

# EXPLORERS

## UNIT OVERVIEW

Interest is at its highest as students explore the world of explorers. This highly adaptable unit is broken into four parts with teachers choosing to do all four sections or simply selecting the parts that best meet the needs of each individual class.

## PART I - EUROPEAN EXPLORERS

Part I is a structured, knowledge-based section focusing on important European explorers from the Vikings to Columbus to Hudson. Students write down a series of overhead notes on each of these explorers and complete a related assignment designed to help the information sink in.

Topics and activities are:

- 1) Reasons For Exploring - Early European Explorers (Map Activity)
- 2) Hardships And Fears - The Explorer Game
- 3) Vikings - Space Colony
- 4) Christopher Columbus - Both Sides of the Story (Newspaper Article)
- 5) John Cabot - The Matthew (Colouring Activity)
- 6) Ferdinand Magellan - Making Sea Biscuits
- 7) Jacques Cartier - Five-Minute Play (Drama/Role Play)
- 8) Henry Hudson - Explorers Crossword (Review)
- 9) John Franklin - Novelette (Reading Aloud, Related Questions)

## PART II - EXPLORERS OF CANADA (Report)

Students focus on explorers relevant to Canada. "Jot Notes" are used to collect useful information for a report without copying information out of encyclopedias.

## PART III - OPTIONAL LESSONS

A series of optional activities helps to build a degree of flexibility into the unit. Optional assignments can be added as separate activities, used to compliment other topics or given as enrichment. These include:

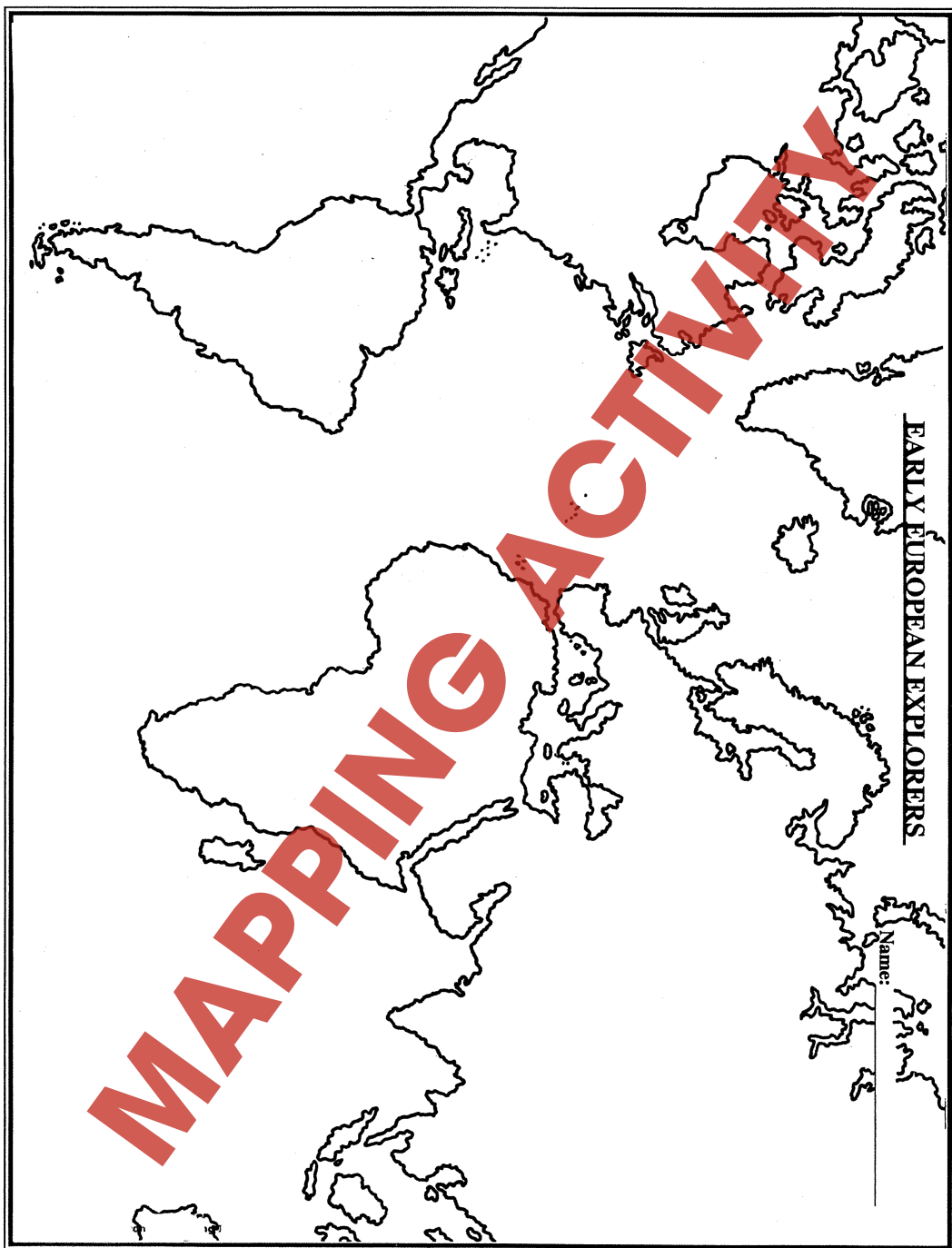
- 1) Orienteering/Scavenger Hunt/Treasure Hunt
- 2) Columbus: The Movie
- 3) Explorers Wordsearch
- 4) Enrichment Crossword
- 5) Giant Map
- 6) Explorer Books
- 7) Explorers Memory Game
- 8) Internet Exploring Activity



