

Grade 3 History & Geography

Unit 6: Exploration of North America

6 lessons and a unit quiz. Use this pack with the **Exploration of North America Student Reader** (print it, or download it once from the course) to teach the whole unit without the internet.

What is in this pack

- A lesson plan for each chapter: the Big Question, words to know, which pages to read, questions to talk over and the activity pages.
- The unit quiz, ready to print.
- Answers for the teacher at the back: every discussion question and the quiz key.

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Lesson schedule

Two or three lessons a week, about 30 minutes each. Tick each one off as you go.

	Lesson	Reader pages	Activity pages
☐	Chapter 1: Early Spanish Explorers	PDF pages 30–37	AP 1.1, AP 1.2, AP 1.3
☐	Chapter 2: De Soto’s Long March	PDF pages 38–43	AP 1.1, AP 2.1, AP 2.2, AP 2.3
☐	Chapter 3: The Search for El Dorado	PDF pages 44–51	AP 1.1, AP 1.3, AP 2.1, AP 3.1
☐	Chapter 4: Spanish North America	PDF pages 52–59	AP 1.1, AP 1.2, AP 2.1
☐	Chapter 5: Exploring for England	PDF pages 60–67	AP 1.1, AP 1.3, AP 2.1, AP 5.1
☐	Chapter 6: Champlain and New France	PDF pages 68–73	AP 1.1, AP 1.3, AP 2.1, AP 6.1, AP 6.2
☐	Unit quiz	—	—

Page numbers are the PDF page numbers of the Student Reader file, so they match what your PDF reader shows.

Chapter 1: Early Spanish Explorers

THE BIG QUESTION

What were European explorers searching for when they sailed west?

Words to know

- **spice** — a plant used to add flavor to food *Pepper is a spice.*
- **colony** — an area, region, or country that is controlled and settled by people from another country *Mexico was once a colony of Spain.*
- **empire** — a group of countries or territories under the control of one government or one ruler *At one time, Spain had a huge empire in North and South America.*
- **expedition** — a special journey taken by a group that has a clear purpose or goal *Ponce de León first led an expedition in what is now Florida.*
- **settlement** — a small village *Champlain established the settlement of Quebec.*

Read

Read Chapter 1 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 30–37. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What were European explorers looking for? What did they find instead?
2. What three beliefs guided Columbus's voyage?
3. What two things did the Spanish eventually build in the new land Columbus came upon?
4. What did the Spanish do to control Mexico?
5. What was Ponce de León looking for? Why?
6. What did Ponce de León actually find?
7. Who lived in Florida when Ponce de León landed there?
8. What happened when Ponce de León tried to set up a Spanish settlement in Florida?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: What were European explorers searching for when they sailed west?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1: World Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 126
- Activity Page 1.2: Planning a Trip to Canada — Teacher Guide PDF page 127

- Activity Page 1.3: Explorers Chart — Teacher Guide PDF page 128

Chapter 2: De Soto's Long March

THE BIG QUESTION

What regions in North America did de Soto explore, and what was he looking for?

Words to know

- **exploit** — to take unfair advantage of a person or group *Some European explorers in North America soon began to exploit the Native Americans.*
- **armor** — a metal outer covering worn to protect the body in battle *Spanish explorers wore armor when fighting the Native Americans.*
- **disease** — sickness *Many Native Americans died from disease after contact with the European explorers.*
- **smallpox** — a serious disease that spreads from person to person and causes a fever and rash *Thousands of Native Americans died from smallpox.*
- **pioneer** — one of the first people to settle in a region *Long ago, one of Juan's relatives was a pioneer in Texas.*

