

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Document Based Question

(D.B.Q.)



## Exploration and Conquest of the New World

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:** The first Europeans to explore the United States, Canada, and Latin America were looking for a water route to places like China and India. Though few explorers found a water route to Asia, their voyages led to the discovery of “new land” in the Western Hemisphere. Once it was discovered, more and more explorers continued to venture out to this New World.

**DIRECTIONS:** Study the documents in the packet and answer each question that follows. Then use your responses to write a well-organized and detailed essay answering the following question:

***What are the reasons why the European explorers came to the New World, what did they find, and what did they do when they got here?***

## **History of the Northwest Passage**

In the mid 1400s, the Ottoman Turks took control of the Middle East. The Turks and Europeans were not friendly with each other. This prevented the Europeans from traveling to Asia over land and so people began to wonder about a water route to Asia. Asia was known for its high quality spices, silks, and other riches. The first to attempt a water voyage was Christopher Columbus in 1492. In 1497, King Henry VII of Britain sent John Cabot to search for what began to be known as the Northwest Passage.

All attempts over the next few hundred years to find the Northwest Passage failed. Sir Frances Drake and Captain James Cook, among others, attempted the exploration. Henry Hudson attempted to find the Northwest Passage and while he did discover Hudson Bay, his crew mutinied and set him adrift.

Finally, in 1906 Roald Amundsen from Norway successfully spent three years traversing the Northwest Passage in an ice-fortified ship. Since then, many ships have made the trip through the Northwest Passage.

1. Why were the Europeans interested in a Northwest water route to Asia?

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**Document 2:**      *The following writings are from Christopher Columbus's diary from August to October in the year 1492.*

...Following the light of the sun, we left the Old World. You can never cross the ocean unless you have courage to lose sight of the shore...

*[two months later]* ...Tomorrow morning before we depart, I intend to land and see what can be found in the neighborhood...

... Their houses are all built in the shape of tents, with very high chimneys. These people are very unskilled in [weapons]...

...We viewed trees all along the river, beautiful and green, and different from ours, with flowers and fruits each according to their kind, many birds and little birds which sing very sweetly...

...Gold is a treasure, and he who possesses it does all he wishes to in this world...



2. What was Christopher Columbus looking for? What did he see?

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**Document 3:**     *The chart below lists some of the explorers from Spain, what their goals were and what happened on their expedition.*

<b>Explorer / Year</b>	<b>Goal</b>	<b>Result</b>
Ponce de Leon 1523	To find a "fountain of youth"	Explored Florida
Narvaez 1527-1528	To reach the Rio Grande River and find gold	Failure; four survivors (out of 300) who were lost and then enslaved
Cabeza de Vaca 1528-1536	Survivors of Narvaez expedition looking to find other Spaniards	Traveled across the Southwest
De Soto 1539-1542	To find the 7 Golden Cities of Cibola	Explored the Southeast
Coronado 1540-1542	To find the 7 Golden Cities of Cibola	Explored the Southwest and learned that Cibola did NOT exist
Cabrillo 1542-1543	To find the 7 Golden Cities of Cibola	Explored as far north as Oregon

3. What did De Soto, Coronado and Cabrillo have in common?

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4. How was their expedition a failure? What good came out of their journeys?