## PART IV - EXPLORERS COLOURING BOOK

A collection of seven diagrams and a cover suitable for colouring depicts each of the explorers covered in the notes. The eight diagrams are:

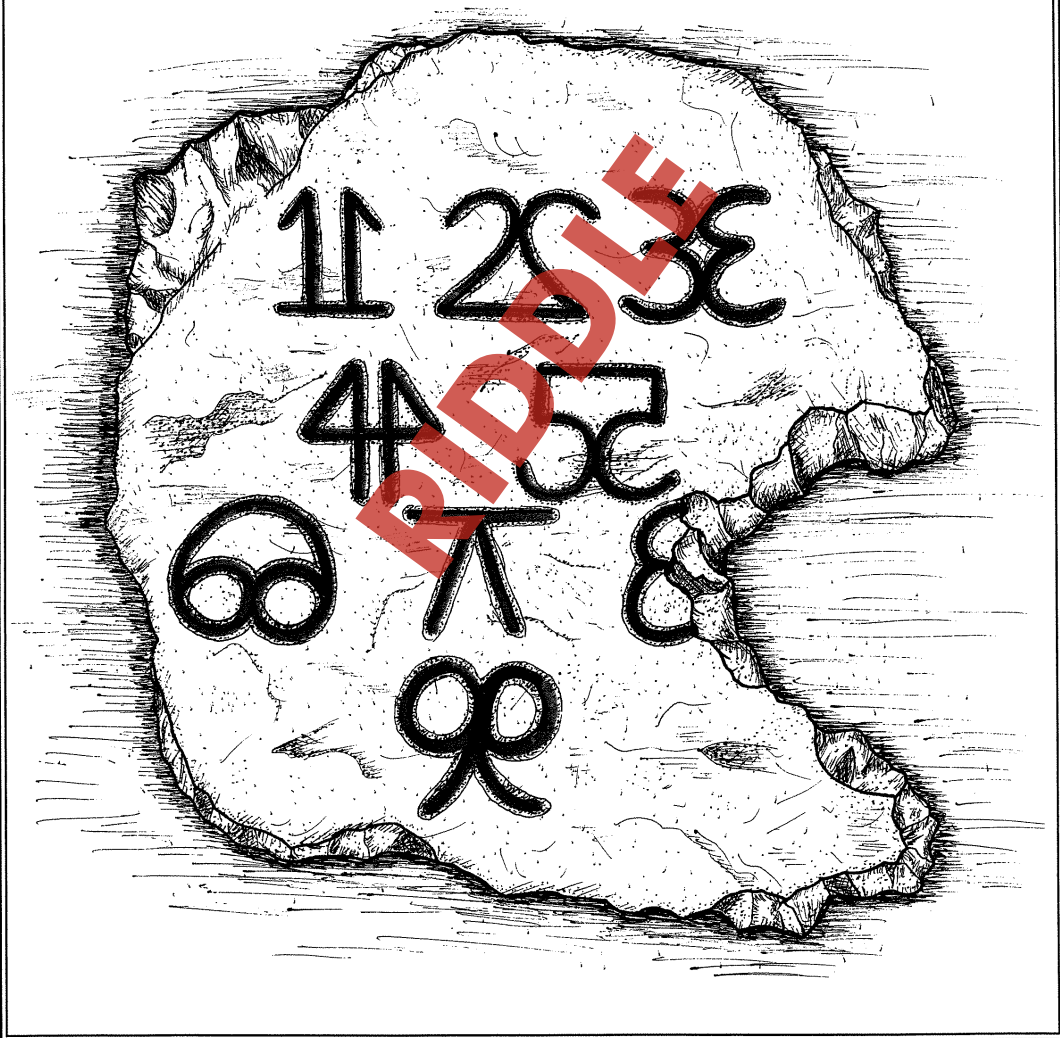
- |                                     |                                 |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1) Cover - "European Explorers"     | 2) Vikings - "Leif the Lucky"   |
| 3) Columbus - "Tierra! Tierra!"     | 4) Cabot - "The Grand Banks"    |
| 5) Magellan - "Pacific Desperation" | 6) Cartier - "Winter Scurvy"    |
| 7) Hudson - "Mutiny!"               | 8) Franklin - "Lost On The Ice" |