Read

Read Chapter 2 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 38–43. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. How did de Soto first become rich?
2. Why did de Soto return to the Americas for the second time?
3. Why did de Soto bring weapons on an expedition of exploration?
4. What advantages did de Soto and his men have over the Native Americans?
5. How did de Soto exploit the Native Americans he met in Florida?
6. Why did the Native Americans tell de Soto he could find gold and silver if he traveled farther north and west?
7. Why does the author say that diseases were more harmful to Native Americans than weapons?
8. Why is the Mississippi River the most important river in the United States?
9. Why might de Soto have considered his expedition a failure?
10. Even though de Soto did not find what he was looking for, his expedition was important. Why?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: What regions in North America did de Soto explore, and what was he looking for?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1: World Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 126
- Activity Page 2.1: The Story of Canada — Teacher Guide PDF page 129
- Activity Page 2.2: Early Spanish Exploration and Settlement — Teacher Guide PDF page 130
- Activity Page 2.3: Domain Vocabulary: Chapters 1-2 — Teacher Guide PDF page 131

Chapter 3: The Search for El Dorado

THE BIG QUESTION

Why did Coronado and others explore what is now the American Southwest?

Words to know

- **rainforest** — a thick forest that gets a lot of rain and has very tall trees; the tops of the trees create an unbroken layer, or canopy, across the top *The Amazon rainforest is in South America.*
- **plain** — a large area of flat land that has few or no trees *The explorers found it easier to travel across the flat plain than to climb the steep mountains.*
- **livestock** — the animals kept on a farm *Farmers raise livestock, such as cows.*
- **scouting party** — a few members of a group who are sent out ahead of the rest of the group to get information about an area *Ponce de León sent out a scouting party to find the Fountain of Youth.*
- **canyon** — a deep valley between mountains, cut through the rock by river water *The Grand Canyon in Arizona is one of the natural wonders of the world.*

Read

Read Chapter 3 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 44–51. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What did people believe about the city of El Dorado?
2. What were some of the names for the city of gold used by different explorers?
3. How many cities of gold supposedly existed?
4. Where did explorers search for this city or cities of gold?
5. What was Coronado looking for on his expedition?
6. What were the Seven Cities of Cibola really?
7. What else did Coronado and his men find in their search for cities of gold?
8. Although Coronado and his men did not find gold, did they find anything of value during their exploration?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: Why did Coronado and others explore what is now the American Southwest?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1: World Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 126
- Activity Page 1.3: Explorers Chart — Teacher Guide PDF page 128
- Activity Page 2.1: The Story of Canada — Teacher Guide PDF page 129
- Activity Page 3.1: Map of Canada — Teacher Guide PDF page 132

Chapter 4: Spanish North America

THE BIG QUESTION

Why did the Spanish decide to build settlements in North America, north of Mexico?

Words to know

- **conquistador** — the Spanish word for conqueror *Spain sent many conquistadors to North and South America.*
- **Roman Catholic Church** — the branch of Christianity led by the pope, whose headquarters are in Rome, Italy. *Many Spanish explorers were members of the Roman Catholic Church.*
- **priest** — a person who has the training or authority to carry out certain religious ceremonies or rituals *At the wedding ceremony, the priest blessed the couple.*
- **mission** — a settlement built for the purpose of converting Native Americans to Christianity *The Spanish built missions to spread their religion and culture in their North American colonies.*
- **presidio** — a fort *The Spanish troops at the presidio stopped the Native American warriors.*
- **blacksmith** — a type of craftsman who makes iron tools by hand *The blacksmith made a sword for the soldier.*

Read

Read Chapter 4 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 52–59. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. Why did the Spanish build forts and settlements on the coast of Florida?
2. What did Pedro Menéndez de Avilés do in 1565?
3. What is special about St. Augustine today?
4. What was the purpose of Spanish missions?
5. What were the presidios? How were they similar to Spanish missions?
6. What did the Native Americans gain by joining a Spanish mission? What did they have to give up?
7. What types of work did the Native Americans perform at the mission?
8. Who was Father Junípero Serra?
9. Who were the Pueblo people?
10. What did the Spanish do to the Pueblo who refused to give up their religion and become Christians?

