**University of Annaba**

**Department of history**

**Text study**

**Read the text below and then answer the questions.**

Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer who stumbled upon the Americas and whose journeys marked the beginning of centuries of transatlantic colonization.

During the 15th and 16th centuries, leaders of several European nations sponsored expeditions abroad in the hope that explorers would find great wealth and vast undiscovered lands. The Portuguese were the earliest participants in this “Age of discovery,” also known as “Age of exploration.”

Starting in about 1420, small Portuguese ships known as [caravels](https://www.history.com/topics/exploration/columbus-ships-are-marvels-of-engineering-video) zipped along the African coast, carrying spices, gold, slaves and other goods from Asia and Africa to Europe.

Christopher Columbus, the son of a wool merchant, is believed to have been born in Genoa, Italy, in 1451. When he was still a teenager, **he** got a job on a merchant ship. He remained at sea until 1476, when pirates attacked his ship as it sailed north along the Portuguese coast.

The boat sank, but the young Columbus floated to shore on a scrap of wood and made his way to Lisbon, where he eventually studied mathematics, astronomy, cartography and navigation. He also began to hatch the plan **that** would change the world forever.

At the end of the 15th century, it was nearly impossible to reach Asia from Europe by land. The route was long and arduous, and encounters with hostile armies were difficult to avoid. Portuguese explorers solved this problem by taking to the sea: **They** sailed south along the West African coast and around the Cape of Good Hope.

But Columbus had a different idea: Why not sail west across the Atlantic instead of around the massive African continent? The young navigator’s logic was sound, but his math was faulty. He argued (incorrectly) that the circumference of the Earth was much smaller than his contemporaries believed it was; accordingly, he believed that the journey by boat from Europe to Asia should be not only possible, but comparatively easy via an as-yet undiscovered Northwest Passage.

He presented **his** plan to officials in Portugal and England, but it was not until 1492 that he found a sympathetic audience: the Spanish Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile.

[**https://www.history**](https://www.history)**.com**

***Questions***

1. ***Suggest a title to the text.***
2. ***Choose the right answer to complete the statements.***

A-Christopher Columbus is… \*American \*Italian \*Spanish

b- Columbus was a... \*seaman \*merchant \*soldier

C-Columbus got support from… \*Portugal \*Spain \*India

**3-*Answer the following questions.***

1. Why did old nations make expeditions?
2. Why was it impossible to reach Asia from Europe by land?
3. What dangers faced Europeans on land in their voyages?
4. Who supported Columbus in his plan?

**4-*What or who do the underlined words refer to in the text?***

**5-*Use the dictionary to explain:*** ***stumbled upon – cartography – arduous – hostile.***

**6-*Give the infinitive of these verbs***: ***sponsored- sank – floated to – began –found***

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **verb** | **infinitive** |
| -sponsored  - |  |

**7-*Fill in the gaps so that the text makes sense.*** Use: ***explorers -encountered – trading***

The so-called Age of Exploration was a period from the early 15th century and continuing into the early 17th century, during which European ships were traveled around the world to search for new**----1------** routes and partners to feed burgeoning capitalism in Europe. In the process, Europeans **------2-----**peoples and mapped lands previously unknown to them. Among the most famous **------3--------**of the period were Christopher Columbus, Vasco da Gama, Pedro Álvares Cabral, John Cabot, Juan Ponce de León, and Ferdinand Magellan.

**8- *Translate the following short passage into Arabic.***

The Age of Exploration was rooted in new technologies and ideas growing out of the Renaissance, these included advances in cartography, navigation, and shipbuilding. The most important development was the invention of first the Carrack and then caravel in Iberia. These that were a combination of traditional European and Arab designs were the first ships that could leave the relatively passive Mediterranean and sail safely on the open Atlantic.

**Best of wishes**