

Your student has been instructed to give specific details describing how the following events, advancements, and people contributed to the Age of Exploration. The answer below is meant to be exhaustive; your student should provide roughly half of this.

## CRUSADES

- Crusaders returning with stories of their adventures heightened European interest in foreign lands and in the products of the Far East.
- The loss of Constantinople to the Turks closed a major land route for merchants seeking riches from the East, so they began to seek alternate routes.
- The crusading spirit had been a unifying factor against the Muslims. With the defeat of the Muslims at Grenada by the Spanish, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella were open to other outside interests that would lead to financial and economic gain for their country. They would eventually sponsor Columbus's famous voyage across the Atlantic.

## RENAISSANCE

- The revival of learning fueled a desire to explore and experience the lands beyond Europe.
- Scholars had new opportunities for advances because of the books being printed and read.
- The influence of humanism sparked an active pursuit of human accomplishments and interests, including exploration.

## TECHNOLOGICAL ADVANCES

- The development of the *caravel*, a new kind of ship that combined square sails with the triangular sateen sails used by Muslims, made long voyages possible.
- The use of the astrolabe and the quadrant, instruments that enabled sailors to determine latitude more accurately, enabled sailors to navigate waters far from land.

## PRINCE HENRY THE NAVIGATOR

- Prince Henry of Portugal is credited with beginning the Age of Discovery in the early 1400's. Desiring to find a sea route to the East, Henry organized and sponsored many voyages of exploration, though he never went on any himself.
- His expeditions and ships explored much of the west coast of Africa.

## BARTOLOMEU DIAS

- Bartolomeu Dias was a Portuguese sea captain and explorer who sought a sea route to Asia. In 1487, he traveled in his fleet of three ships to the southern end of Africa. A fierce storm blew it off course and sent it around the southern tip of Africa, without Dias realizing this monumental occurrence. However, as he returned to Portugal, he sighted the tip of Africa and named it the Cape of Storms, which later was renamed the Cape of Good Hope by King John of Portugal.
- This “accidental” discovery paved the way for subsequent explorers to seek a trade route to India by traveling around Africa’s southern tip.

## CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

- Many Portuguese sailors tried to reach the Indies by sailing around Africa, but Christopher Columbus believed he could find a short cut to the Indies by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean instead.
- After the king of Portugal refused to help him and after waiting many years, Columbus finally received financial aid for his expedition from King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. On August 3, 1492, Columbus and his crew sailed west on the Atlantic Ocean searching for a faster route to the Far East.
- On October 12, 1492, he came upon an island, thinking he had reached the Indies. However, he actually had discovered the New World, an unknown continent which other explorers would later reach.

## VASCO DA GAMA

- Vasco da Gama was another Portuguese sea captain and explorer who took up the mantle of Dias.
- In the late 1490’s, he successfully navigated a fleet of ships around the tip of Africa to India, thus establishing a viable sea route to the East.