Voyages Take Shape

Trace how three movements helped shape European exploration.

SS24.6.2a "Summarize how the Crusades, Reformation, and Renaissance influenced European exploration and describe how individuals contributed to these movements."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one way each movement influenced exploration. Circle the names of people whose actions helped shape those movements or the voyages that followed.

Why Sail Farther?

1. In 1095, Pope Urban II called Christians to join the First Crusade, a military campaign toward Jerusalem. Over the next two centuries, crusaders and other travelers moved between Europe and the eastern Mediterranean. Europeans had traded with the region before, but this contact helped increase interest in goods such as spices and silk. Merchants wanted more reliable ways to obtain them. Centuries later, that demand was one reason rulers paid for sea voyages toward Asia. The Crusades did not send ships across the Atlantic, but they helped build interest in long-distance trade.

2. During the Renaissance, Europeans studied older ideas and tested new ones. Mapmakers improved charts, while sailors used tools such as the astrolabe to estimate latitude. Better knowledge did not remove the dangers of ocean travel, but it helped crews plan routes. Prince Henry of Portugal supported voyages along Africa's Atlantic coast in the 1400s. His support gave sailors chances to practice and gather information about winds and coasts. Renaissance learning and funding made longer voyages more possible, including later attempts to reach Asia by sea.

3. The Reformation began in 1517 when Martin Luther challenged practices of the Catholic Church. As Protestant churches spread, religious divisions sharpened rivalry among European rulers. Protestant England and Catholic Spain both sought power overseas. Queen Elizabeth I gave Walter Raleigh permission to try to establish an English colony in North America in the 1580s. The Roanoke settlement did not become a lasting colony, yet the attempt showed how exploration could serve a ruler's goals. Some Europeans also crossed the Atlantic to practice their religion, while others hoped to spread it.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did contact during the Crusades help create a reason for later sea voyages?

2. How did Prince Henry's actions add to the Renaissance's influence on exploration?

3. How did the movement Martin Luther helped begin affect European activity overseas?

4. How were Prince Henry's and Queen Elizabeth I's contributions alike, and how were they different?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine advising Queen Elizabeth I about an English Atlantic voyage in the 1580s. Write 4 or 5 sentences connecting the Crusades, Renaissance, and Reformation to reasons or tools for the voyage. Describe what two named people from the passage contributed, and explain how two influences could work together.

ANSWER KEY

Voyages Take Shape

GRADE 6 · SS24.6.2a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one way each movement influenced exploration. Circle the names of people whose actions helped shape those movements or the voyages that followed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did contact during the Crusades help create a reason for later sea voyages?	**Contact increased European interest in goods such as spices and silk. Demand for those goods helped motivate rulers to fund sea voyages toward Asia.**
2	How did Prince Henry's actions add to the Renaissance's influence on exploration?	**He supported Atlantic voyages along Africa, giving sailors chances to practice and gather information about winds and coasts.**
3	How did the movement Martin Luther helped begin affect European activity overseas?	**The Reformation spread Protestant churches and sharpened religious rivalry. That rivalry was one reason European rulers sought power overseas.**
4	How were Prince Henry's and Queen Elizabeth I's contributions alike, and how were they different?	**Both supported Atlantic ventures. Henry supported voyages along Africa that helped sailors gain knowledge, while Elizabeth gave Raleigh permission to try to establish an English colony in North America.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Contact during the Crusades increased European demand for Asian goods, so an Atlantic voyage might seek a new route to Asia. Renaissance knowledge about charts and latitude could help the crew plan. Prince Henry supported earlier Atlantic voyages that gathered information about winds and coasts. Martin Luther's challenge helped begin the Reformation, and the religious rivalry that followed could push Protestant England to compete with Catholic Spain. Together, the desire for trade and better navigation could make a risky voyage seem worth funding.

Accept other accurate links between each movement and exploration. Students may choose any two named people from the passage if they explain each person's contribution correctly.