

Geo Story: Voyages Across the Ocean

Introduction: This project will take you on a journey through time to discover how humans began to interact with the ocean and the unique environments that it holds. Our relationships with the marine environment have been built over a long period of time.

Please go to the following website: http://education.nationalgeographic.com/education/media/voyages-across-ocean/?ar_a=1 or search for “geo story voyages across the ocean” in google.

Procedure: Please follow the directions and answer the following questions in your composition book.

1. Click “Start Geo Story” to begin. Read the Intro and click the Start button on the lower left.
2. Africa. Read the text regarding the exploration of Africa and answer the following questions.
 - a. Which Egyptian queen was responsible for large-scale trading expeditions to the southern coast of the Red Sea?
 - b. What objects were brought back to Egypt?
 - c. How old was Moroccan explorer Abu Ibn Battuta when he began his pilgrimage?
 - d. Prince Henry the Navigator sent ships along the West Coast of Africa. One of his expeditions helped to disprove a myth about sailing on the ocean in that part of the world. What was this myth?
 - e. How far south did Prince Henry’s ships sail?
 - f. Why was Bartolomeu Dias and his exploration so important?
 - g. What can you infer from the name that he gave to the southern-most point in Africa?
3. Europe. Read the text and answer the following questions.
 - a. What group of people were the first to explore the Mediterranean by sea? When were they accomplishing this feat?
 - b. How was this group able to sustain long voyages? (not at sea the entire time)
 - c. Pytheas was an amazing Greek explorer. Describe his travels and what he is known for connecting together?
 - d. The Vikings moved throughout Northern Europe. What was their main purpose for using the oceans?
4. Asia. Read the text and answer the following questions
 - a. What was the driving force for the beginning exploration of the Indian Ocean coast?
 - b. Followers of Buddhism in the 600’s were very intent on expanding their knowledge of the world. What did Xuanzang and I Ching both do at the end of their travels to help preserve the information that they gained?
 - c. Describe Zeng He’s first journey. De sure to include the size of his crew and ships, where they traveled and when the trip took place.
 - d. Describe what Vasco Da Gama’s contribution to the exploration of Asia entailed.
5. Australia and Oceania
 - a. Where is Oceania located?
 - b. Describe the general progression of the human settlement of Oceania.
 - c. What did the Polynesian settlers use to successfully navigate back and forth between islands?
 - d. Describe the adventures of the first voyage of English Captain James Cook. Include when and where they sailed and what discoveries (info) did they bring back to Europe?
 - e. Describe the adventures of the second voyage of English Captain James Cook. Include when and where they sailed and what discoveries (info) did they bring back to Europe?
6. North America
 - a. Describe the first European exploration and settlement of North America. Who led the expedition, when did it occur, and, according to the map, where was this settlement located?
 - b. One of the most famous explorations of North America occurred in the late 15th century. Describe this trip, be sure to include where Columbus actually landed.
 - c. Describe the expedition led by Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo.
 - d. Hudson Bay is named for Henry Hudson, what was he trying to find and what happened on his expedition?
 - e. Where is the Bering Sea? Describe the expedition that gave its name to this area.
 - f. Describe Captain James Cook’s 3rd and final voyage.

7. South America

- a. Which countries focused their explorations of South America in the 15th century?
- b. Describe Vespucci's two journeys and why they are so important.
- c. Vasco Nunez de Balboa, a Spanish conquistador led the first expedition to make a very important crossing. Where did they cross and what did they see?
- d. Ferdinand Magellan made a very important voyage of discovery, describe his efforts and the results.

8. Circumnavigation

- a. Summarize the final leg of Magellan's journey after crossing into the Pacific.
- b. These journeys were very difficult at this time in human history. Use Sir Francis Drake to describe how dangerous these expeditions were.

9. Antarctica

- a. Describe why explorers were interested in sailing to the South Pole?
- b. Two important expeditions attempted to reach the South Pole in the Early 1900's. Who was leading the expedition that won, and what happened to the second team?
- c. Describe the incredible journey of Shackleton and his crew. Why do you think this is considered one of the most remarkable explorations of the Oceans?