

Name \_\_\_\_\_



## Gold & Glory

In the 1400s and 1500s, European explorers set sail across the ocean in search of new lands. They had many reasons for wanting to explore, and their journeys changed history forever. The three biggest reasons for exploration and colonization were gold, glory, and God.

### Gold - The Search for Wealth

Many European countries, including Spain, France, and England, wanted to find gold and riches in new lands. They hoped to discover gold mines, silver, and valuable spices to make their countries richer. Explorers like Christopher Columbus and Hernán Cortés believed there were treasures waiting in the "New World."

### Glory - Power and Competition

Kings and queens wanted more land to make their countries stronger. The more land they controlled, the more powerful they became. Explorers like John Cabot and Henry Hudson sailed to claim land for their rulers. European nations competed to build the biggest empires and become the strongest in the world.

### God - Spreading Religion

Some explorers came to spread Christianity to the Native American people. European kings and queens wanted to share their beliefs with the world. Missionaries traveled with explorers to teach Native Americans about their religion and build churches and schools.

### The Impact of Exploration

While exploration led to new trade routes and discoveries, it also caused conflict. Many Native American groups lost their land and faced hardships as European settlers arrived. Over time, the thirteen colonies were formed, and North America became home to people from many different backgrounds.

Even today, we see the effects of gold, glory, and God in history books, old buildings, and city names across North America!