

European Explorers Study Guide Answers

General Information

1. The **Vikings** reached North America around 500 years before Columbus.
2. One of the main reasons for the European's explorations was to find the **Northwest Passage**, which was a waterway to Asia. They wanted to find this in order to find a safer and easier route to Asia. They sought to access the goods, gold, and spices found there.
3. The Europeans had both good and bad relationships with the **Native Americans**. The Native Americans taught the Europeans how to **grow** crops, especially corn, which they brought back to **Europe**. Europeans also benefited from Native American gold and silver. Europeans taught the Native Americans new farming techniques and how to raise pigs, cattle, and **horses**.
4. Europeans brought **diseases** to Native Americans that killed hundreds of thousands. Native Americans were also killed or **enslaved** for their land and resources.

Christopher Columbus

5. Country that sponsored his exploration: **Spain**, King **Ferdinand** and Queen **Isabella**.
6. Reasons for exploration: Looking for the **Northwest Passage**
7. Accomplishments: **FIRST** to sail west across the Atlantic Ocean to find a sea route to **Asia**. Discovered San Salvador (Bahamas), Jamaica, Puerto Rico, Hispaniola, and Cuba.
8. Obstacles: Had difficulty finding **sponsors** to pay for his journey. Never found gold, spices, and jewels he was looking for.
9. Impact on Native Americans: First to call them **Indians** because he thought he found the Indies (Asia). He and his sailors stole from them and some were **enslaved** and sold in Spain. Gave Native Americans many diseases.

John Cabot

10. Country that sponsored his exploration: **England**

11. Reasons for exploration: Was looking for the **Northwest Passage**. He would also claim all new land he found for **England**.

12. Accomplishments: Discovered a rich cod-fishing area off of North America. This was important because it gave England a claim in North America and led to the founding of the **colonies**.

13. Obstacles: Never found the **Northwest Passage**. Never found gold and spices. He disappeared after his second voyage.

Vasco Nuñez de Balboa

14. Country that sponsored his exploration: He stowed away on a ship to Panama, but claimed all land for **Spain**.

15. Accomplishments: Established a colony in Panama and became governor. Was the first European to see the **Pacific Ocean** and claimed it for Spain.

16. Obstacles: Never found the **Inca** civilization and was beheaded by the new governor of Panama for treason.

17. Impact on Native Americans: He made friends with the Native Americans and heard from them about the Pacific Ocean. **Married** the chief's daughter.

Juan Ponce de Leon

18. Country that sponsored his exploration: **Spain**

19. Accomplishments: Found **Florida** and claimed it for Spain making him the first Spanish explorer to claim part of North America.

20. Reasons for exploration: Looking for the **Fountain of Youth**. Sailed with **Columbus** on his 2nd journey.

21. Obstacles: Didn't find **Bimini** where he hoped to find the Fountain of Youth.

22. Impact on Native Americans: Fought with and was cruel to them. He made some **slaves** and killed others. Eventually, he was killed by them.

Henry Hudson

23. Country that sponsored his exploration: **Holland** , the Dutch East India Company, and later **England**.

24. Reasons for exploration: Searching for the **Northwest Passage**.

25. Accomplishments: Discovered the **Hudson** River and **Hudson** Bay. Claimed this and the land around it, the present-day state of **New York**, for Holland.

26. Obstacles: Never found the **Northwest Passage**. He and his crew spent a winter trapped in ice on Hudson Bay. His crew **mutinied** and put him, his son, and 7 others adrift in a small boat with no supplies.

Jacques Cartier

27. Country that sponsored his exploration: **France**

28. Reasons for exploration: To find the **Northwest Passage**.

29. Accomplishments: Led the first exploration up the **St. Lawrence** River. Claimed the territory now known as **Canada** for France.

30. Obstacles: Many of his crew died of scurvy from lack of vegetables

31. Impact on Native Americans: Made friends with the Iroquois who helped him and his men survive the **winter**.