

# The Age of Exploration Project

“The first explorers who came to North America were trying to find an easier way to reach the rich markets of Asia. Instead they found a continent with great riches and people of its own. These people, the Native Americans, were rich in furs. Later, the Europeans set up trading posts for furs and settlements in these lands.”

This activity will emphasize in-depth research of one explorer and his travels, including an investigation of the impact of exploration on the many countries and locations involved.

## Part I: The Trading Card

Choose one explorer and create an enlarged 8.5 x 11 “trading card.”

Each card should include:

- |  | Check |
|--|-------|
| ● A picture of the explorer on one side with his name              | _____ |
| ● A map showing starting point and areas that were explored        | _____ |
| ● A detailed description of his life and accomplishments:          |       |
| ○ Dates when he was born and died                                  | _____ |
| ○ Identifies explorer’s country of origin. Where did he come from? | _____ |
| ○ The year(s) he explored  | _____ |
| ○ The duration(s) of his voyage(s)                                 | _____ |
| ○ Identifies the areas explored                                    | _____ |
| ○ The effects of exploration on the area                           | _____ |

Format of Trading Card

- |  | Check |
|--|-------|
| ● Explorer’s name is clearly visible on the poster           | _____ |
| ● Cites at least 3 sources                                   | _____ |
| ● Correctly formatted Works Cited page                       | _____ |
| ● Map is colorful and adds to overall presentation           | _____ |
| ● Trading card is neat, colorful, organized, and informative | _____ |

## Part II: Explorer Diary

Place yourself in the shoes of your explorer. You will be creating 3 separate journal entries from the point of view of the explorer you have chosen. Although you are making up the events, they should be based on things that could have really happened during that time period. Each entry should be 1-2 paragraphs in length.

**ENTRY 1:** Describe the day you left your homeland. Talk about different feelings you experienced, and what it was like to prepare for this voyage.

**ENTRY 2:** Share one event that happened during your voyage to the New World.

**ENTRY 3:** Discuss what it was like to arrive at your destination and come face to face with the Native Americans who already inhabited the land.

## Part III: Presentation

At the conclusion of this project, you will have to give a 3-minute presentation about your explorer.

Ferdinand Magellan (1519)

Juan Bautista de Anza (1736-1788)

Amerigo Vespucci (1454-1512)

Sir Humphrey Gilbert (1539-1583)

Alvar Nunez Cabeza de Vaca (1490-1557)

Baron Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859)

Giovanni De Verrazano (1524)

Eric the Red (986)

Leif Eriksson (1000)

Pedro Menendez de Aviles (1560)

Giovanni Caboto (John Cabot) (1497)

Sieur (Robert) de La Salle (1682)

Vasco Nunez de Balboa (1513)

Vitus Bering (1728-1741)

Ponce de Leon (1513)

Sir Alexander Mackenzie (1789)

Hernando Cortes (1519-1521)

Pedro Alvarez Cabral (1500)

Jacques Cartier (1534)

Francisco Orellana (1541)

Francisco Vasquez de Coronado (1540-1542)

Willem C. Schouten (1615)

Hernando de Alarcon (1540)

William Baffin (1616)

Hernando de Soto (1541)

Jacques Marquette (1673)

Martin Frobisher (1576)

Louis Jolliet (1673)

Samuel de Champlain (1604)

Henry Hudson (1610)

