way de Soto's group harmed Indigenous people.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a three-sentence museum sign explaining why it would be wrong to say de Soto found empty land. Include one detail about his route, one goal of Spain's expeditions, and one effect on Indigenous people.

Routes and Reasons

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two reasons Spain sent people across the ocean or built a settlement, circle places on the explorers' routes, and write 1 and 2 beside two ways de Soto's trip harmed Indigenous people. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How were Ponce de León's route and de Soto's route different after they reached Florida?	**Ponce de León's route was mostly over water. De Soto led his group on foot across the land.**
2	Trace de Soto's route from Cuba to what is now Alabama.	**He sailed from Cuba to Florida, then traveled north and west on foot to what is now Alabama.**
3	Give one reason de Soto traveled and one reason Spain started St. Augustine.	**De Soto hoped to find gold or claim land. Spain started St. Augustine to guard its ships or hold land.**
4	What happened at Mabila? Name one other way de Soto's group harmed Indigenous people.	**Many Indigenous people died in the fighting, and Mabila burned. De Soto's group also took food or forced Indigenous people to carry supplies.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

De Soto traveled from Florida into Alabama, where Indigenous people already lived. He hoped to find gold and claim land for Spain. His group took food from Indigenous people and forced them to carry supplies.

For the marking job, accept any two stated reasons and any two stated harms. For the museum sign, accept accurate route, goal, and effect details that make clear Indigenous people already lived on the land.