

Arctic Explorer's Study Guide

Test Date: Thursday, May 26, 2011

On Thursday, May 26th the students will be having a Social Studies quiz to finish off our unit on Arctic explorers. This test will be a similar format to the other S.S. quizzes we've had this past year. There will be true/false, matching, short answer and some long answer questions. All of the information your child needs to know is on this study guide...happy studying!

Reasons to Explore

- Most of the early explorers were looking for a quicker and safer trade route to Asia.
- Many of the explorers were not rich. So how did they get to explore? They often convinced kings or merchants to provide ships, payment for the crew and enough supplies to last their long journey. In return, the explorers had to claim new lands for their king and country or find new trade routes so the merchants would make more money.

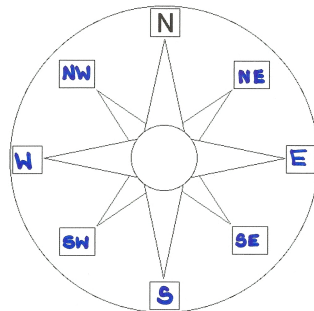
Canada's First Explorers

- The exploration of Canada began thousands of years before the arrival of the first European explorer, but it was not written down.
- Some Native people were key players in the European exploration and settlement of Canada. Native guides took explorers into the interior of the country and shared their knowledge of how to live off the land. Without their help, many explorers would not have survived.
- It is believed by some anthropologists that Canadian Native people migrated here about 40,000 years ago. Some scientists believe that they came over from Asia during the Ice Age while other scientists believe that they could have arrived even earlier on small rafts or boats from other parts of the world.

Technology of Exploration: Map Making

- Early maps were rough drawings in sand or snow or on cave walls. As people became more skilled, maps were engraved on stone or wood and painted on animal skins.
- Later different instruments such as a compass were used to plot locations using longitude and latitude.

Students will need to be able to fill in a compass rose. Here is an example of one:



- Students will need to know the difference between latitude and longitude. They will be given a map and will need to be able to identify which are lines of latitude and which are lines of longitude. Below are the definitions:

- Lines of Latitude run east-west around the globe and are used to measure distance north & south of the equator.
- ****Tip**** Say LAAAAATITUDE...your mouth goes wide open – these lines go sideways around the earth.
- Lines of Longitude run north-south around the globe and are used to measure distance east & west of the Prime Meridian.
- ****Tip**** Say LOOOOONGITUDE...your mouth opens tall – these lines go up and down around the earth.

The Search for the Northwest Passage

- In spite of finding fish, furs, and timber in Canada, explorers still saw the land as just an obstacle in the way of getting to the East. The English were interested in finding a passage through Canada – what they called a Northwest Passage to Asia. It would be far away from the Spanish and Portuguese, who had control of the routes to the south.
- No one knew for sure if there even was a Northwest Passage, but many believed that the northern part of North America was made up of islands and that there must be a way through them. The search for the Northwest Passage took hundreds of years and cost thousands of lives. Many explorers became lost in the ice and froze, starved to death or were shipwrecked by icebergs.

We looked at three explorers who attempted to explore the Northwest Passage. Below is the important information that your child should know about each explorer.

John Franklin - from England: He was one of the first explorers to go into the Northwest Passage. He took two ships with him, the Erebus and the Terror. He had enough supplies to last three years – including a new invention...canned food. Franklin and his crew lasted three winters in the middle of the Northwest Passage, making it about half way. Franklin and his crew all died from starvation, freezing to death, and lead poisoning from the canned food.

Roald Amundsen – from Norway: Roald Amundsen was the first explorer to completely make his way through the Northwest Passage on his small fishing boat, the Gjoa. He travelled from east to west.

Henry Larsen – from Canada: Henry Larsen was born in England but moved to Canada. He was the first explorer to complete the Northwest Passage in both directions. He sailed the St. Roch, and RCMP Arctic patrol boat from Vancouver, BC to Halifax, NF from 1940 – 1942. His return trip took place in 1944. His boat is now located in the Maritime Museum in Vancouver, BC.