

Name _____



Guiding The Seas

Directions: Read each description below about tools used by explorers during the Age of Exploration. Write the correct navigation instrument: **compass**, **astrolabe**, or **sextant** on the blank before each statement. Use context clues to guide your choices.

_____ 1. This tool uses a magnetic needle that points north, helping sailors know which direction they are traveling even when they can't see the land.

_____ 2. This ancient tool helped sailors measure the height of the sun or stars above the horizon to find their latitude at sea.

_____ 3. This later invention improved on older instruments by using mirrors and angles to measure a ship's position more precisely.

_____ 4. Without this tool, explorers would have struggled to stay on course during cloudy days or long ocean crossings.

_____ 5. This device was often made of brass and had a moving arm used to sight the sun or stars.

_____ 6. This instrument helped make long-distance voyages safer by letting sailors calculate how far north or south they were.

_____ 7. Many ships carried this tool on the captain's desk because it was small, simple, and reliable in all kinds of weather.

_____ 8. This invention became essential for explorers like Columbus and Magellan to find their way across open waters.