11. What did Popé do?
12. Did Popé and the Pueblo succeed in reclaiming their land?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: Why did the Spanish decide to build settlements in North America, north of Mexico?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1: World Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 126
- Activity Page 1.2: Planning a Trip to Canada — Teacher Guide PDF page 127
- Activity Page 2.1: The Story of Canada — Teacher Guide PDF page 129

Chapter 5: Exploring for England

THE BIG QUESTION

What were John Cabot and Henry Hudson looking for?

Words to know

- **merchant** — a person who buys and sells goods to earn money *The merchant sold food and clothes at the settlement.*
- **trading center** — a place where people buy and sell goods *The farmers brought their harvest to the trading center to sell.*
- **fleet** — a group of ships sailing together with the same purpose and under the direction of the same leader *King Henry gave John Cabot a small fleet to explore the North American coast.*
- **Northwest Passage** — a sea route connecting the Atlantic Ocean and Pacific Ocean *Many English explorers searched for a Northwest Passage so they could reach Asia faster.*
- **mutiny** — a rebellion of a ship's crew against the captain *Months of cold weather and little food led to a mutiny by Henry Hudson's crew.*

Read

Read Chapter 5 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 60–67. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. Where was Cabot born, and what did he do for work?
2. Why did Cabot move to Spain?
3. Why did Cabot explore for England?
4. What was the result of Cabot's first voyage?
5. What was the goal of Cabot's second voyage? What happened on that voyage?
6. Why were explorers looking for the Northwest Passage?
7. What did explorers gain from their searches for the Northwest Passage?
8. Whom did Henry Hudson work for? What was he hired to do?
9. What was Hudson's plan for his voyage?
10. Why did Hudson change his plans?
11. What great river did Hudson find along the east coast of North America? For what country did he claim this area?
12. On Hudson's final voyage, where did he sail? What was it like?
13. Why did Hudson's crew commit mutiny?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: What were John Cabot and Henry Hudson looking for?
- Use one of today's words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1: World Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 126
- Activity Page 1.3: Explorers Chart — Teacher Guide PDF page 128
- Activity Page 2.1: The Story of Canada — Teacher Guide PDF page 129
- Activity Page 5.1: Domain Vocabulary: Chapters 3-5 — Teacher Guide PDF pages 133-134

Chapter 6: Champlain and New France

THE BIG QUESTION

What were some of the things that Champlain noticed about the St. Lawrence River Valley that made it a good place to settle?

Words to know

- **custom** — a traditional way of acting or doing something *It is an American custom to make a wish when blowing out the candles on a birthday cake.*
- **natural resource** — something from nature that is useful to humans *John Cabot discovered that fish were a natural resource found in abundance in North America.*
- **trading post** — a small settlement or store that is set up to sell or trade goods *The French built a trading post along the St. Lawrence River.*

Read

Read Chapter 6 in the Student Reader: PDF pages 68–73. Look at the pictures and maps together.

Talk it over

1. What was Champlain searching for in his voyages to North America?
2. Why was the St. Lawrence River Valley a good place to establish a settlement?
3. How did the French treat Native Americans? How was this different from the way the Spanish treated Native Americans?
4. What role did the St. Lawrence River have on the French exploration of the North American continent? What did they find?
5. Which of the five Great Lakes did Champlain explore?
6. What does the author mean by “One of the most remarkable things about the exploration of North America is how much was accomplished by accident”?

Answers are at the back of this pack.

Check for understanding

- Answer the Big Question in a sentence or two: What were some of the things that Champlain noticed about the St. Lawrence River Valley that made it a good place to settle?
- Use one of today’s words in a sentence of your own.

Activity pages

- Activity Page 1.1: World Map — Teacher Guide PDF page 126
- Activity Page 1.3: Explorers Chart — Teacher Guide PDF page 128
- Activity Page 2.1: The Story of Canada — Teacher Guide PDF page 129

- Activity Page 6.1: The Search for the Northwest Passage — Teacher Guide PDF page 135
- Activity Page 6.2: Explorers Review — Teacher Guide PDF page 136

UNIT QUIZ

Exploration of North America

Name: _____ Date: _____

Circle the letter of the best answer.

