

## Session 3: The Routes of the Europeans Explorers

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### **Materials**

- Outline maps of the world
- Desk atlas
- Textbook and other resources
- Internet access
- Colored pencils

### **Instructional Activities**

1. Have students create a route map of the primary travels of their selected explorer from Session 2. Give each student an outline map of the world (available at the National Geographic site <http://www.nationalgeographic.com/xpeditions/atlas/>). Allow students to use a desk atlas, the textbook, and other resources to research the route(s). Have students plot with colored pencils their explorer's route(s) on the map and write the explorer's name and date of exploration beside each route.
2. Have students make route instructions for each plotted exploration by identifying the major stops or destinations of each exploration and designating these stops or destinations by their current names. Have students also include the longitude and latitude of each stop and destination. Ensure that students include the following information:
  - Francisco Coronado explored and claimed the Southwest of present-day United States for Spain.
  - Samuel de Champlain established the French settlement of Quebec.
  - Robert La Salle claimed the Mississippi River Valley for France.
  - John Cabot explored eastern Canada and claimed it for England.
3. Once students have completed tracing the routes, provide each student with a blank outline map of the world, and have each student trade his/her route instructions with a partner. The partner should attempt to trace the route of the explorer, using the longitude-latitude instructions provided. Students may not consult with one another if the instructions are unclear, but are to do the best they can with the provided instructions.
4. When students are done, have them compare their routes with their partners' original maps drawn at the beginning of the session. Help students realize how important it was for explorers to have accurate maps and/or instructions and to recognize the possible perils of traveling without directions.