**VIKING RUNESTONE RIDDLE**

Instructions: "Runes" were an ancient form of writing used by Norse people. The Vikings kept track of their history in long stories called "sagas". One of these sagas tells the story of Leif Ericson's travels to Vinland.

Try to solve the mystery of the Runestone Riddle and figure out what the symbol that has been damaged should look like.



**SPACE COLONY**

Instructions: You are in charge of starting up a space colony on a far away inhabitable planet and must decide what to take. Remember, the colony should be as self-sufficient as possible since the next space ship from Earth is not expected for another fifty years. (List twenty items)

- |           |           |
|-----------|-----------|
| 1) _____  | 2) _____  |
| 3) _____  | 4) _____  |
| 5) _____  | 6) _____  |
| 7) _____  | 8) _____  |
| 9) _____  | 10) _____ |
| 11) _____ | 12) _____ |
| 13) _____ | 14) _____ |
| 15) _____ | 16) _____ |
| 17) _____ | 18) _____ |
| 19) _____ | 20) _____ |

Instructions: Now that you have decided what to take along, list the three things that you think are the *most important* and explain the reason *why* each is so necessary.

<u>Important Item</u>	<u>Reason Why</u>
1) _____	_____
2) _____	_____
3) _____	_____

\_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_



\_\_\_\_\_

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**THE LOST EXPEDITION**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Overview**

1. Why were English sailors trying to find an ocean route through North America - the Northwest Passage?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. List English explorers who tried unsuccessfully to find the Northwest Passage before Franklin.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 1**

1. Why is Jane Franklin so well known?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What happened on John Franklin's first Arctic expedition by land?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter 2**

1. After his failed job in Australia at the prison colony, why did Franklin push to get the job of exploring the Arctic?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. Why did sailors sign up for Franklin's trip even though conditions at sea were bad?

\_\_\_\_\_

3. List the names of Franklin's two ships that set out in 1845.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_

4. What happened to Franklin and his 129 men?

\_\_\_\_\_

**Hardships and Fears**

European explorers had to overcome many hardships and fears in their long sea travels. Maps were often wrong or incomplete making it difficult to determine where a ship was headed. Most ships of the time were very small (usually about 20-30m in length) and were easily wrecked by a bad ocean storm where waves could reach 20m high.



Living conditions were also difficult onboard the crowded, wooden, sailing ships. A crew of twenty to thirty men and boys had to take along enough food and fresh water to last for months at sea. The sailors ate mostly salted meat and biscuits called "hardtack" as well as a few beans and some cheese. This poor diet and lack of fresh fruit and vitamins resulted in many deaths due to disease and sickness.

Early sailors showed a great deal of courage in dealing with the many fears and superstitions of the time. It was common knowledge that the world was flat and if a person sailed too close to the edge they would fall off. Most people also believed in mythical creatures and sea monsters which was not helped by the fact that almost none of the sailors knew how to swim. If a person ever fell into the water, death was a certainty.



**ENRICHMENT CROSSWORD**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_



**Across**

3. The largest city in B.C. is named after this explorer.
5. Magellan's only ship that made it.
9. Made it to the Pacific by land.
10. Marco Polo visited the court of this powerful eastern leader.
11. These were so plentiful that they are said to have stopped Cabot's ship.
13. Sir Edmund Hillary is the first person to climb this mountain.
14. Captain of the *Prata*.
15. "Cipango" was the name of this present day country.
17. Henry Kelsey worked for this company - the oldest in North America.
20. A sea captain (or beaver) might keep one of these.
22. Although Magellan sailed for Spain he came from this country.
23. America was named after this explorer.
24. Samuel Hearne was searching for this metal.
25. David Thompson was famous for making these.
26. Robert Scott died exploring on this continent.

