

Welcome!

Grade 3, Unit 9

Travelers from Other Lands: Early Explorations of North America

In this unit, students will learn more in-depth information about the motivations behind the European exploration.

What's the story?

Students will learn about how those **motivations changed** over time and how the European explorers and settlers **interacted** with the Native Americans who were already inhabiting the continent.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn details about the **voyages of Christopher Columbus**, the **conquistadors** Juan Ponce de León, Hernando de Soto, and Francisco Vazquez de Coronado, and the **explorers** John Cabot, Henry Hudson, and Samuel de Champlain.

Students will work on their **writing** over the course of the unit. They will start with **short opinion** writing selections and will end with a **formal opinion** writing selection.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. What were European explorers looking for?
Follow up: Why were they so eager to find spices? What makes cinnamon a unique spice?
2. You have been learning about many explorers from Spain. Which one did you think was the most interesting?
Follow up: Why do you think that? What was he known for? What were the outcomes, both achievements and negative consequences, of his explorations?
3. Describe or draw a settlement created by the Spaniards based on what you have been reading.
Follow up: What things would you expect to see or hear on a settlement? What are missionaries? What are conquistadors?
4. What are some of the things that Christopher Columbus and John Cabot had in common?
Follow up: What are some things that were different about them?

5. What were some of the outcomes of Samuel de Champlain's explorations?
Follow up: How did he change the way Europeans thought about North America?
6. Which explorers had the greatest success in America from the perspective of the Europeans? Why? How did this impact Native American communities who already inhabited this land?