

Worksheet -5

Subject: - G.K.

Class: - VII

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Roll No. _____

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FAMOUS EXPLORERS

During the age of discovery in the late 15th and early 16th centuries, explorers set out to discover new lands. Let us read more about them!



Ferdinand Magellan was a Portuguese navigator and explorer. He and his crew were the first Europeans to sail around the world, proving that it was round. In 1520, he discovered the Strait of Magellan and sailed across the Pacific Ocean.

Vasco da Gama was a Portuguese navigator who travelled to India from 1497 to 1524. His voyages opened up the sea route to the east through the Cape of Good Hope. His discoveries made Portugal one of the most important sea-trading nations.



An ace navigator, **Christopher Columbus** was an admiral who undertook transatlantic voyages in 1492–1493, 1493–1496, 1498–1500, and 1502–1504. These excursions helped discover paths for European exploration and exploitation. He is also known as the ‘discoverer’ of the New World.

Marco Polo was a merchant from Venice and adventurer who travelled from Europe to Asia in 1271–1295. He reached beyond Mongolia and spent 17 years in China, where he became a close friend of Kublai Khan. He narrated his tale through his book *Il milione*, known in English as *The Travels of Marco Polo*. It became one of the greatest travelogues of that time.



Amerigo Vespucci was an Italian merchant and explorer-navigator, who took part in voyages to the New World in 1499–1500 and 1501–1502. It is his name from which the word America comes. As a result of his voyages, he and scholars of those days first realized that the Americas were indeed a ‘New World’ and not a part of Asia, as Columbus and others had thought.

Sir Francis Drake was an English admiral and the most renowned seaman of the Elizabethan Age. In 1577 he was selected to lead an expedition, intended to pass around South America and through the Strait of Magellan, to explore the coast that lay beyond. He carried out the circumnavigation of the world between 1577 and 1580.



Hernando Cortés was a Spanish conquistador who overthrew the Aztec empire in 1519–1521 and won Mexico for the crown of Spain. He explored Central America in order to find a strait that joined the Atlantic Ocean to the Pacific Ocean. He failed in this mission and instead discovered, and named, California.

Tick (✓) the correct options.

- Which Portuguese explorer has a professional football team in Brazil named after him?
 - Ferdinand Magellan
 - Vasco da Gama
 - Bartolommeo Dias
- On which ship did Francis Drake complete his circumnavigation of the globe?
 - Golden Hind
 - Golden Fleece
 - Golden Brown

3. On which island was James Cook killed in 1779?
 - a. Tasmania
 - b. Fiji
 - c. Hawaii
4. In which Italian city was Marco Polo imprisoned, when he dictated 'The Travels of Marco Polo' to a fellow inmate?
 - a. Venice
 - b. Genoa
 - c. Verona

WORD GAME: GEO WONDERS

Find the answers.

1. A glacier located in Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand, India, which is the source of the river Ganga, _____
2. The phenomenon of appearance of coloured lights in the night sky that occurs primarily in the high latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere, called the northern lights or the aurora, _____
3. This archipelago of volcanic islands, around the equator in the Pacific Ocean in Ecuador, is noted for its vast number of endemic species, including the biggest tortoises in the world. These tortoises share the name of the islands, which is also a UNESCO World Heritage Site. _____
4. The most famous natural geyser located in Yellowstone National Park, in Wyoming, USA is, _____
5. A cave formation or deposit on the floor of caves, formed as the water drips from the ceiling of the cave and leaves tiny deposits of dissolved minerals. _____
6. A volcanic island, part of the Society Islands of French Polynesia in the Pacific Ocean, which is surrounded by a barrier reef and a lagoon. At its centre are located the twin-peaked, Mount Pahia and Mount Otemanua. _____
7. A spectacular canyon carved by the Colorado River in northern Arizona, USA, _____
8. One of the world's highest continuously active volcanoes found in the Andes Mountains of South America. _____
9. This desert in South America is considered to be one of the driest deserts in the world. _____
10. These cave formations are mineral deposits that hang from the ceilings of caves. _____
11. Located at approximately 3,800 m above sea level on the border of Bolivia and Peru, this is considered to be the world's highest commercially navigable lake. _____
12. This cluster of column cliffs, created by successive flows of lava, is located in the northern coast of Northern Ireland. It is a great natural wonder of the United Kingdom. _____

Borealis
Atacama
Cotopaxi

Old Faithful
Giant's Causeway
Stalactite

Stalagmite
Bora-Bora
Titicaca

Grand Canyon
Galapagos
Gangotri