Ideas Across Oceans

Trace how shared knowledge shaped voyages, trade, and science.

6.H.7 "Analyze the interconnections of people, places, and events in the economic, scientific, and cultural exchanges of the European Renaissance that led to the Scientific Revolution, voyages of discovery, and imperial conquest."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline two places where people shared knowledge, circle two results of that sharing, and number three connected events to show one chain of cause and effect.

From Shared Ideas to Distant Shores

1 In the 1400s, Venice was a busy meeting place for merchants from Europe and the eastern Mediterranean. Along with spices and silk, people exchanged ideas about numbers, stars, and sea travel. European scholars studied writings preserved and developed by scholars in the Muslim world. Some of these works had been translated into Latin, a language many European scholars read. After printing spread through Europe, books and maps could reach more readers. In Lisbon, Portugal, sailors used shared knowledge of winds and navigation tools, such as the compass, to plan longer voyages.

2 Portuguese rulers sought a sea route to Asian spices without relying on other traders. In 1498, Vasco da Gama reached India after sailing around Africa. His crew learned from sailors along the route, including a pilot who guided them across the Indian Ocean. At Indian ports, Portuguese ships joined trade networks that already linked many peoples. Later, Portugal seized Goa in 1510 and used warships and forts to control parts of the spice trade. Local communities faced violence and lost power over trade.

3 Voyages also brought reports about unfamiliar coasts, winds, and stars to European readers. Mapmakers compared these reports and changed their maps when new evidence showed old ones were wrong. Printed maps helped sailors plan trips, while new reports gave scholars more questions to test. In 1543, Nicolaus Copernicus published a book arguing that Earth moves around the sun. Later, Galileo Galilei used a telescope to gather evidence about the sky and printed his findings. The same spread of books that aided navigation also let scientists share and challenge ideas during the Scientific Revolution.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did knowledge shared in Europe and in the Indian Ocean help Portuguese sailors reach India?

2. How did Portugal's search for spices lead to a change for communities near Goa?

3. How did printing help both sailors and scientists, even though they had different goals?

4. What did mapmakers and Galileo have in common in the way they studied the world?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine you are a Lisbon printer in 1610 who publishes a sea map and Galileo's findings. In four sentences, explain how these printed works could affect a Portuguese sailor, a scholar, and a trader in India, including one benefit and one possible harm.

ANSWER KEY

Ideas Across Oceans

GRADE 6 · 6.H.7

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline two places where people shared knowledge, circle two results of that sharing, and number three connected events to show one chain of cause and effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did knowledge shared in Europe and in the Indian Ocean help Portuguese sailors reach India?	**Sailors in Lisbon used shared knowledge of winds and tools such as the compass to plan voyages. Da Gama's crew also learned from sailors along the route, including a pilot who guided them across the Indian Ocean.**
2	How did Portugal's search for spices lead to a change for communities near Goa?	**Portugal sought a sea route to Asian spices, then seized Goa and used warships and forts to control trade. Local communities faced violence and lost power over trade.**
3	How did printing help both sailors and scientists, even though they had different goals?	**Printed maps helped sailors plan trips. Printed scientific findings let scientists share and challenge ideas.**
4	What did mapmakers and Galileo have in common in the way they studied the world?	**Both used new evidence: mapmakers revised maps using voyage reports, and Galileo used telescope observations to study the sky.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

My printed map could help a Portuguese sailor plan a voyage to India using reports from earlier trips. A trader in India might gain buyers, but Portuguese warships could also take away that trader's control of trade. Printing Galileo's findings could help a scholar compare new observations with older ideas about the sky. The same press could spread useful knowledge while helping ships enter trade networks that Portugal tried to control by force.

Accept other evidence-based chains that connect exchanges among people and places to voyages, trade, conquest, or scientific work. For Part 3, look for four sentences covering all three people, a benefit, and a possible harm.