



# Word Power

Listed below are some good words to know! Look at the word.

Read the definition. Then write a new sentence that uses the word.

1. **Explorer** (ik-splawr-er) A person who travels to or through an unfamiliar area to learn more about it.

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2. **Hardtack** (hahrd-tak) A type of biscuit that lasted for years that was often taken on long voyages.

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3. **Telescope** (tel-uh-skohp) A tool designed to make distant objects appear closer.

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4. **Route** (root) A path traveled from a starting point to an end point.

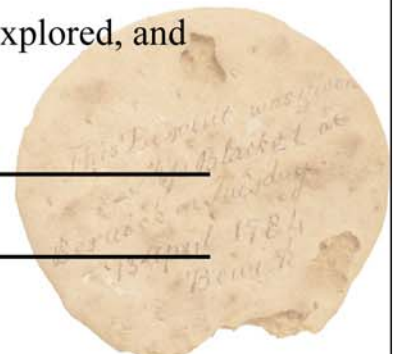
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5. **Vikings** (vahy-king) Scandinavian sailors who raided, explored, and settled in far away lands in the 8<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup> centuries.

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Columbus

## EARLY EXPLORERS Vocabulary Words Week 1



- 1. Vikings** Fierce warriors who explored the north Atlantic Ocean
- 2. saga** An adventure story that tells about brave deeds of people long ago
- 3. knoll** A small, round hill
- 4. encounter** A meeting, such as one between people that have never met
- 5. exploration** Searching the unknown
- 6. cartographer** A person who makes maps
- 7. navigation** The study of how to plan and control the course of a ship
- 8. Christopher Columbus** An Italian born Spanish explorer who in 1492 sailed west from Spain and thought he had reached Asia, but had really reached islands near the Americas, lands unknown to the Europeans
- 9. monarch** A king or queen
- 10. compass** An instrument used to find direction. It has a needle that always points north
- 11. astrolabe** An astronomical instrument for finding the position of the sun and stars

Name \_\_\_\_\_

# All About Early Explorers

 *Ready:*

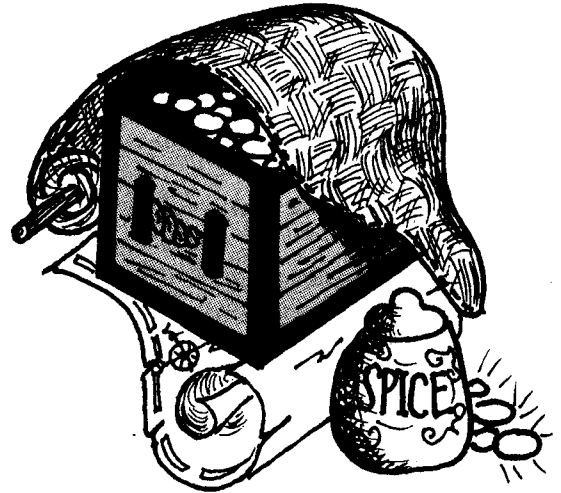
merchant  
European  
route  
spices  
difficult  
trade  
voyage  
material  
circumnavigate  
daring  
colonies  
explorers

1. What word means to travel around the world by water?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_ means a course or line of travel.
3. A journey made by water is a \_\_\_\_\_.
4. If you exchange goods, you \_\_\_\_\_ them.
5. Seasonings used on food are \_\_\_\_\_.
6. Another name for a person who buys or sells goods is a  
\_\_\_\_\_.

 *Set:*

Over four hundred years ago, European merchants traveled east by land and sea to trade with merchants in Asia. These Europeans traded woolen goods, silver, tin, gold, and leather goods for spices, jewels, and silk material from Asia. The trade routes were very difficult, dangerous, and expensive to use. It could take many months, and sometimes even years for a box of spices to travel from Asia to Europe.

In the late 1400's people dreamed of discovering an all water route between Europe and Asia. Most explorers of the time believed the best route would be to travel around the tip of Africa and then eastward toward Asia.



But Christopher Columbus, knowing the world was round, began sailing westward. Instead of reaching Asia, Columbus landed on the coast of an unknown New World we call North America.

After Columbus died, a Spanish explorer named Balboa followed the western route and discovered the "great south sea" that we know as the Pacific Ocean.

In 1519 another Spanish explorer named Magellan began a journey that was of the greatest voyages in history. Sailing from Spain, he traveled around the tip of South America and across the Pacific Ocean. From the Philippine Islands, Magellan sailed around the tip of Africa and returned to Spain in 1522. Magellan did what no one else had ever done before—he circumnavigated the world!

In the years that followed the discovery of the New World, other daring men from Spain, Portugal, England, the Netherlands, and France began to explore and claim these lands for their own countries. As time passed, settlers came to the New World and established the first colonies in North America.



1. About 440 years ago merchants traveled \_\_\_\_\_ to reach Asia.
2. What were the explorers looking for in the late 1400's? They were looking for an .
3. In which direction did Christopher Columbus sail? (North, West, East)
4. We now call the New World \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Balboa discovered the (Pacific, Atlantic, Indian) Ocean.
6. What word in paragraph five means to travel around the world by water?  
\_\_\_\_\_