

SPANISH EXPLORERS IN THE NEW WORLD

Student Name _____

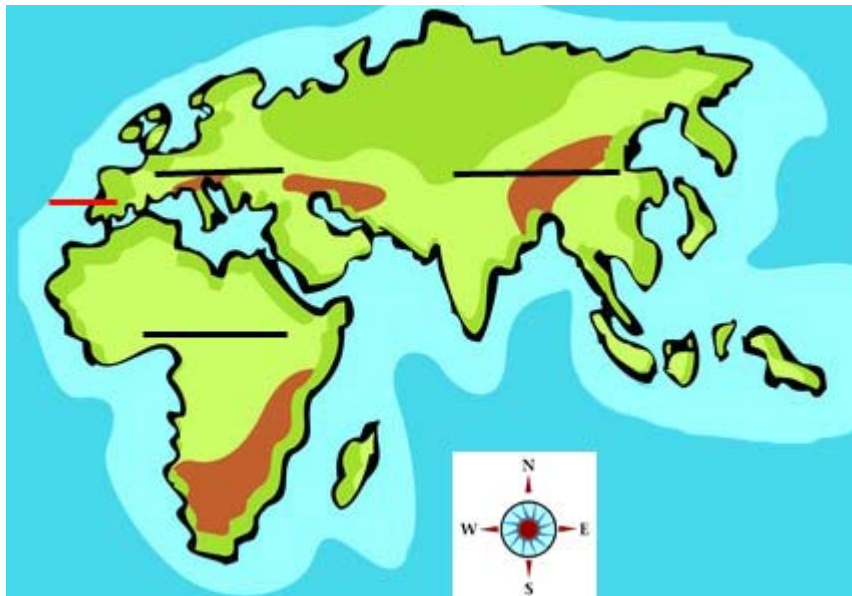
Class _____

WHERE IN THE WORLD WAS CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS?

Christopher Columbus first came to the new world from Spain in 1492. He believed the world had three continents: Europe, Africa, and Asia. China, Japan, and the other Asian countries were known as the Indies. Desirous of finding a sea route to the valuable spices, gold, jewels, and silk of Asia, Columbus sailed west from Spain thinking he would come arrive at the far side of Asia. He stopped briefly in the Canary Islands and then sailed into the unknown. When he finally hit land, he thought he was in the Indies, but actually he landed on an island in the Caribbean. Although Columbus made three trips to the new world, he never understood that he had found a new continent.



COLUMBUS' MAP



Columbus might have drawn a map similar to this one.

Let's help him by labeling each of the continents. Write the name of the three continents on the black lines.

Columbus sailed from what country?

_____ Write the name on the red line.

The compass at the bottom of the map shows directions. N=North, S=South, W=West, E=East. If Columbus had wanted to visit Africa, he would have sailed _____.

Label Japan with a capital **J**.

PONCE DE LEON's PIECE OF THE PUZZLE



Historians believe that Juan Ponce de Leon, a soldier of Spain, sailed with Columbus on his second voyage to the new world. Ponce helped to subdue the native peoples on the Caribbean islands of Hispaniola and San Juan. Hispaniola is now called Haiti and the Dominican Republic, and San Juan is Puerto Rico. He became the governor of Puerto Rico.

In 1512, Spain's King Ferdinand commanded Ponce to find and settle a legendary island named "Bimini." Supposedly, Bimini had a fountain of youth with waters that kept people forever young. In 1513, Juan sailed north from Puerto Rico. He sailed through the islands of the Bahamas and then spied what he thought was another extremely large island. On April 2, 1513 he went ashore and formally claimed the island for Spain. He named it La Florida (the flowery land) because it had "many refreshing trees."

PONCE'S WORLD MAP



Ponce added more pieces to the world puzzle.

On the blue line, write the name of the large "island" he found. We know that this is part of what continent? _____

And it is now the state of _____

Draw a dotted.....line to represent Columbus' 1492 trip to the new world.

Draw a straight_____ line to show Ponce's 1513 expedition to La Florida.

A MODERN BIRD'S EYE VIEW

Five hundred years after the Spanish explorations, we now have modern technologies to help us explore the world's lands.



The modern map to the left shows us where Melbourne is relative to Cape Canaveral. If we look at the aerial photograph below, we can see more details.



Put an X on the aerial photograph to indicate where Melbourne is.

Why do you think aerial photographs would have been helpful to the early Spanish explorers?
