

Waterways and Beginnings

Trace why Europeans explored and how early settlements began.

4.3a "Europeans in search of a route to Asia explored New York's waterways. Early settlements began as trading posts or missions."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each explorer's name and the waterway connected to that explorer. Circle each early settlement type.

Searching by Water

- ① In the early 1500s and 1600s, European leaders wanted a shorter water route to Asia, where valuable goods such as spices and silk came from. Explorers sailed west across the Atlantic Ocean. In 1524, Giovanni da Verrazzano sailed into the harbor now called New York Harbor. He was looking for a passage through the land, but he did not find one.
- ② In 1609, Henry Hudson sailed up the wide river that now bears his name. He sailed for the Dutch and hoped the river might lead toward Asia. Instead, the river led deep into the land of Native American peoples. Samuel de Champlain explored the lake now named for him in 1609 while working for France. Neither voyage found a route to Asia.
- ③ Waterways also helped people build early settlements. Dutch traders built Fort Nassau near today's Albany in 1614 to trade furs with Native Americans. This trading post became a place for exchange, not a route to Asia. French missionaries later started a mission among the Onondaga people near Onondaga Lake. A mission was a settlement where missionaries tried to spread Christianity.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 What were European explorers hoping to find by traveling on waterways?

2 Which waterway did Henry Hudson explore, and for which country did he sail?

3 What did Hudson find instead of a route to Asia?

4 How were Fort Nassau and the French mission different?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine an explorer travels up a river but does not find a route to Asia. Write exactly three sentences explaining whether the people should begin a trading post or a mission, and why.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each explorer's name and the waterway connected to that explorer. Circle each early settlement type. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What were European explorers hoping to find by traveling on waterways?	They hoped to find a shorter water route to Asia.
2	Which waterway did Henry Hudson explore, and for which country did he sail?	He explored the Hudson River and sailed for the Dutch.
3	What did Hudson find instead of a route to Asia?	He found that the river led deep into the land of Native American peoples.
4	How were Fort Nassau and the French mission different?	Fort Nassau was a trading post for exchanging furs. The French mission was a settlement where missionaries tried to spread Christianity.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The explorer sailed up the river but did not find a route to Asia. The people should begin a trading post. They can exchange furs and other goods with Native American people.

Accept clear statements that explorers sought a water route to Asia and that early settlements could begin as trading posts or missions. For the open response, accept either settlement type if the student gives an accurate purpose in exactly three sentences.