

Across the Atlantic

Read how European countries explored North America.

SS3H2 "Describe European exploration in North America."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each explorer's name, circle the country that sent the explorer, and number the reasons European countries explored so you can track who explored and why.

Why Explorers Sailed

- ① In the late 1400s and 1500s, several European countries sent ships across the Atlantic Ocean. Rulers wanted new trade routes to Asia, valuable goods, and more land for their countries. Some explorers also hoped to spread Christianity. Ocean travel was dangerous. Sailors faced storms, hunger, and unknown waters, but leaders believed a successful voyage could bring wealth and power.
- ② In 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed for Spain. He hoped to reach Asia by sailing west, but he arrived at islands in the Caribbean instead. Columbus's voyage led Spain to send more explorers to the Americas. Spanish explorers claimed land for Spain and searched for gold and silver. Their journeys brought major changes, including new Spanish settlements and harm to many Native peoples.
- ③ Other countries explored, too. France sent Jacques Cartier to look for a water route through North America to Asia. Later, French traders sought furs and built relationships with some Native groups. England sent John Cabot, who explored part of the North American coast for England. These voyages helped European countries make claims, trade, and begin colonies, even though explorers did not find the route to Asia they wanted.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What are two reasons European rulers sent explorers across the Atlantic Ocean?

2 What country sent Christopher Columbus, and where did he arrive instead of Asia?

3 How were Spain's and France's goals or actions in North America different?

4 What did John Cabot explore, and which country sent him?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write a three-sentence message from a ship captain planning a voyage across the Atlantic. State one goal for the voyage, name one danger the crew may face, and explain one result the ruler hopes for.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each explorer's name, circle the country that sent the explorer, and number the reasons European countries explored so you can track who explored and why. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What are two reasons European rulers sent explorers across the Atlantic Ocean?	They wanted new trade routes to Asia, valuable goods, and more land. Some also hoped to spread Christianity.
2	What country sent Christopher Columbus, and where did he arrive instead of Asia?	Spain sent Columbus. He arrived at islands in the Caribbean.
3	How were Spain's and France's goals or actions in North America different?	Spain claimed land and searched for gold and silver. France sent Cartier to find a water route to Asia, and French traders sought furs and built relationships with some Native groups.
4	What did John Cabot explore, and which country sent him?	He explored part of the North American coast, and England sent him.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Your Majesty, we will sail west across the Atlantic to find valuable goods and land for Spain. Our crew may face storms and hunger. If we arrive safely, Spain may gain wealth and power.

Accept any passage-based goal, such as finding trade routes, valuable goods, land, or spreading Christianity. The captain's message should include a realistic danger from the passage and a logical hoped-for result.