

# WELCOME!



On behalf of Splash! Publications, we would like to welcome you to *Vasco Núñez de Balboa*, one of twelve lessons in our *Spanish Explorers and Conquistadors Unit*. This lesson was designed by teachers with you and your students in mind.

## THE FORMAT

Our goal is a lesson that you can use immediately. No comprehension questions to write, activities to create, or vocabulary words to define. Simply make copies of the lesson for your students and start teaching.

## THE VOCABULARY

Our lessons feature words in bold type. We have included a Glossary to help students pronounce and define the words. Unlike a dictionary, the definitions in the Glossary are concise and written in context. Remember, we're teachers! Students will be exposed to these vocabulary words in the comprehension activities. They will also be tested on the vocabulary words at the end of the lesson.

Students will be responsible for filling out and studying their vocabulary cards. You may want to have students bring in a small box for storing their vocabulary cards. We don't have to tell you that incorporating these words into your Reading and Spelling programs will save time and make the words more meaningful for students.

## THE LESSON PLAN

Before reading *Vasco Núñez de Balboa*, students will:

- complete Vocabulary Cards for ***abandoned, accused, autobiography, befriended, beheaded, biographies, Caribbean Sea, coast, colony, conquistador, convinced, debt, defeated, denied, dominions, expedition, fertile, governor, Hispaniola, historians, hostile, island, Isthmus of Panama, journal, loyalty, mainland, New World, nobleman, preserved, raided, respect, treason, voyages, worshipped.***

After reading *Vasco Núñez de Balboa*, students will:

- answer *Vasco Núñez de Balboa* Comprehension Questions.
- answer *Vasco Núñez de Balboa* Discussion Questions.
- use number and letter pairs to complete Conquistador Grid Math.
- take a Vocabulary Quiz for *Vasco Núñez de Balboa*.

**NOTE:** The answers to all activities and quizzes are at the end of the lesson.

## OUR OTHER SPANISH EXPLORERS AND CONQUISTADORS LESSONS

*Christopher Columbus, Amerigo Vespucci, Juan Ponce de León, Ferdinand Magellan, Hernando Cortés, Francisco Pizarro, Cabeza de Vaca, Hernando de Soto, Francisco de Coronado, Juan Cabrillo, and The Future of New Spain.*

# VOCABULARY CARD



word: \_\_\_\_\_

definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

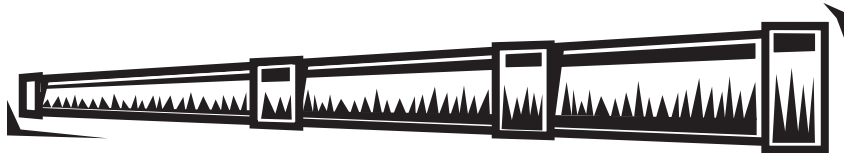


# VOCABULARY CARD

word: \_\_\_\_\_

definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# VOCABULARY CARD



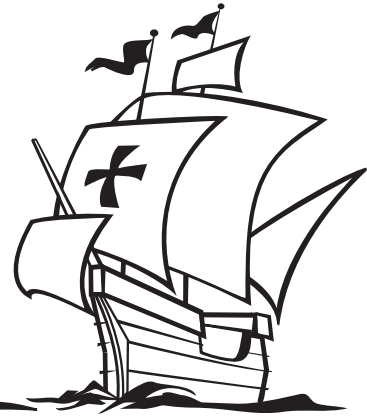
word: \_\_\_\_\_

definition: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



# VASCO NÚÑEZ DE BALBOA



Vasco Núñez de Balboa was born in Spain. It's not clear exactly when he was born, but most **historians** agree that it was probably in 1475. His parents were not wealthy, so young Vasco worked in the household of a rich **nobleman** who lived on the Atlantic **Coast** of southwest Spain. Many ships heading for the **New World** stopped here to pick of supplies and crew members. As sailors returned from their **voyages**, Vasco heard the stories of land and riches across the Atlantic Ocean.

