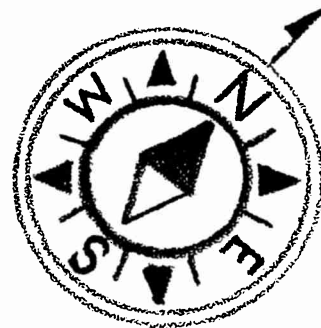


THE EXPLORERS GAME

The "Renaissance" was a period of time between 1300 and 1600 when the Middle Ages ended and modern times began. Whereas little progress had been made by man during the thousand years of the Middle Ages, the Renaissance brought great changes to Europe. The word "Renaissance" means "rebirth," and refers to a renewed interest in culture and learning in Western Europe. It was an age of adventure and exploration, of curiosity and education, of science and invention, and of art and literature. To some extent, it was a continuation of the accomplishments and cultural achievements of ancient Greek and Roman civilizations.



Scientific progress during the Renaissance encouraged Europeans to undertake voyages of exploration. The following developments led to the discovery and colonization of the New World:

1. Travelers to China brought the compass back to Europe enabling sea captains to sail beyond the sight of land.
2. An instrument called the astrolabe helped the explorers to measure their latitude and longitude. The astrolabe measured the angles of stars above the horizon. It told sailors their exact position at sea.
3. A new type of rudder made it easier to steer ships on the ocean.
4. More accurate maps were made based on the reports of early travelers and explorers.
5. Johannes Gutenberg of Germany invented movable type which made it possible to arrange individual letters and print pages quickly and inexpensively. Earlier books were costly and limited in number because they had to be copied by hand. But now maps and travelers' tales could be widely distributed in Europe. Geographic knowledge and curiosity about distant lands increased.
6. During the 1200's, the Chinese invented gunpowder. Visitors to China brought gunpowder back to Europe where it led to the development of cannons and muskets. These weapons helped the explorers conquer Indian tribes and establish empires in the New World.

Map Skills: Latitude and Longitude

Latitude is the distance in degrees north or south of the equator. Longitude is the distance in degrees east or west of the prime meridian. Latitude and longitude lines appear on the map on page 4. Use the map to answer the following questions.

- (1) Ship 1 is located at _____ degrees north latitude.
- (2) Ship 1 is located at _____ degrees west longitude.
- (3) Ship 2 is located at _____ degrees _____ latitude.
- (4) Ship 2 is located at _____ degrees _____ longitude.
- (5) Ship ___ is located at 15 degrees north latitude and 120 degrees west longitude.

Questions: Use the background information on page one and the facts on the chart below to answer the following questions.

<u>Explorer</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Country</u>	<u>Letter of Area Explored</u>	<u>Route</u>	<u>Points</u>
(1) Christopher Columbus	1492	Spain	E	12-16-15-14	_____
(2) John Cabot	1498	England	K	7-3-2-6-10	_____
(3) Amerigo Vespucci	1499	Spain	M	12-16-15-14	_____
(4) Pedro Cabral	1500	Portugal	F	12-16-18	_____
(5) Vasco Nunez de Balboa	1513	Spain	L	12-16-15-14	_____
(6) Ponce de Leon	1513	Spain	B	12-16-15-14-10	_____
(7) Hernando Cortes	1519	Spain	I	12-16-15-14-13	_____
(8) Francisco Pizarro	1532	Spain	O	12-16-15-14-17	_____
(9) Jacques Cartier	1534	France	A	7-6-5	_____
(10) Cabeza de Vaca	1536	Spain	D	12-16-15-14-13-9	_____
(11) Francisco Coronado	1540	Spain	J	12-16-15-14-13-9	_____
(12) Samuel de Champlain	1608	France	C	7-6-5	_____
(13) Henry Hudson	1610	England	H	7-6-1-5	_____
(14) Marquette and Joliet	1673	France	N	7-6-5-10	_____
(15) Robert La Salle	1682	France	G	7-6-5-10	_____
Total Points					_____

True or False

- (1) _____ Explorers sailed to the New World during the Renaissance.
- (2) _____ The explorers were helped by inventions from the East.
- (3) _____ A compass is used to determine a ship's exact position at sea.
- (4) _____ Johannes Gutenberg's invention made it easier for the Europeans to conquer Indian tribes and establish empires.
- (5) _____ The French came to the New World before the English.

Completion

- (6) _____ Did Spain claim most of its land in the New World during the 1400's, 1500's, or 1600's?
- (7) _____ Did Portugal claim land in North America or South America?
- (8) _____ The name "America" comes from the first name of which Spanish explorer?
- (9) _____ The Vikings sailed along the coast of North America about the year 1000. Was this before or after the voyage of Columbus?
- (10) _____ By the year 1550, which European country had established the largest empire in the New World?

