

Name _____



Voyage Reflections

Directions: Read the passage carefully. Answer each question by writing a **short journal-style response** (3-5 sentences). In your response, explain how you used both the **author's information from the text** and your own **background knowledge** to form your answer.

The Age of Exploration

In the 1400s and 1500s, European explorers set out to discover new lands and trade routes. Sailors like Christopher Columbus and Vasco da Gama braved long journeys across dangerous seas. Their voyages opened contact between Europe and distant places such as the Americas, Africa, and Asia. These expeditions were risky. Ships could sink, food could spoil, and sailors often faced sickness. Yet the rewards were great: new goods like spices, gold, and silver brought wealth and power to their home countries. At the same time, exploration led to lasting consequences, including the spread of diseases and the colonization of native peoples. Historians often debate whether the Age of Exploration did more harm or good, since it changed the world in both positive and negative ways.

Author & Me Journal Questions

1. Why do you think explorers were willing to take such dangerous journeys?
Journal Response: _____
2. How might the new trade goods have changed everyday life for people in Europe?
Journal Response: _____
3. Do you think the Age of Exploration created more benefits or more problems for the world? Explain.
Journal Response: _____
4. How does the author's description of risks and rewards connect to your own ideas about risk-taking?
Journal Response: _____