1. In 1492, Columbus claimed the land he found for the king and queen of what country?
 - a) Italy
 - b) Spain
 - c) America
 - d) England
2. Who was the first Spaniard to explore the lands that are now part of the southern east coast of the United States?
 - a) Juan Ponce de León
 - b) Francisco Vázquez de Coronado
 - c) Christopher Columbus
 - d) Junípero Serra
3. What place was Ponce de León searching for?
 - a) the Northwest Passage
 - b) the Grand Canyon
 - c) the Fountain of Youth
 - d) the Seven Cities of Cibola
4. Who was the first European to see the Mississippi River?
 - a) Christopher Columbus
 - b) Henry Hudson
 - c) El Dorado
 - d) Hernando de Soto
5. What was the legend of El Dorado about?
 - a) a famous city or cities of gold
 - b) a famous city of silver
 - c) a real city in Florida
 - d) a big canyon
6. What was Coronado searching for in the American Southwest?
 - a) Mississippi River
 - b) Seven Cities of Cibola
 - c) the Rocky Mountains
 - d) Northwest Passage
7. Who were the conquistadors?
 - a) Spanish priests
 - b) Spanish conquerors
 - c) Native Americans of the Southwest
 - d) rulers of El Dorado

- 8.** What is the oldest continuing European settlement in the United States?
- a) the Alamo
 - b) Wichita
 - c) Santa Fe
 - d) St. Augustine
- 9.** What were the religious settlements that the Spaniards built in the Southwest called?
- a) presidios
 - b) vaqueros
 - c) missions
 - d) conquistadors
- 10.** Who led the Pueblo a rebellion against the Spanish?
- a) St. Augustine
 - b) San Marcos
 - c) Popé
 - d) Champlain
- 11.** What area did Henry Hudson explore?
- a) eastern Canada and the northeastern U.S. coast
 - b) the Mississippi River
 - c) the American Southwest
 - d) the Pacific Coast of North America
- 12.** Where is the river named for Henry Hudson located?
- a) Canada
 - b) Newfoundland
 - c) New York
 - d) Florida
- 13.** What did Champlain name the settlement he founded?
- a) Florida
 - b) Quebec
 - c) Newfoundland
 - d) Bimini
- 14.** Which body of water did Champlain explore for France?
- a) the Caribbean Sea
 - b) the Mississippi River
 - c) the Hudson River
 - d) the St. Lawrence River
- 15.** What were most early European explorers in the Americas looking for?
- a) riches or a passage to Asia
 - b) good farmland
 - c) a place to build colonies
 - d) a new home for themselves

Answers

Chapter 1: Early Spanish Explorers

1. **What were European explorers looking for? What did they find instead?**
Explorers were looking for a shortcut to the East Indies. Instead, they found the West Indies and the Americas.
2. **What three beliefs guided Columbus's voyage?**
He believed that the world was round, that it was smaller than most people thought, and that he could get from Europe to Asia by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean.
3. **What two things did the Spanish eventually build in the new land Columbus came upon?**
They built colonies and an empire.
4. **What did the Spanish do to control Mexico?**
The Spanish conquered the Aztec people of Mexico.
5. **What was Ponce de León looking for? Why?**
He was looking for the island of Bimini he heard about in stories because he hoped to find gold, pearls, and the Fountain of Youth.
6. **What did Ponce de León actually find?**
He found land he called Florida.
7. **Who lived in Florida when Ponce de León landed there?**
Native Americans
8. **What happened when Ponce de León tried to set up a Spanish settlement in Florida?**
The Native Americans who lived in Florida attacked the Spanish and drove them away.

