Explorers of the Americas

Choose an explorer to research from the list. Use the Internet to find information about him or her. Then write a journal entry about the explorer’s experiences and motivations. Use the questions listed below to guide your writing. Include a map showing the explorer’s routes.

North America
- Vitus Bering
- John Cabot
- Jacques Cartier
- Hernán Cortez
- Samuel de Champlain
- Robert Cavelier de la Salle
- Panfilo de Narvaez and Alvar Nuñez Cabeza de Vaca
- Hernando de Soto
- Eric the Red
- Leif Ericson

John Franklin
- Charles Fremont
- Martin Frobisher
- Henry Hudson
- Meriwether Lewis and William Clark
- Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet
- Nils Nordenskjöld
- Zebulon Pike
- Sacajawea
- David Thompson

South America
- Charles Darwin
- Charles Marie de la Condamine
- Ferdinand Magellan
- Francisco Pizarro
- Richard Spruce
- Alexander von Humboldt
- Alfred Wallace and Henry Bates

North and South America
- Christopher Columbus
- James Cook
- Francis Drake

Questions to Consider

1. Where did the explorer’s journey start?
2. Why did he or she go to the Americas? What was the explorer seeking?
3. How did the explorer travel?
4. What did the explorer find? How was it different from today?
5. Who did the explorer meet along the way?
6. What challenges did the explorer encounter?
7. How did the explorer’s experience change our understanding of the Americas?
8. What impact did the explorer have on the people and future of the Americas?