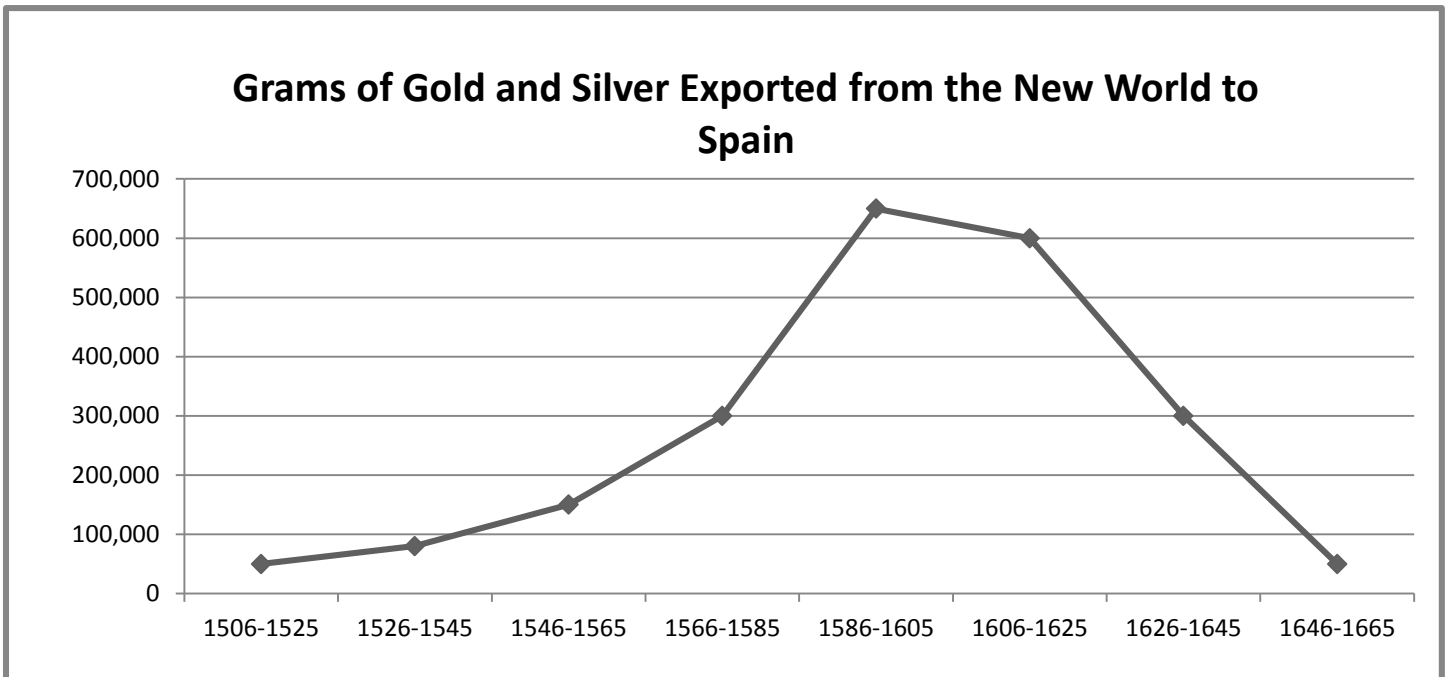
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**Document 4:** *Precious metals exported [shipped] from the New World to the Old World.*



5. Between what years were the greatest amounts of gold and silver exported from the New World to Spain? How much gold and silver was exported during this time?

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6. Describe how the amount of gold exported to Spain changed from 1506 to 1586.

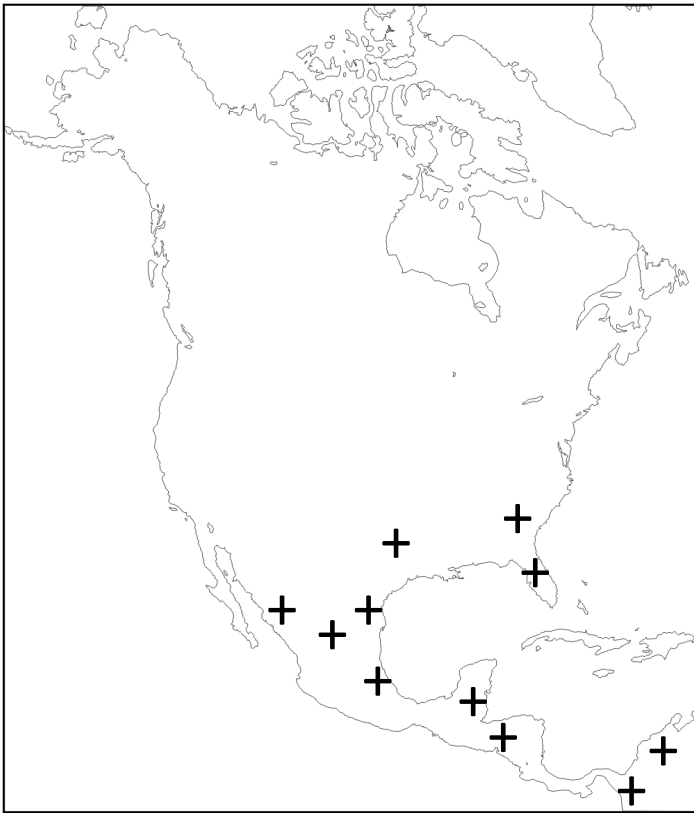
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**Document 5:** *Below is a map of the New World and the missionary churches set up by priests from Europe.*



*Many Catholic priests joined the European explorers. They worked to convert the Native Americans into Christians. Some priests even took over the local temples of the Indians turning them into churches.*

+ = missionary church

7. Who else came on board the explorers' ships? Why did they come?

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