Chapter 2: De Soto's Long March

1. **How did de Soto first become rich?**
He was part of the expedition that conquered the Inca Empire and exploited the people and riches of Peru.
2. **Why did de Soto return to the Americas for the second time?**
He wanted to find more riches.
3. **Why did de Soto bring weapons on an expedition of exploration?**
He knew Native Americans had fought Ponce de León, and he wanted to be prepared for the same thing if it happened again.
4. **What advantages did de Soto and his men have over the Native Americans?**
The Spaniards had European weapons, horses, and armor. They also unknowingly brought diseases that weakened and killed many Native Americans.
5. **How did de Soto exploit the Native Americans he met in Florida?**
He burned Native American villages and forced Native Americans into slavery.

6. **Why did the Native Americans tell de Soto he could find gold and silver if he traveled farther north and west?**

They wanted de Soto and his men to leave them in peace.

7. **Why does the author say that diseases were more harmful to Native Americans than weapons?**

European diseases killed thousands of Native Americans, even after the Spanish left.

8. **Why is the Mississippi River the most important river in the United States?**

It flows almost the entire length of the United States, from Minnesota to the Gulf of Mexico. It is the center of a network of rivers used by Native Americans and pioneers and farmers in the American West. The Mississippi is still used today.

9. **Why might de Soto have considered his expedition a failure?**

He did not find the gold he was looking for.

10. **Even though de Soto did not find what he was looking for, his expedition was important. Why?**

His explorations paved the way for future exploration of North America.

Chapter 3: The Search for El Dorado

1. **What did people believe about the city of El Dorado?**

It was far away. It glowed. It was a city of gold with silver and gems on the buildings. No one there was ever hungry, thirsty, or worried. People were always happy.

2. **What were some of the names for the city of gold used by different explorers?**

El Dorado, Cibola, Manoa, or Quivira

3. **How many cities of gold supposedly existed?**

Some said only one city of gold existed. Others said there were seven cities of gold located near each other.

4. **Where did explorers search for this city or cities of gold?**

They searched from the Amazon rainforest to the plains of Kansas, the American Southwest, the Rocky Mountains, and along the Rio Grande.

5. **What was Coronado looking for on his expedition?**

He wanted to find the Seven Cities of Cibola.

6. **What were the Seven Cities of Cibola really?**

They were a group of Native American Zuni villages.

7. **What else did Coronado and his men find in their search for cities of gold?**

They found the Grand Canyon and a village of Native American Wichita people in what is now Kansas.

8. **Although Coronado and his men did not find gold, did they find anything of value during their exploration?**

They found many places previously not known to Spanish explorers. They gained great knowledge of the places they searched.

Chapter 4: Spanish North America

1. **Why did the Spanish build forts and settlements on the coast of Florida?**
Spanish ships with treasures from South America sailed past the coast of Florida on their way to Spain. English, Dutch, and French pirate ships often tried to steal the treasure headed to Spain. The Spanish built forts and settlements along the coast of Florida to protect their treasure ships from pirates.
2. **What did Pedro Menéndez de Avilés do in 1565?**
He set up the colony of St. Augustine in Florida.
3. **What is special about St. Augustine today?**
It is the oldest continuing European settlement in the United States.
4. **What was the purpose of Spanish missions?**
Their purpose was to convert Native Americans to Christianity.
5. **What were the presidios? How were they similar to Spanish missions?**
The presidios were forts. Like the missions, they helped the Spanish control Native Americans.
6. **What did the Native Americans gain by joining a Spanish mission? What did they have to give up?**
At the mission, they received food and a safe place to live. However, they had to give up most of their old ways of living, including their religious beliefs.
7. **What types of work did the Native Americans perform at the mission?**
They worked in the fields, orchards, and vineyards. They also worked as carpenters, blacksmiths, and weavers. Women made pottery and wove baskets.
8. **Who was Father Junípero Serra?**
He was a Spanish priest who set up several missions in California.
9. **Who were the Pueblo people?**
They were Native Americans who lived in the area of New Mexico at the time of Spanish conquest.
10. **What did the Spanish do to the Pueblo who refused to give up their religion and become Christians?**
They were enslaved, punished, or killed.
11. **What did Popé do?**
He led the Pueblo in a rebellion against the Spanish to take back their land.
12. **Did Popé and the Pueblo succeed in reclaiming their land?**
Yes, but only for a short period of time (twelve years). The Spanish managed to take back the same land several years later.

