



Columbus

EARLY EXPLORERS Vocabulary Words Week 1



1. **Vikings** Fierce warriors who explored the north Atlantic Ocean
2. **saga** An adventure story that tells about brave deeds of people long ago
3. **knoll** A small, round hill
4. **encounter** A meeting, such as one between people that have never met
5. **exploration** Searching the unknown
6. **cartographer** A person who makes maps
7. **navigation** The study of how to plan and control the course of a ship
8. **Christopher Columbus** An Italian born Spanish explorer who in 1492 sailed west from Spain and thought he had reached Asia, but had really reached islands near the Americas, lands unknown to the Europeans
9. **monarch** A king or queen
10. **compass** An instrument used to find direction. It has a needle that always points north
11. **astrolabe** An astronomical instrument for finding the position of the sun and stars



EARLY EXPLORERS

Spelling Words

Week 2



Columbus

- 1. latitude** Distance north or south of the equator measured in degrees with lines that run east and west on a map
- 2. longitude** Distance east and west of the prime meridian marked on a map by lines that run north and south
- 3. prime meridian** The meridian marked 0. It runs north and south through Greenwich, Great Britain
- 4. equator** An imaginary line around the middle of the earth
- 5. conclusion** A decision or idea reached by thoughtful study
- 6. isthmus** A narrow strip of land that connects two larger areas
- 7. scurvy** A sickness caused by not getting enough Vitamin C
- 8. continent** One of the seven great land masses of the Earth
- 9. Strait of Magellan** The narrow waterway between the southern tip of South America and Tierra del fuego, that links the Atlantic with the Pacific Ocean
- 10. strait** A channel connecting two larger bodies of water
- 11. expedition** A journey made for a special reason



EARLY EXPLORERS

Spelling Words

Week 3



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- 1. conquistador** Any of the Spanish conquerors in the Americas during the early 1500s
- 2. civil war** A war between people of the same country
- 3. grant** A gift of money to be used for a special purpose
- 4. mainland** The main part of a continent, rather than an island near the continent
- 5. rumor** A story that has been told but has not been proved
- 6. claimed** To declare that you or your country owns something
- 7. desertion** Running away from duties, such as military service
- 8. opinion** A statement that tells what a person thinks or believes
- 9. fact** A statement that can be proved true
- 10. heritage** Something that has been passed down through the years



EARLY EXPLORERS

Spelling Words

Week 4



Columbus

1. **missionary** A person who teaches his or her religion to others
2. **colony** A settlement ruled by another country
3. **colonist** A person who lives in a colony
4. **plantation** A huge farm
5. **Northwest Passage** A water route that explorers wanted to find so that traders could cut through North America to Asia
6. **trade network** A system in which trade takes place between certain groups of people
7. **agent** A person who does business for other people
8. **armada** A fleet of warships
9. **profit** Money left over after everything has been paid for
10. **pilgrim** A person who makes a journey for a religious reason
11. **Mayflower Compact** An agreement by those on the Mayflower to make and obey laws for their colony
12. **interpreter** A person who translates from one language to another