



Name _____

Spain's Explorers

Directions: Read the passage about Spain's role in the Age of Exploration. Then answer the questions that follow.

How Geography Shaped Spain's Explorers

During the Age of Exploration, Spain became one of the most powerful exploring nations in the world. Geography played a major role in this growth. Spain's location on the Iberian Peninsula placed it close to the Atlantic Ocean, making it easier for ships to set sail toward unknown lands. With long coastlines and natural harbors, Spain developed strong shipbuilding centers and busy ports that prepared sailors for long ocean journeys.

Spain also controlled the Canary Islands, which were located farther south in the Atlantic. These islands became useful stopping points where explorers could gather supplies before crossing the ocean. The warm winds and ocean currents around the islands helped guide ships westward. This made long-distance travel faster and safer, supporting voyages across the Atlantic.

Spanish leaders encouraged exploration because new trade routes, resources, and lands could bring wealth and power. Famous explorers linked to Spain, such as **Christopher Columbus** and **Hernan Cortes**, began their journeys with the help of Spain's geographic advantages. Spain's location, access to the ocean, and early experience with sailing helped the nation play a major role in exploring and connecting different parts of the world.

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Comprehensions And Analysis

1. How did Spain's location on the Iberian Peninsula help it become a strong exploring nation?

2. Why were Spain's long coastlines and natural harbors important during the Age of Exploration?

3. How did the Canary Islands help explorers before crossing the Atlantic Ocean?

4. Why were ocean currents and winds helpful to Spanish explorers?

5. What motivated Spain to support exploration?

6. Name one explorer linked to Spain mentioned in the passage.

7. How did Spain's geography make long distance travel safer?

8. In your own words, explain why Spain was able to explore faraway lands.

9. What important role did ports and shipbuilding centers play in exploration?

10. How does this passage show that geography can affect a country's history?