Chapter 5: Exploring for England

1. **Where was Cabot born, and what did he do for work?**
He was born in Italy and was a merchant.
2. **Why did Cabot move to Spain?**
The Spanish king and queen were sending explorers across the Atlantic to look for spices and more riches. Cabot wanted to explore. He hoped the Spanish king and

queen would send him on a journey to explore.

3. **Why did Cabot explore for England?**

He tried unsuccessfully to get Spain and Portugal to give him a fleet, so he moved to England and was able to persuade King Henry VII to give him a fleet to find a way to the East Indies.

4. **What was the result of Cabot's first voyage?**

He did not reach the East Indies and instead explored an island off the coast of eastern Canada. He also explored the rich northeast Atlantic fishing waters.

5. **What was the goal of Cabot's second voyage? What happened on that voyage?**

The goal of Cabot's second voyage was to find a new trade route to the Spice Islands. Instead, he and his crew disappeared.

6. **Why were explorers looking for the Northwest Passage?**

They wanted a way to get to Asia, especially the Spice Islands, by going through North America.

7. **What did explorers gain from their searches for the Northwest Passage?**

They gained knowledge that led to more accurate maps, including the knowledge that North America was large enough to be a continent.

8. **Whom did Henry Hudson work for? What was he hired to do?**

He worked for the Dutch East India Company. He was hired to find a passage to the Spice Islands in the East.

9. **What was Hudson's plan for his voyage?**

He planned to sail over the top of the world—up the coast of Norway and along the northern coast of Russia.

10. **Why did Hudson change his plans?**

The weather was very cold as he sailed north, and the crew grew unhappy. To prevent the crew from turning against him, he changed course and sailed west to North America.

11. **What great river did Hudson find along the east coast of North America? For what country did he claim this area?**

He found the river that is now called the Hudson River, which flows out of New York State past New York City. He claimed this area for the Netherlands (the Dutch).

12. **On Hudson's final voyage, where did he sail? What was it like?**

He sailed northwest, north of Greenland and Iceland, and into a great sea he thought was the Pacific Ocean. The weather was very cold.

13. **Why did Hudson's crew commit mutiny?**

The crew was angry at the months of travel in cold weather and the lack of food.

Chapter 6: Champlain and New France

1. **What was Champlain searching for in his voyages to North America?**

He searched for the Northwest Passage.

2. **Why was the St. Lawrence River Valley a good place to establish a settlement?**

The area had many natural resources.

3. **How did the French treat Native Americans? How was this different from the way the Spanish treated Native Americans?**

The French traded with the Native Americans. This was different from the Spanish treatment because it was peaceful. The Spanish tried to conquer and enslave Native Americans and pushed them to give up their ways of living.

4. **What role did the St. Lawrence River have on the French exploration of the North American continent? What did they find?**

The St. Lawrence River led Champlain and other French explorers away from the coast, deep into the North American continent. They found five very large lakes that today are called the Great Lakes.

5. **Which of the five Great Lakes did Champlain explore?**

Lake Ontario and Lake Huron

6. **What does the author mean by “One of the most remarkable things about the exploration of North America is how much was accomplished by accident”?**

It means that explorers were not looking for the places they found. In some cases, they didn't know for sure where they were.

Unit quiz key

1. b 2. a 3. c 4. d 5. a 6. b 7. b 8. d 9. c 10. c 11. a 12. c 13. b 14. d 15. a