## VOYAGE TO SOUTH AMERICA

In 1501, Balboa joined a Spanish **expedition** to South America. The expedition explored the northern coast of present-day Colombia. The group was not able to settle in Colombia because they didn't have enough men, food, or supplies. Instead, they sailed through the **Caribbean Sea** to the **island** of **Hispaniola** (his•pan•ee•OH•luh).

Balboa used the money he earned from the South American expedition to purchase land and pigs. Unfortunately, the Native Americans on the island of Hispaniola **worshipped** pigs. They would not buy or eat animals that they worshipped.

Unable to successfully farm or raise pigs, Balboa soon found himself poor and in **debt**.

He wanted to leave Hispaniola and join an expedition that was planning to build the **colony** of San Sebastián in South America. The people to whom he owed money would not allow him to leave.

In 1510, Balboa left Hispaniola by hiding on a ship that was taking supplies to San Sebastián. The captain discovered Balboa hiding in a barrel. He threatened to throw him off the ship. Balboa's life was saved because he **convinced** the captain that his knowledge of the area they were going to could be useful. When they reached San Sebastián, they found that the colonists had **abandoned** the settlement because of Native American attacks.



## SANTA MARÍA

Balboa suggested that they move the colony west to Darién (DAIR•ree•an). According to Balboa, **fertile** soil and friendlier Native Americans could be found in this area of South America. When they arrived at the spot that Balboa had told them about, they found 500 **hostile** Native American warriors ready to fight. After a difficult battle, the Spaniards successfully **defeated** the Native Americans. They **raided** the Native American village and discovered a treasure of golden ornaments. They named their new settlement Santa María. Santa María was the first permanent settlement on the **mainland** of South America.

## GOVERNOR BALBOA

As a reward for his leadership, Vasco Balboa was chosen as the **governor** of Santa María. As governor, Balboa had complete power. From his settlement in Santa María, Governor Balboa sailed west along Panama's coastline, defeating some Native Americans and making friends with others. He explored rivers, mountains, and swamps, searching for gold and capturing slaves. He claimed huge areas of new land for Spain. Balboa wrote to the king of Spain asking for more men, weapons, and supplies for building ships.

Balboa planted corn and received fresh supplies from Hispaniola and Spain. He got his men ready for exploring. He collected a large amount of gold from the ornaments worn by the Native American women. Some of this gold was given to him; most of it he took by force.

In 1513, Governor Balboa heard stories about an area to the south where people were so rich that they ate and drank from dishes made of solid gold. Balboa was warned that he would need at least 1,000 men to defeat the Native Americans living along the coast of what they called "the other sea."



## DISCOVERING THE SOUTH SEA

On September 1, 1513, Balboa led an expedition of about 200 Spaniards, a few Native American guides and a pack of dogs across the **Isthmus of Panama**. The group included famous explorer Francisco Pizarro (puh•ZAR•roh), whom you will learn about soon. Using a small ship and ten Native American canoes, the group sailed along the coast until they met up with a tribe of Native Americans that Balboa had **befriended**. They left the Native American village with more than 1,000 men ready for battle. Balboa led his army through 45 miles of Panama's jungle.

Thirty days later, the expedition reached the sea that Balboa had been told about. Balboa walked into the ocean, dipped his sword in the water, and claimed the water and all of the surrounding land for Spain. He named the new sea Mar del Sur, which means South Sea in English. Today, we know this body of water as the Pacific Ocean.

The most important reason for Balboa's journey was to find the gold. His large army of Spaniards and Native American warriors easily defeated the native peoples living along the South Sea. As promised, Balboa found riches of gold and pearls. He then learned that more treasure could be found on a group of islands guarded by a powerful and feared tribe of Native Americans. Balboa and a small group of warriors paddled canoes to reach the islands. After a bloody battle, Balboa and his army defeated the Native Americans on the islands. They took as much gold and pearls as they could carry in their canoes. Before leaving, Balboa named the largest island Isla Rica, which means Rich Island.



## PEDRO ARIAS

On January 19, 1514, Balboa returned to Santa María a very wealthy man. More importantly, he had discovered the South Sea and claimed new land for Spain. As required by Spanish law, Balboa sent one fifth of his treasure to King Ferdinand in Spain.

Since Balboa had been gone for so long, King Ferdinand chose a new governor for Santa María. His name was Pedro Arias. In July 1514, Pedro Arias arrived in Santa María with men, women, and supplies.

