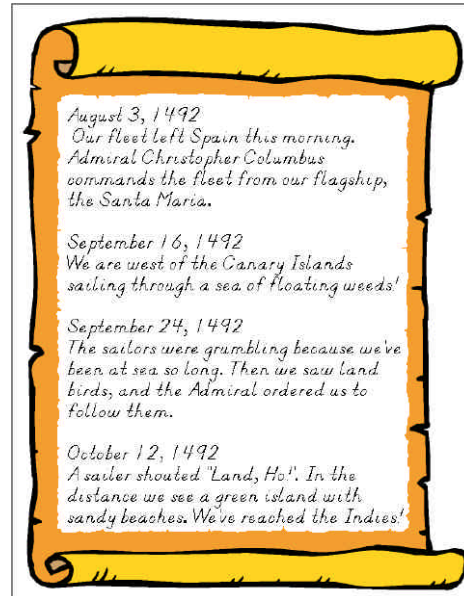


Explorer Journal: Adventure on the High Seas

Goals

- To understand the challenges faced by early explorers
- To write an imaginary journal entry which relates some experiences of an early explorer



Overview: Students research life on board one of Columbus' ships or that of another early explorer. They assume the identity of an explorer and write journal entries describing their adventures and challenges.

Materials

- Print and electronic resources that describe the sea voyages of early explorers
- Copies of the "Explorer Journal" printed in color or black and white. If desired, add lines before printing.

Directions

1. Have students work in pairs or small groups to research life on board Columbus' ship or that of another early explorer.
2. Give students copies of "Explorer Journal". Ask them to assume the identity of an early explorer and then write a journal entry for one or more days. Tell students to be sure to date their journal entries. If they want, they can identify the ship and embellish their journals with sketches. Remind students to use descriptive language to convey the challenges they faced. (See "Sample Journal" as an example.)
3. Have students share their journal entries with the class or post them for everyone to read. Discuss what the entries have in common and how they are different. Ask which entries seem most authentic and why.

Stationery Studio Extensions

- Have students choose a contemporary explorer such as an astronaut, deep-sea diver, or arctic explorer and write a real or imaginary journal entry on appropriate stationery.
- Let students choose a border for a personal journal and write an account of one of their own adventures.