

EXPLORER

RESEARCH PROJECT

Expedition & Time Line

Write a 5 paragraph essay on the aims, obstacles, and accomplishments of your explorer and create a time line of major events.

Part 1

Letters of Perspective

Compose 3 letters from different perspectives relating to your explorer's expedition: sponsor, merchant, and charter letters.

Part 2

Ship's Log~

Crew Member

Write a journal entry describing the day in the life of a crew member.

Part 3

Captain's Log~ Map & Discovery

Write a journal entry describing your discoveries on your expedition(s).

Part 4

THE AGE OF EXPLORATION: RESEARCH IN A FIFTH GRADE CLASSROOM

Over the course of our unit on explorers, you will conduct a comprehensive research project on one explorer in which you will describe the entrepreneurial characteristics of the explorer, the technological advances in sea travel, as well as the aims, obstacles, and accomplishments of the explorer.

Expedition & Timeline

After conducting research, you will write a five paragraph essay describing a key European explorer's aims, obstacles, and accomplishments for an historic expedition. Paragraph one will introduce the topic. Paragraph two will focus on the aims and goals of the explorer and his sponsor(s). Paragraph three will focus on obstacles the explorer encountered while on expedition. Paragraph four will focus on the accomplishments of the expedition. Paragraph five will conclude the essay by stating the impact the expedition had on the world. The essay must be typed and submitted through Google Docs.



In addition to the five paragraph essay, you will create a timeline of major events related to the expedition, including the date of the approved charter and dates relating to the commencement and conclusion of the the expedition.

The essay portion of the project is worth 100 points for social studies and writing. The timeline portion of the project is worth 25 points in social studies.



Ship's Log- Crew Member

Write a journal entry describing the day in the life of a crew member on your explorer's expedition. Include the crew member's duties, his interactions with the explorer, his meals, and any details that bring the expedition to life. This portion of the project is worth 100 points for social studies and writing.

AGE OF EXPLORATION

Sponsorship Persuasive Letter

Write a persuasive letter from the perspective of your explorer seeking sponsorship for your expedition. In the letter you must include where you want to go, what you hope to find or discover, what supplies you will need for the expedition, and three reasons why the expedition will benefit the king and/or queen. The reasons, details, and people mentioned in your letter must be historically accurate.

Your letter will be graded on friendly letter format, use of persuasion, use of relevant social studies vocabulary, and general writing conventions. It must demonstrate a solid understanding of the reasons for the explorer's expedition and be historically accurate. The letter must be typed and submitted through Google Docs. This portion of the project is worth 100 points towards both your social studies and writing grades.

Charter Letter

Write a charter letter from the perspective of the king or queen giving your explorer permission to use your country's resources for his desired expedition. In the letter you must include what supplies and resources you will provide and how your explorer will be compensated for his time and discoveries. The details of the charter should be historically accurate.

Your letter will be graded on historically accurate information and general writing conventions. The letter must be typed and submitted through Google Docs. This portion of the project is worth 100 points towards both your social studies and writing grades.



Captain's Log~ Map & Discovery

Write a captain's log entry from the perspective of your explorer outlining the details of your discovery for the king and/or queen. In your entry you must include at least three historically accurate details of the places, things, and people you discovered while on your expedition. In addition, you must include a map of the route of your expedition. Your log will be graded on historically accurate information, use of relevant social studies vocabulary, and general writing conventions. It must demonstrate a solid understanding of your explorer's discoveries on his expedition(s). This log portion of the project is worth 100 points towards both your social studies and writing grades. The map is worth 25 points towards your social studies grade.



Navigation Technologies:
Astrolabe

Merchant's Persuasive Letter

You are a European merchant who sells sailing equipment, including navigational tools. Write a letter to your assigned explorer asking him to purchase one or more of your new navigational instruments. You will need to research which navigational technologies were available at the time of your explorer's expedition. A minimum of three technologies must be described in detail in your letter to demonstrate your understanding of how these tools were of benefit to the explorer.

Your letter will be graded on friendly letter format, use of persuasion, use of relevant social studies vocabulary, and general writing conventions. It must demonstrate a solid understanding of the technologies available at the time of the explorer's expedition and be time period appropriate. The letter must be typed and submitted through Google Docs. This portion of the project is worth 100 points towards both your social studies and writing grades.