Balboa was angry that he had been replaced as governor. He wanted more than anything to return to the South Sea and continue searching for pearls and gold. Unfortunately, Balboa was no longer in power. It was the governor's job to decide which explorers led expeditions.

Balboa secretly planned his next expedition. Governor Arias found out about Balboa's plans and had him arrested. Just as Governor Arias was planning to lock Balboa in a wooden cage, King Ferdinand received news of Balboa's discoveries and one fifth of the treasure that Balboa had sent. The king saved Balboa's life.

King Ferdinand told Governor Arias that Balboa was to be shown the greatest **respect** for all of his accomplishments. Governor Arias obeyed the king. He even arranged for Balboa to marry one of his daughters.



VASCO NÚÑEZ DE BALBOA

## BALBOA'S DEATH

In 1517, Governor Arias permitted Balboa to return to the South Sea. On his way back to Santa María, Balboa was arrested by Francisco Pizarro, the same soldier who had been with him when he discovered the South Sea. Pizarro had been sent by Governor Arias. Balboa was **accused** of trying to take control of the South Sea for himself. Balboa **denied** all charges and demanded to be taken to Spain where he could speak with King Ferdinand and receive a fair trial. Governor Arias refused. He ordered that the trial take place immediately.

On January 15, 1519, Vasco Balboa and four of his friends were found guilty of **treason**. They were sentenced to death. As Balboa was led to the chopping block to have his head removed, he screamed, "Lies, lies! Never have such crimes held a place in my heart. I have always **loyally** served the King, with no thought in my mind but to increase his **dominions**." After Balboa and his four friends were **beheaded**, their heads were put on public display for several days.

# VASCO NÚÑEZ DE BALBOA

**Directions: Read each question carefully. Darken the circle for the correct answer.**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <p><b>1 After reading the first paragraph about Vasco Nuñez de Balboa, you get the idea that –</b></p> <p>A his parents gave him everything he wanted</p> <p>B historians know exactly when he was born</p> <p>C he listened to sailors tell their stories</p> <p>D he was born in Italy</p> <p><b>2 What did Balboa do with the money he earned from the expedition to South America?</b></p> <p>F He purchased land and pigs.</p> <p>G He sent it to his parents in Spain.</p> <p>H He paid for another trip to South America.</p> <p>J He returned to Spain and became a farmer.</p> <p><b>3 Which phrase about Balboa tells you that he was able to talk his way out of difficult situations?</b></p> <p>A ...Balboa soon found himself poor and in debt...</p> <p>B ...hiding on a ship that was taking supplies to San Sebastián...</p> <p>C ...captain discovered Balboa hiding in a barrel...</p> <p>D ...convinced the captain that he was valuable...</p> <p><b>4 Which statement about Governor Balboa is <u>false</u>?</b></p> <p>F He claimed land for Spain.</p> <p>G He took whatever he wanted.</p> <p>H He didn't have any power in Santa María.</p> <p>J As governor, he searched for gold and captured slaves.</p> | <p><b>5 Which body of water did Balboa discover?</b></p> <p>A Pacific Ocean</p> <p>B Atlantic Ocean</p> <p>C Gulf of Mexico</p> <p>D Caribbean Sea</p> <p><b>6 What was more important to Balboa than discovering this body of water?</b></p> <p>F Rescuing the Native Americans from Isla Rica.</p> <p>G Making sure his soldiers were safe and well rested.</p> <p>H Finding the gold that others had told him about.</p> <p>J Returning safely to Santa María.</p> <p><b>7 What was Balboa's punishment for being found guilty of treason?</b></p> <p>A He was sent back to Spain.</p> <p>B He was beheaded.</p> <p>C He spent the rest of his life in a wooden cage.</p> <p>D He was hanged.</p> <p><b>8 If Balboa had been permitted to return to Spain for a trial, he <u>probably</u> -</b></p> <p>F would have been found not guilty</p> <p>G would have been put to death anyway</p> <p>H would still be alive today</p> <p>J would have told King Ferdinand about how fairly he was treated by Governor Arias</p> |
|---|---|

READING

**Answers**

- |                   |                   |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 5 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 2 (F) (G) (H) (J) | 6 (F) (G) (H) (J) |
| 3 (A) (B) (C) (D) | 7 (A) (B) (C) (D) |
| 4 (F) (G) (H) (J) | 8 (F) (G) (H) (J) |

## LET'S TALK ABOUT IT



### VASCO NÚÑEZ DE BALBOA

Vasco Núñez de Balboa is famous for discovering the Pacific Ocean. Read the questions below about Vasco Núñez de Balboa. Write your answers on the lines provided. Attach a separate piece of paper if you need more room. Be ready to discuss some of your answers.

