

Explorers and Their Routes

Grade 4 • SOCIAL-STUDIES • Students match major European explorers with their sponsoring countries, routes, destinations, and purposes for traveling to the Americas. • Standards: D2.His.1.3-5, D2.Geo.1.3-5

Read each clue about a European explorer who traveled to the Americas. Write the correct answer on the line provided.

1. Christopher Columbus sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492. Which country sponsored his voyage? (Spain or England)
2. John Cabot explored the coast of North America in 1497 for which country? (England or France)
3. Jacques Cartier sailed up the St. Lawrence River in the 1530s. What was one main purpose of his voyages? (searching for a water route to Asia or building forts)
4. Henry Hudson explored a large river and bay in North America while searching for a northwest passage. Which country sponsored his 1609 voyage up the river that now bears his name? (Netherlands or Portugal)
5. Ferdinand Magellan led the first expedition to sail around the world. His voyage began in 1519. Which country sponsored this historic journey?
6. Samuel de Champlain founded Quebec in 1608 and is known as the 'Father of New France.' Which European country did he represent?
7. Hernando de Soto explored much of the southeastern part of North America in the 1540s. He was the first European to reach and cross which major river?
8. Vasco Nunez de Balboa crossed through the land of Central America in 1513 and became the first European to see which ocean from the Americas?
9. Francisco Vasquez de Coronado explored the southwestern region of North America from 1540 to 1542 for Spain. What was he searching for during this expedition?

10. Robert de La Salle traveled down the Mississippi River to its mouth in 1682 and claimed the entire river valley for his country. He named this territory Louisiana. Which country did La Salle represent?

Answer Key — Explorers and Their Routes

For the teacher / parent. Do not distribute with the worksheet.

1. Spain (*Spain's King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella sponsored Columbus's voyage.*)
2. England (*John Cabot sailed for England and explored the northeastern coast of North America.*)
3. searching for a water route to Asia (*Cartier hoped to find a northwest passage to Asia.*)
4. Netherlands (*The Dutch East India Company of the Netherlands sponsored Hudson's 1609 voyage.*)
5. Spain (*Spain sponsored Magellan's expedition that circumnavigated the globe.*)
6. France (*Champlain explored and colonized areas of Canada for France.*)
7. Mississippi River (*De Soto and his expedition crossed the Mississippi River in 1541.*)
8. Pacific Ocean (*Balboa crossed Panama and saw the Pacific Ocean, which he called the South Sea.*)
9. cities of gold (*Coronado searched for the legendary Seven Cities of Gold but found native pueblos instead.*)
10. France (*La Salle claimed the Mississippi River valley for France and named it after King Louis XIV.*)