

Atlantic Crossings Answer Key

1. They crossed the Atlantic to search for new lands, trade opportunities, and discoveries.
2. Winds and currents helped move ships in certain directions, allowing sailors to follow reliable paths across the ocean.
3. Challenges included storms, unfamiliar waters, and limited supplies.
4. Early exploration connected different regions, leading to the exchange of goods, foods, cultures, and ideas.
5. They study these routes to understand how exploration shaped global trade, mapping, and the development of coastal communities.

Teacher's Guide

- Designed for grades 6 to 8 to introduce the historical significance of Atlantic exploration.
- Encourage students to underline key details in the passage before answering questions.

Differentiation Tips

- Provide vocabulary support for terms such as navigation, expeditions, or trade.
- Allow students who need extra help to answer orally before writing.
- Challenge advanced students to compare two different exploration routes and describe how they differed.

Engagement Ideas

- Show a world map and trace general exploration paths from Europe to the Americas and Africa.
- Begin class with a quick discussion about what students already know about exploration history.