

Were all encounters between the Native Americans and the European explorers of the 1400s, 1500s, and 1600s like the peaceful and friendly pictures of the first Thanksgiving? Were all explorers just looking for a new trade route to Asia? In EXPLORERS students will learn the answers to these questions and much more. First, they will become experts on five major Native American Nations. They soon will realize that the New World was not two “empty” continents waiting to be “discovered.”

Although students may be familiar with Columbus, they will learn about 13 other explorers who sailed during the *Age of Discovery*. They also will learn more specific reasons why explorers and their sponsors risked so much.

In EXPLORERS your students will experience the following:

Knowledge

- Identify five major Native American Nations, their geographical location, major resources and significant cultures
- Identify 13 European explorers, the country that sponsored them, and where they explored
- Understand that Native American Nations had specific beliefs, gender roles, ceremonies, and lifestyles
- Understand that geographical location and natural resources of Native American Nations dictated their lifestyles
- Recognize that various differences and similarities existed among Native American Nations
- Understand that European explorers sailed for various economic and religious reasons
- Understand that European explorers claimed different parts of North America
- Realize that initial encounters between Native Americans and explorers were both hostile and friendly
- Realize that European expeditions negatively impacted the Native American Nations
- Realize that 95–98% of the Native American population eventually died of diseases brought by Europeans

Attitudes

- Recognize that history can be recorded from more than one point of view
- Appreciate the Native Americans’ attitudes towards the land and its uses
- Understand that European explorers were men whose emotions, needs, and desires blended with the goals European governments
- Develop historical curiosity
- Gain a sympathetic feeling toward the Native Americans who endured the arrival of Europeans to their homeland
- Form a personal but informed opinion of the impact of Europeans upon the Americas

PURPOSE