- **We know Vasco Núñez de Balboa as a very successful explorer, but he failed at being a pig farmer.**

In your own words, explain why Balboa failed at raising and selling pigs.

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When you grow up and start your own business, what will you sell?

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How will you keep from making the same mistakes that Balboa made when he started his business?

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- **When Balboa was arrested, Governor Pedro Arias refused to send him back to Spain for his trial.**

Why do you think Governor Arias refused to send Balboa back to Spain for his trial?

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# consider

## the source

**T**hink about the resources we use to learn about history. Reading books, seeing movies, looking at photographs, studying maps, searching the Internet, digging for bones, and holding pieces of pottery are some of the ways that we learn about the past.

There are two types of sources to help us learn about what happened in the past. Primary sources are recorded by people who were there at the time. If you have ever read a diary or an **autobiography**, then you were reading something that was written by the person who was actually recording the events and experiences as they were happening. Diaries and autobiographies are primary sources. Letters, interviews, photographs, original maps, bones, and pieces of pottery are other examples of primary sources because they give us “first-hand” knowledge of an event that took place in history.

Secondary sources are recorded by people after an event took place. Many books have been written about important historical events and people. A book written in 1963 about the life of Christopher Columbus is a secondary source because the author wasn’t actually there to interview the famous explorer and can’t give any “first-hand” knowledge. Movies, **biographies**, newspaper stories, and encyclopedias are other examples of secondary sources because they give us “second-hand” knowledge of events that took place in history.



You have just finished studying about Spanish explorer Vasco Núñez de Balboa.

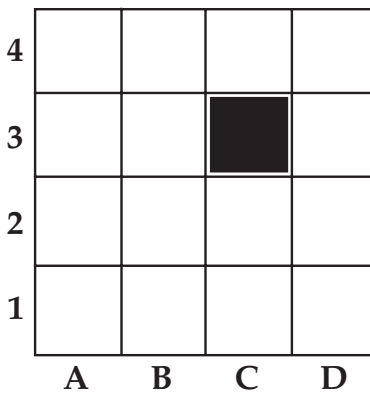
In this activity, you will decide whether a source of information is a primary source or a secondary source. On the lines provided, put a “P” next to the primary sources and an “S” next to the secondary sources.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ A piece of wood from one of Balboa’s ships **preserved** in a museum.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ A bottle of water from the South Sea.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ A page from Vasco Núñez de Balboa’s **journal**.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ Vasco Núñez de Balboa’s biography.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ A picture of Governor Pedro Arias drawn by your brother.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ The original letter that Balboa wrote to King Ferdinand asking for more supplies for his colony.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ Pieces of gold that Balboa stole from Native Americans on Isla Rica.

# Grid MATH

**Grid Math** is a fun way to learn an important skill. Grids are used to find places on maps, to track weather patterns, and in space exploration.

**For Example:** If you want to locate a place where C meets 3 (C,3), you would go over to C and up to 3. On a map or an atlas, (C,3) may be the place where you would find the name of your city.



**Directions:** In this activity you will use a grid system to put together a puzzle that should remind you of Spanish **conquistador** (con•KEE•stah•dor) Vasco Nuñez de Balboa. You will need the 48 puzzle pieces (some of the puzzle pieces are below and the rest of them are on the next page), and the blank grid.

