

Welcome!

Grade 3, Unit 9

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 Vasquez 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 Spanish explorers. Which one did you think was the most interesting?
Follow up: Why do you think that? What was he known for? Was he successful in his explorations?
3. Describe or draw a Spanish settlement 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 accomplishments of Samuel de Champlain?
Follow up: How did he change the way Europeans thought about North America?
6. Which explorers had the greatest success in America? Why?