**Down**

1. Led a disastrous expedition in the north.
2. Radisson's first name.
4. Cortes destroyed this powerful Native empire.
6. The *Santa Maria* was wrecked on this day.
7. Columbus's queen.
8. The first human on the moon.
12. Cartier was from this French fishing port.
16. This spice was said to be worth its weight in silver.
18. This Huron chief had many dealings with Cartier.
19. Henry Stanley is famous for this phrase, "Doctor Livingston I \_\_\_\_\_."
21. Vasco da \_\_\_\_\_ sailed for Portugal.

## EXPLORERS WORDSEARCH

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

E  
 Y L W  
 R B Q T S  
 D Z R O U H W  
 N R E B B U W A E  
 E C H A M P L A I N E  
 R Q S C U D F L Z V H R H  
 E G I Q L A Z I N C A T H A Y  
 V Y B S O G E C E S H N U L H N G  
 A F O I C G F S K W Q S C O R T E S V  
 L S R V S M A R C O P O L O L Z O S N M G  
 Z Q F A G I H H A B Z J A M U N D S E N A N R  
 R H U D S O N E M N H G S R P V L A S A L L E U S  
 G C T E C N A H K Q G W V V E S P U C C I V H  
 Q J R E G R K L N W A T Y R M Z I Y T E N  
 N W A K N U I O J T C O O K H O R S J  
 D G Z E K N Y O Z P H U I P A Q I  
 G B I L P C Y L T L S L C U X  
 V Z J S U H N G E C P O C  
 I C S E W F M C K P M  
 X Q C Y E L O I H  
 X D E E Y Z E  
 U R H I L  
 T Q B  
 F

Amundsen  
 Cabot  
 Cartier  
 Cathay  
 Champlain  
 Columbus  
 Cook

Cortes  
 Da Gama  
 Davis  
 Franklin  
 Fraser  
 Frobisher

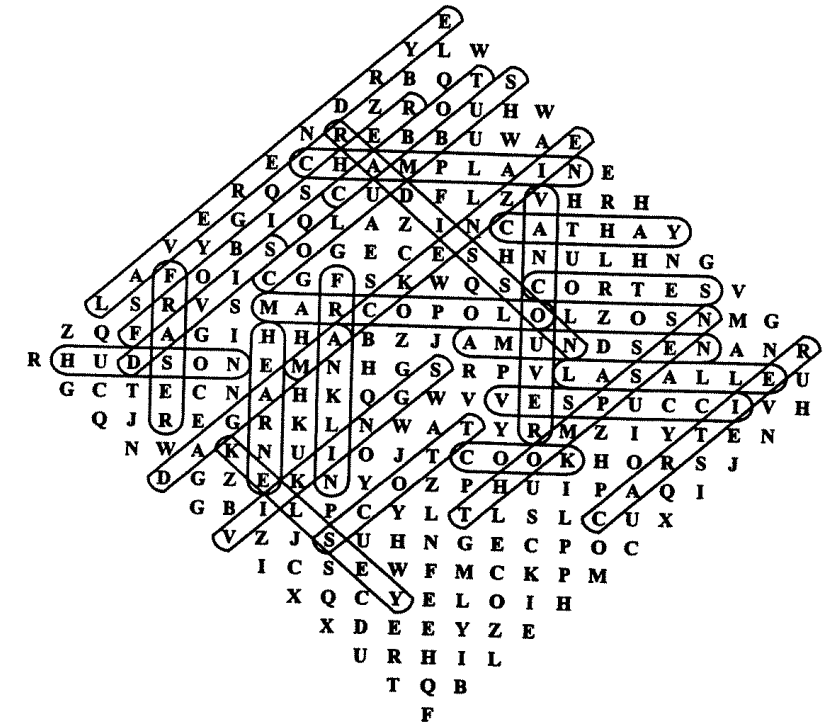
Hudson  
 Kelsey  
 La Salle  
 La Vérendrye  
 Mackenzie  
 Marco Polo

Scott  
 Thompsen  
 Vancouver  
 Vespucci  
 Vikings  
 Hearne  
 Radisson

## AL LESSON #3 - EXPLORERS WORDSEARCH

search for words running horizontally, vertically and diagonally.

Solution



## AL LESSON #4 - EXPLORERS ENRICHMENT CROSSWORD

This crossword is quite difficult and could be used as enrichment. Students will need access to the internet to complete the puzzle since most of the answers are not given in the notes. As a challenge, students could tackle this challenging puzzle in groups.

Solution

