

Name: _____

Age of Exploration

Amerigo Vespucci



Directions: Read the following passage then answer the questions.

Birth of a Star

Imagine being in the bustling city of Florence during the Renaissance. It was a time of curiosity and discovery. In this city, a man named Amerigo Vespucci was born. He would become an important figure in the exploration of the New World. And he would leave a lasting mark on history.

Sailing Away

Most sailors in those days stuck close to the coasts when they sailed the vast oceans. Christopher Columbus had already made his famous journey. But people were still trying to understand the new lands that he discovered.

Amerigo Vespucci was an Italian cartographer and explorer. He was an expert at making maps. In the late 15th century, he went on daring voyages across the Atlantic Ocean. He sailed far from the familiar shores because he wanted to learn more about the unknown. He wanted to unravel the mysteries of the vast Atlantic Ocean.

A Startling Realization

During his voyages, Vespucci went to places that Europeans didn't know about. He carefully wrote down what he saw and made maps. His maps helped everyone understand more about the world.

During his journeys Vespucci came to a groundbreaking realization. He realized something important. He wasn't in Asia like Columbus thought. He was in a brand-new continent. This was a big deal because it changed how people thought about the world.

A Lasting Impact

Amerigo Vespucci was more than just an explorer and mapmaker. He was also a gifted storyteller. After his voyages to the unknown lands of the New World, he wrote letters that were like treasure chests of information and adventure.

In these letters, Vespucci shared amazing stories of the people and places he found on his journeys. He described the lush green landscapes, the exotic animals, and the curious customs of the native people. His words painted vivid pictures of the New World in the minds of his many readers. They started to understand how big this unknown place was and how it was going to change the world.

To honor Vespucci's contributions, they named the continent "America." They used the female form of "Amerigo" because back then they named new lands after women. Amerigo Vespucci, the mapmaker with big ideas, changed how we think about the world. His legacy reminds us that pursuit of knowledge and discovery have no bounds.

Name: _____

Age of Exploration

Amerigo Vespucci

Directions: Read the following passage then answer the questions.



Reading Questions

1. Why was it an exciting time in Florence during Amerigo Vespucci's birth? _____

2. Why do you think that most sailors during Vespucci's time stayed close to the coasts? _____

3. How did Vespucci's voyages across the Atlantic Ocean differ from the typical routes? _____

4. What major realization did Vespucci have during his journeys? _____

5. Why was this an important realization?

6. Why were Vespucci's letters important and exciting to people back then? _____

7. How was Vespucci honored for his discoveries? _____

8. In what way do you believe that Amerigo Vespucci changed the world? _____

9. Why do you believe this?

10. How did Vespucci show that learning and exploring have no limits? _____