1. Cut out the puzzle pieces **one at a time** (cut around the thick black line of the square). Glue **that** piece in its proper place on the empty grid before cutting out the next piece. Make sure that you do not turn the puzzle piece upside down or turn it on its side before gluing it; the way it looks before you cut it out is the way it should be glued onto the grid.
2. Follow the example above: If the puzzle piece is labeled (D,1), glue that piece in the space where D meets 1 on the grid by going over to D and up to 1. (D,1) has been done for you as an example.
3. When you are finished, color in your picture with your coloring pencils.



(D,1)



(E,2)



(B,4)



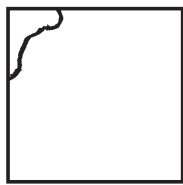
(H,3)



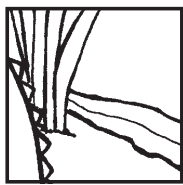
(D,6)



(E,4)



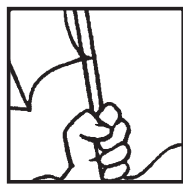
(G,5)



(H,2)



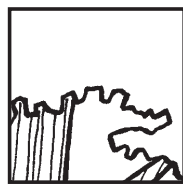
(C,2)



(D,5)



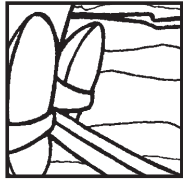
(C,6)



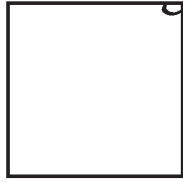
(A,6)



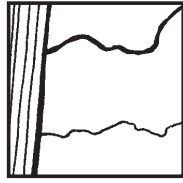
(C,5)



(D,2)



(H,5)



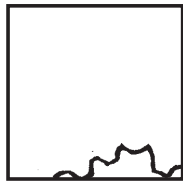
(A,4)



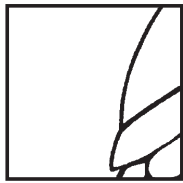
(G,3)



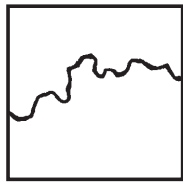
(E,3)



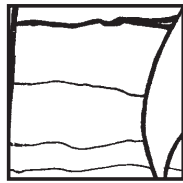
(G,6)



(B,5)



(F,5)



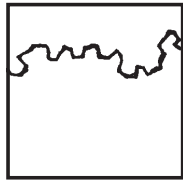
(A,2)



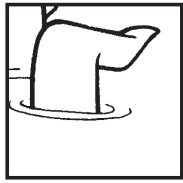
(C,4)



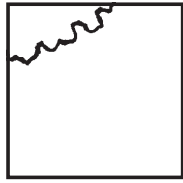
(G,2)



(E,6)



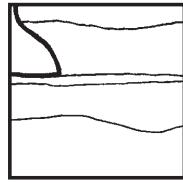
(H,1)



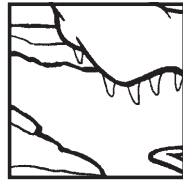
(F,6)



(B,3)



(C,1)



(F,2)



(H,6)



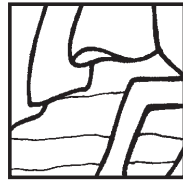
(D,4)



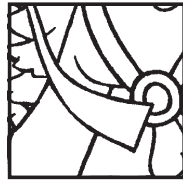
(F,1)



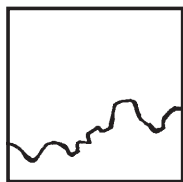
(G,1)



(B,2)



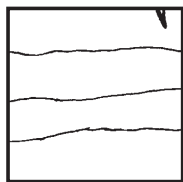
(D,3)



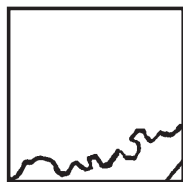
(E,5)



(F,3)



(A,1)



(B,6)



(E,1)



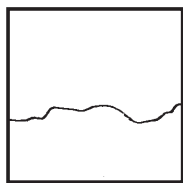
(G,4)



(C,3)



(A,5)



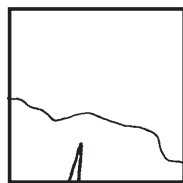
(F,4)



(B,1)



(A,3)

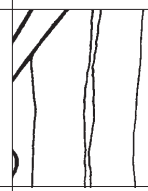


(H,4)

