One Voyage, Many Views

Read the 1492 voyage through different people's hopes and fears.

7.H.10 "Analyze worldwide voyages of exploration and discovery by considering multiple perspectives of various people in the past by demonstrating their differing motives, beliefs, interests, hopes, and fears."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one hope or fear for each group in the passage, then circle the words that show whose view it is.

Ships Arrive in the Bahamas

1 In 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed west across the Atlantic with three ships, seeking a sea route to Asia. He hoped to find valuable goods and win support from Spain's rulers. Those rulers wanted wealth and the spread of Christianity. The sailors had different concerns. A long crossing could mean hunger, storms, or never reaching land. When they reached islands in the Caribbean, Columbus believed he was near Asia. For the people who already lived on those islands, however, these ships were not a discovery of an empty place.

2 The Lucayan Taíno lived on islands in the Bahamas, where Columbus's ships first landed. Some islanders traded with the visitors, offering items such as cotton and parrots. They might have hoped to learn what the newcomers wanted or to keep relations peaceful. But the visitors also sought gold and claimed islands for Spain. Columbus took some Indigenous people captive during the voyage. A Taíno person seeing neighbors seized might have feared for family and freedom, even while another person saw a chance to trade. One arrival could bring different feelings to the same community.

3 Most surviving written descriptions of this meeting came from Columbus and other Europeans, not from Taíno writers. That makes it hard to know exactly what each islander thought. Still, actions provide clues: trading suggests an interest in exchange, while being taken captive gave people reason to fear the visitors. Columbus could view the voyage as a step toward trade and religious conversion; a sailor might focus on getting home alive. A Taíno family might judge the ships by what happened to its neighbors. Whose hopes counted depended on whose story was told.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did Spain's rulers and the sailors have different concerns about the voyage?

2. How might Columbus and a Taíno family have viewed the arrival of the ships differently?

3. Why might two Taíno islanders have felt differently about the visitors? Use two events from the passage.

4. Why should you be careful when describing exactly what a Taíno person thought? What clues can you still use?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write an imagined five-sentence conversation between a Spanish sailor and a Taíno islander after the ships arrive. Give each person a hope and a fear, include two accurate details from the passage, and end by explaining why they see the voyage differently.

ANSWER KEY

One Voyage, Many Views

GRADE 7 · 7.H.10

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one hope or fear for each group in the passage, then circle the words that show whose view it is. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did Spain's rulers and the sailors have different concerns about the voyage?	**Spain's rulers wanted wealth and the spread of Christianity. Sailors worried about dangers such as storms, hunger, and not reaching land.**
2	How might Columbus and a Taíno family have viewed the arrival of the ships differently?	**Columbus believed he was near Asia and sought valuable goods. A Taíno family might have judged the ships by the visitors' actions toward its neighbors.**
3	Why might two Taíno islanders have felt differently about the visitors? Use two events from the passage.	**Trading cotton or parrots might have made one islander hopeful about exchange. Seeing people taken captive might have made another fear for family and freedom.**
4	Why should you be careful when describing exactly what a Taíno person thought? What clues can you still use?	**Most surviving written accounts came from Europeans, so they do not tell us exactly what each Taíno person thought. Trading and captivity offer clues about possible hopes and fears.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Sailor: I hope to get home safely after our long crossing. Islander: I hope trading cotton will help us live peacefully with these visitors. Sailor: I feared we would never reach land, and I still fear what could happen before I get home. Islander: I fear for my neighbors because the visitors have taken some of our people captive. The sailor thinks about surviving his voyage, while the islander thinks about what will happen to people on the island.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons that distinguish people's motives, hopes, or fears. In the imagined conversation, look for two distinct viewpoints without treating the islander's words as a surviving historical account.