

name(s) _____

H.L.9. Diary Entries and Maps

1. Francisco de Coronado's Diary¹

One day in the fall of 1540

It was another difficult day on our **quest for Cíbola, the city of gold!** I, Francisco de Coronado, am leading **brave men and soldiers** to locate the city and **take the gold and other resources from this new land.**

Our journey **began in Mexico.** Along our way, we walked through unknown lands (*that are now called Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas*) and met many **Native peoples.** Their **culture is strange and uncivilized²!**

They **refuse to help us!** I want good relationships, but **when they don't do what I say,** I have to be **firm and use force.** I **demand** they show me the way to the city of gold. **I will do whatever it takes.**

We haven't found Cíbola yet, but discovered other incredible landforms, plants, and animals. Yesterday, **we saw the Grand Canyon** and the mighty **Colorado River.** These sights are so amazing that I cannot wait for other Spanish explorers to follow in my footsteps—searching for lands and **taking the riches** in North America. I hope I will find the city of gold soon!

¹ This narrative was generated based on the following sources: [Francisco Vazquez de Coronado | Biography, Years of Exploration, Route, & Facts](#); [Francisco Vazquez de Coronado - Coronado National Memorial \(U.S. National Park Service\)](#); [Francisco Vázquez de Coronado - Facts, Routes & Wife](#)

² **Uncivilized:** wild, savage, or barbaric. Not having a high state of culture.

2. Robert de La Salle's Diary³

On day in April in 1682

Today was another exciting day on my journey through the Mississippi River Valley. I am **learning from the indigenous people** about the rich natural resources that are part of this great land. The King of France sent me **to claim land for France and find new trade routes**.

I set up valuable trade in Canada, but now **I am searching for a waterway that might lead all the way to China**. Imagine the riches and new trading opportunities we could have! I traveled through the **Great Lakes** and navigated the Ohio, Illinois, and Mississippi Rivers. Today, we reached the Gulf of Mexico. It was an incredible sight!

The land has been home to Indigenous peoples for thousands of years, but **now it will be under French control!** After this journey, France will claim the Mississippi Valley and **name it the Louisiana Territory**, in honor of King Louis XIV. Soon, many French and Dutch settlers **will come and build trading posts**. These posts will grow into towns and cities for European people.

³ This narrative was generated based on the following sources: [Rene-Robert Cavelier, sieur de La Salle | Biography, Discover, Expedition, Route, Death, & Facts](#); [La Salle Expedition](#); [Tribal v4.pub](#).

3. Jacques Marquette⁴

One day in June 1673

Today was another busy day **exploring the Mississippi River** with my friend, Louis Joliet. We want to **find new trade routes and discover what is in this new land**. I am a **Christian missionary*** and **Louis is a fur trader**.

Traveling by canoe, we have seen thousands of miles along the rivers! Everywhere we go, **we record our discoveries**. The **Indigenous peoples have lived here for thousands of years** and know the land well. **We are learning a lot from them**.

Today, we **talked with some local Indigenous peoples** and **learned more about the land**. With this **knowledge**, we **create maps and describe** the many natural resources in the area. The maps show how to travel, by water, from the Great Lakes all the way to the Gulf of Mexico!

Because of our journey, the French government is starting to build trading posts. They want to **expand the fur trade and share our religion** with the local Indigenous people.

*A **missionary a person** who is sent to a foreign country to do religious work (such as to convince people to join a religion or to help people who are sick, poor, etc.)

⁴ This narrative was generated based on the following sources: [Michigan: Father Marquette National Memorial; https://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Wildlife/Mining-Loopholes/Tribal_v4.ashx](https://www.nwf.org/~media/PDFs/Wildlife/Mining-Loopholes/Tribal_v4.ashx); [Louis Joliet & Jacques Marquette | National Mississippi River Museum & Aquarium](#); [Marquette-Joliet Expedition - Encyclopedia of Arkansas](#); [Remembering The Mississippi Voyage Of Marquette And Joliet](#).

Map A⁵



⁵ Source: <https://www.geocurrents.info/>

Map B⁶



⁶ Source: <https://www.britannica.com/biography/>

Map C⁷



⁷ Source: <https://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/stlouis/images>