NAME \_\_\_\_\_


**6**      **5**      **4**      **3**      **2**      **1**

**A**   **B**   **C**   **D**   **E**   **F**   **G**   **H**

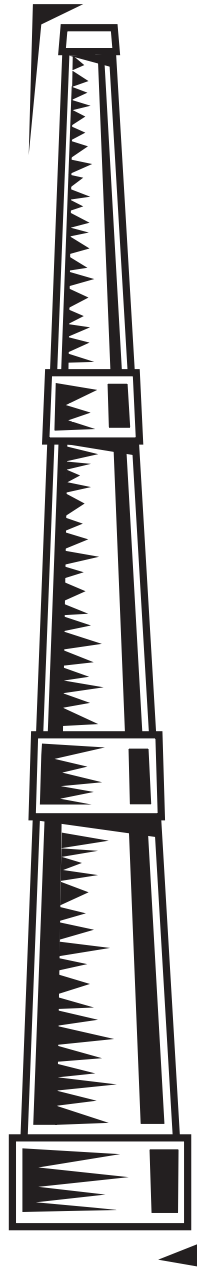


# VOCABULARY QUIZ

## VASCO NÚÑEZ DE BALBOA

**Directions:** Match the vocabulary word on the left with its definition on the right. Put the letter for the definition on the blank next to the vocabulary word it matches. Use each word and definition only once.

1. \_\_\_\_\_ accused
2. \_\_\_\_\_ worshipped
3. \_\_\_\_\_ Caribbean Sea
4. \_\_\_\_\_ convinced
5. \_\_\_\_\_ denied
6. \_\_\_\_\_ treason
7. \_\_\_\_\_ governor
8. \_\_\_\_\_ coast
9. \_\_\_\_\_ respect
10. \_\_\_\_\_ expedition
11. \_\_\_\_\_ autobiography
12. \_\_\_\_\_ raided
13. \_\_\_\_\_ Hispaniola
14. \_\_\_\_\_ nobleman
15. \_\_\_\_\_ biographies



- A. a term once used to describe the continents of North America and South America.
- B. people who study history.
- C. a settlement of people who are ruled by another country.
- D. honored someone; usually during a religious ceremony.
- E. a written record of daily events.
- F. the story of your life written by you.
- G. a Spanish soldier who conquered the Native Americans of Mexico and Peru.
- H. an island in the West Indies that lies between Cuba and Puerto Rico.
- I. didn't agree to.
- J. won victory over.
- K. faithfully.
- L. large territories with one ruler.
- M. talked someone into doing something your way.
- N. cut off someone's head.
- O. the narrow strip of land connecting North and South America.

16. \_\_\_\_\_loyally
17. \_\_\_\_\_voyages
18. \_\_\_\_\_abandoned
19. \_\_\_\_\_Isthmus of Panama
20. \_\_\_\_\_befriended
21. \_\_\_\_\_hostile
22. \_\_\_\_\_beheaded
23. \_\_\_\_\_fertile
24. \_\_\_\_\_colony
25. \_\_\_\_\_dominions
26. \_\_\_\_\_conquistador
27. \_\_\_\_\_debt
28. \_\_\_\_\_defeated
29. \_\_\_\_\_preserved
30. \_\_\_\_\_historians
31. \_\_\_\_\_island
32. \_\_\_\_\_journal
33. \_\_\_\_\_mainland
34. \_\_\_\_\_New World



- P. protected from injury or ruin so more can be learned.
- Q. a large piece of land set apart from an island.
- R. area of land that is completely surrounded by water.
- S. stories of a person's life written by someone else.
- T. journey for the purpose of exploring.
- U. blamed or charged with a crime.
- V. money that is owed to someone else.
- W. entered someone's property for the purpose of stealing.
- X. journeys that are usually made by water.
- Y. gave up completely.
- Z. an arm of the Atlantic Ocean surrounded on the north and east by the West Indies, on the south by South America, and on the west by Central America.
- AA. made friends with someone.
- BB. to honor someone.
- CC. a man born to high rank.
- DD. a person who is in charge of an area or group.
- EE. a crime against your country's government.
- FF. angry and unfriendly.
- GG. rich soil that produces a large number of crops.
- HH. an area of land that borders water.

