

Explorers & Their Motivations

Name: _____ Date: _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will research and create trading cards summarizing key explorers and their motivations (God, Gold, Glory).

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 4-5 index cards
- colored pencils
- pen or pencil
- internet-connected device or book for research (optional)

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Choose 4 explorers from this list (or others you know): Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, Ferdinand Magellan, Hernan Cortes, Jacques Cartier, Zheng He.
2. For each explorer, create a trading card: draw a small portrait or ship on the front, and write their name and home country.
3. On the back of each card, write their key voyage/achievement, the years it took place, and which motivation(s) — God, Gold, or Glory — drove them, with one sentence of explanation.
4. Arrange your 4 cards in order from earliest to latest voyage and lay them out to review before answering the questions below.

QUESTIONS

1. List your 4 chosen explorers in chronological order of their voyages.
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2. What do 'God, Gold, and Glory' mean as motivations for exploration?
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3. Pick one explorer from your cards and explain which motivation(s) drove them most, using evidence from their voyage.
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4. Why did European nations compete so intensely to fund exploration voyages during this period?
