
Juan Ponce de León: Explorer of the Americas

Start-to-Finish® Core Content



Article 1: From Spain to the Americas

Comprehension Questions

1. How did Ponce de León learn to be a soldier?
 - a. By sailing with Christopher Columbus.
 - b. By traveling with King Ferdinand of Spain.
 - c. By exploring North America.
 - d. *By working for a knight named Don Pedro.*

2. Why did Ponce de León go to the Americas in 1493?
 - a. To fight the Muslims.
 - b. *To help Columbus find gold.*
 - c. To find Don Pedro.
 - d. To bring Christianity to the Americas.

Vocabulary Questions

1. North America, South America, and the islands in the Caribbean Sea are called _____.
 - a. *the Americas*
 - b. Asia
 - c. Europe
 - d. Tierra

2. The _____ were Muslims who lived in northern Africa and southern Spain.
 - a. Spanish
 - b. Europeans
 - c. *Moors*
 - d. knights

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Article 2: Life in the Americas

Comprehension Questions

1. How did the Spanish treat the native people who lived in the Americas?
 - a. The Spanish gave the native people gold and fine carvings of wood.
 - b. *The Spanish treated the native people like slaves.*
 - c. The Spanish built large settlements for the native people to live in.
 - d. The Spanish gave the native people horses and iron swords.
2. What did the king want Ponce de León to do on the island of Puerto Rico?
 - a. Make cassava bread for sailors who were returning to Spain.
 - b. Kill all the native people he found on the island.
 - c. *Start a Spanish settlement there and send gold back to Spain.*
 - d. Defeat the Moors who had built settlements there.

Vocabulary Questions

1. A _____ is a new place where people have come to live.
 - a. plantation
 - b. harbor
 - c. capital city
 - d. *settlement*
2. A _____ is a place where ships can stay and be protected from bad weather.
 - a. *harbor*
 - b. settlement
 - c. plantation
 - d. fort

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Article 3: Discovering a Continent

Comprehension Questions

1. Why did Ponce de León choose the name *Florida* for the new land that he discovered?
 - a. Because he had just celebrated Easter, and Easter is called Pascua Florida in Spanish.
 - b. Because his men wanted to use the name of a ship, *The Tierra Florida*.
 - c. Because the word *Florida* means “Fountain of Youth” in Spanish.
 - d. Because the name *Florida* was on the map that he was using.
2. What kind of people did Ponce de León meet in Florida?
 - a. Women from Spain.
 - b. Farmers who grew sweet potatoes, corn, sugarcane and bananas.
 - c. Knights who knew how to ride horseback and fight with swords.
 - d. Fierce fighters with bows and arrows.

Vocabulary Questions

1. Florida is part of the _____ of North America.
 - a. island
 - b. continent
 - c. settlement
 - d. city
2. The Gulf Stream is _____.
 - a. a strong wind that blows ships to Spain
 - b. a path that sailors use to reach China
 - c. a warm, fast-moving current of water
 - d. a stream of water where gold was discovered

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Article 4: The Second Voyage to Florida

Comprehension Questions

1. What happened to Ponce de León when the Calusa attacked the Spanish settlement in Florida?
 - a. The Calusa made him a knight and asked him to be their leader.
 - b. He sailed back to Puerto Rico and returned to his plantation.
 - c. A poison arrow struck him in the leg, and his leg became infected.
 - d. The Calusa put him into a canoe and made him leave Florida.

2. What discovery helped European settlers decide to move to the Americas after the death of Ponce de León?
 - a. The discovery of the Gulf Stream, because settlers could travel faster between their old and new homes.
 - b. The discovery of the Fountain of Youth, because it would make older settlers young again.
 - c. The discovery of gold, because anyone could start a mine in the Americas and become rich quickly.
 - d. The discovery of iron, because settlers could sell weapons and tools for gold.

Vocabulary Questions

1. _____ are people who go to a new place or country and build homes there.
 - a. Native people
 - b. Explorers
 - c. Knights
 - d. Settlers

2. _____ are long ditches for water to flow through.
 - a. Gulf Streams
 - b. Canals
 - c. Moors
 - d. Harbors