

Spain's Explorers Answer Key

1. Spain was close to the Atlantic Ocean, making ocean travel easier.
2. They supported strong shipbuilding and provided places for ships to launch.
3. They provided supplies and safe stopping points for explorers.
4. They helped guide ships and made travel faster and safer.
5. Spain wanted new trade routes, wealth, and power.
6. Christopher Columbus or Hernan Cortes
7. Ocean currents, warm winds, stopping points, and strong ports helped travel.
8. Answers will vary but should mention geography and ocean access.
9. They built ships, supplied sailors, and prepared voyages.
10. Geography influenced Spain's ability to explore and expand.

Teacher's Guide

Differentiation Tips

- Provide a glossary for key terms such as **Iberian Peninsula**, **harbor**, **currents**, **Age of Exploration**.
- Break the passage into smaller parts and discuss each section with students who need support.

Engagement Ideas

- Have students imagine planning a voyage and deciding what supplies and locations they would need.
- Discuss why ocean exploration was risky and exciting during this time period.

Extension Activities

- Students create a short timeline of Spain's involvement in exploration.
- Assign a mini research project on one Spanish explorer and their journey.
- Have students write a short journal entry from the point of view of a sailor preparing for a voyage.