



Year 4

Explorers topic - extended homework

Your task is to answer the seven key questions below and present the information in a booklet that you will hand in to your teacher. You should also make a cover or title page for your booklet - this can be done by hand or by using a computer.

ALL the writing in your booklet **MUST** be your own work, even though you will get ideas and information from many different sources. A list of websites is given on the last page to help you and there are many books in the library that may be useful.

Key Questions

- 1 Where was your explorer from?
- 2 Where did the explorer go?
- 3 When did they live?
- 4 How did they travel?
- 5 What did they find?
- 6 What do you think was the biggest problem that the explorer faced? How did they solve it?
- 7 Why do you think it is important that we remember this explorer?

DO NOT try to complete this project by printing, or copying, information directly from another source. It is important that you write in your own words and give **YOUR** own opinions to answer these questions. Information that does not answer the questions will be ignored by your teacher when they look at your work.



How to answer the questions:

1 Where was your explorer from?

Find out where the explorer was born and where they began their journey. Mark these places on a map of the world, perhaps using a coloured pencil. Make sure you include a key!

2 Where did the explorer go?

You will be able to find maps for most journeys on the internet. You should copy the journey as accurately as possible, including the names of all the countries visited. You can include dates next to places if you like. Again, use colour to show the route your explorer took when you show it on the map.

3 When did they live?

Draw a timeline to show your explorer's life. To make your project more interesting you should also include important dates from the lives of three other explorers as well (you can easily find this information at: <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/explorers/>)

4 How did they travel?

5 What did they find?

These two questions can be answered by carefully reading a biography of the explorer. You can find these at the websites listed at the end of this information.

6. What do you think was the biggest problem that the explorer faced? How did they solve it?

7. Why do you think it is important that we remember about this explorer?

These two questions are the hardest to answer. They need you to form your own opinion and explain your answer using facts as evidence. There is no right answer to these questions, but you must be able to explain your answer carefully.

You will not be able to answer either of these questions in one or two sentences.

Explain your answer carefully and in detail. An answer to Question 6 might read:

I think that the greatest problem faced by Columbus was finding his way across the ocean. Nobody had ever sailed in this direction before and so there were no maps to help. He did not even know how long his journey would take so it was difficult to know how much equipment and supplies to take. He was able to navigate using instruments like the cross staff and the quadrant which were not very accurate. However, I do not think he did solve this problem as when he first reached the Americas he really believed he had got to Asia. I think he was a brave man but he was also very lucky.

*Enjoy exploring the Information about explorers!
We look forward to reading your completed project.*

Vocabulary

- Source** What historians (like you!) use to find their information. A book, picture, diary, site on the Internet or object can be a source if it tells you about the past.
- Evidence** A piece of information found in a source that can be used to explain what happened in the past and why.
- Fact** A piece of information that is true. For example, 'Cortes sailed to Mexico in 1519,' is a historical fact.
- Opinion** What you, or other people, think about something. eg. 'Cortes was a bad man because he tricked the Aztecs,' is an opinion. You will have your own opinions, but try to use facts to explain them.

Websites to help you collect information

Choosing an explorer

<http://www.enchantedlearning.com/explorers/> and <http://www.chenowith.k12.or.us/tech/subject/social/explore.html> have a list of many explorers with a brief biography about each. Read this to choose which explorer you might like to find out about.

Using the Internet to research your explorer

<http://kids.yahoo.com/directory/School-Bell/Social-Studies/History/By-Subject/Exploration/Explorers>

Select the explorer you are interested in from the alphabetical list, this will give you much of the information you will need.

Some of the better links for famous explorers are,

Marco Polo	http://www.metmuseum.org/explore/Marco/get.html
Christopher Columbus	http://www.mariner.org/educationalad/ageofex/Columbus.php
Ibn Battuta	http://www.sfusd.edu/schwww/sch618/Ibn_Battuta/Ibn_Battuta_Rihla.html
Ferdinand Magellan	http://www.mariner.org/educationalad/ageofex/Magellan.php

Important advice

The Internet has a lot of information about explorers and can be very helpful. However, not all of the information is useful for this piece of work. Some of it has been written for adults and will be very difficult to understand.

If the language and vocabulary on a site is too difficult, do not waste time trying to read lots of text that might only confuse you. Instead, try using the search engine www.google.com and type in the keyword 'explorers' for general information, or, the name of your chosen explorer for more specific information.

You can use other sources of information such as books and CD-ROMs to collect facts as well.