

## Native Americans Who Discovered America?

Often, European **explorers**<sup>1</sup> are said to have discovered America. These explorers came from Spain, Portugal and England. They were searching for riches. They also wanted new lands to claim as their own. But was America really a new land?

There were people living in America long before the European explorers were even born. They came thousands and thousands of years ago. At that time, America was connected to Asia by a land bridge. The land bridge ran between Russia and Alaska. These ancient people walked across the land bridge. Once they arrived, they slowly spread out. **Eventually**<sup>2</sup>, they **settled**<sup>3</sup> all over North and South America.

Christopher Columbus is often called the first person to discover America. However, we now know that Vikings from Norway settled in North America long before Columbus. But did the Vikings or Columbus really discover America? Aren't the real discoverers those ancient people who crossed that land bridge long ago?

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<sup>1</sup> **Explorers**- people who travel to discover new things

<sup>2</sup> **Eventually**- at a later time, in the end

<sup>3</sup> **Settled**- Stayed put and made a home

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. What is this passage mostly about?
  - a. Christopher Columbus
  - b. a land bridge
  - c. the Vikings
  - d. discovering America
  
2. How does the author feel about Christopher Columbus?
  - a. He is given credit he does not deserve
  - b. He discovered America
  - c. He was dishonest about his discovery
  - d. He deserves credit for discovering America
  
3. How did the first humans get to America?
  - a. By boat
  - b. By foot
  - c. By car
  - d. By swimming
  
4. According to the passage, who really discovered America?
  - a. Christopher Columbus who sailed to America
  - b. The Vikings from Norway
  - c. Ancient travelers that crossed a land bridge
  - d. Many european explorers
  
5. The author writes “But was America really a new land?” because
  - a. other European explorers had actually already found America
  - b. there were already people living here before the explorers
  - c. the explorers came from Spain, Portugal, and England
  - d. there was not enough food for everyone to live here

6. Who discovered America? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

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7. According to the passage, what connected America to Asia?

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8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Explorers were searching for new lands, \_\_\_\_\_ could American really be considered a new land?

- a. before
- b. however
- c. therefore
- d. so

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Explorers came from Spain, Portugal and England were searching for riches and new lands to claim as their own.

Who? explorers

(were doing) What? \_\_\_\_\_

(from) Where? \_\_\_\_\_

Why? \_\_\_\_\_

10. **Vocabulary Word:** explorers: people who travel to discover new things.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: \_\_\_\_\_

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**Teacher Guide and Answers**

**Passage Reading Level:** Lexile 670

**Featured Text Structure:** Argumentative – the writer sets out both sides of the argument, altering how the reader perceives a topic or issue.

**Passage Summary:** This passage examines the argument over who really discovered America. The author describes the journey of explorers from Europe, native people from Asia, Columbus, and Vikings.

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4. According to the passage, who really discovered America?

- a. Christopher Columbus who sailed to America
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- d. Many European explorers

5. The author writes “But was America really a new land?” because

- a. other European explorers had actually already found America
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6. Who discovered America? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Suggested answer:** While the article discusses both explores and Vikings as those who often get the credit for discovering America, the author states that thousands of years ago people walked across a land bridge which connected Asia and America. Those ancient people are the people who really discovered because they arrived in America first.

7. According to the passage, what connected America to Asia?

**Suggested answer:** America was connected to Asia by a land bridge that ran between Russia and Alaska.

8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the word that best completes the sentence.

Explorers were searching for new lands, \_\_\_\_\_ could American really be considered a new land?

- a. before
- b. however**
- c. therefore
- d. so

9. Answer the following questions based on the sentence below.

Explorers came from Spain, Portugal and England were searching for riches and new lands to claim as their own.

Who? explorers

(were doing) What? **searching**

(from) Where? **Spain, Portugal and England**

Why? **for riches and new lands to claim as their own**

10. **Vocabulary Word:** explorers: people who travel to discover new things.

Use the vocabulary word in a sentence: answers may vary.