# GLOSSARY



**a•ban•doned** gave up completely.

**ac•cused** blamed or charged with a crime.

**au•to•bi•og•ra•phy** the story of your life written by you.

**be•friend•ed** made friends with someone.

**be•head•ed** cut off someone's head.

**bi•og•ra•phies** stories of a person's life written by someone else.

**Ca•rib•be•an Sea** an arm of the Atlantic Ocean surrounded on the north and east by the West Indies, on the south by South America, and on the west by Central America.

**coast** an area of land that borders water.

**col•o•ny** a settlement of people who are ruled by another country.

**con•quis•ta•dor** a Spanish soldier who conquered the Native Americans of Mexico and Peru.

**con•vinced** talked someone into doing something your way.

**debt** money that is owed to someone else.

**de•feat•ed** won victory over.

**de•nied** didn't agree to.

**do•min•ions** large territories with one ruler.

**ex•pe•di•tion** journey for the purpose of exploring.

**fer•tile** rich soil that produces a large number of crops.

**gov•er•nor** a person who is in charge of an area or group.

**His•pan•i•o•la** an island in the West Indies that lies between Cuba and Puerto Rico.

**his•to•ri•ans** people who study history.

**hos•tile** angry and unfriendly.

**is•land** area of land that is completely surrounded by water.

**Isth•mus of Pan•a•ma** the narrow strip of land connecting North and South America.

**jour•nal** a written record of daily events.

**loy•al•ly** faithfully.

**main•land** a large piece of land set apart from an island.

**New World** a term once used to describe the continents of North America and South America.

**no•ble•man** a man born to high rank.

**pre•served** protected from injury or ruin so more can be learned.

**raid•ed** entered someone's property for the purpose of stealing.

**re•spect** to honor someone.

**treason** a crime against your country's government.

**voy•ages** journeys that are usually made by water.

**wor•shipped** honored someone; usually during a religious ceremony.

# ANSWERS



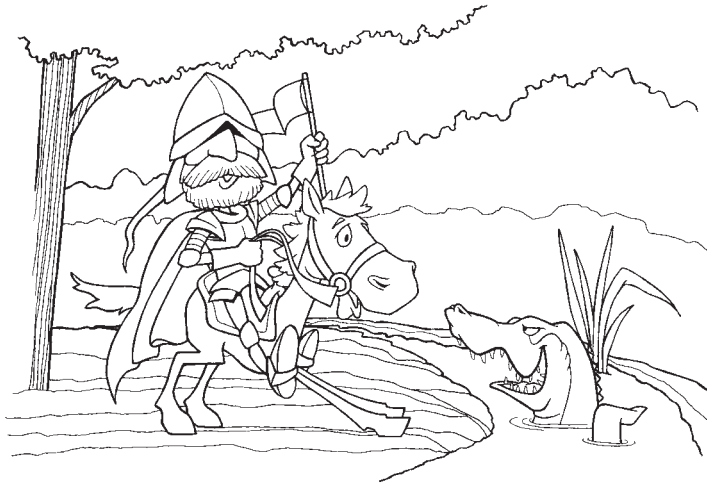
## ANSWERS TO COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. C
2. F
3. D
4. H
5. A
6. H
7. B
8. F

## ANSWERS TO CONSIDER THE SOURCE

1. P
2. P
3. P
4. S
5. S
6. P
7. P

## ANSWER TO GRID MATH



## ANSWERS TO VOCABULARY QUIZ

- |       |        |        |       |
|-------|--------|--------|-------|
| 1. U  | 10. I  | 19. O  | 28. J |
| 2. D  | 11. F  | 20. AA | 29. P |
| 3. Z  | 12. W  | 21. FF | 30. B |
| 4. M  | 13. H  | 22. N  | 31. R |
| 5. I  | 14. CC | 23. GG | 32. E |
| 6. EE | 15. S  | 24. C  | 33. Q |
| 7. DD | 16. K  | 25. L  | 34. A |
| 8. HH | 17. X  | 26. G  |       |
| 9. BB | 18. Y  | 27. V  |       |

## ANSWERS TO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Answers will vary, but should include that the Native Americans wouldn't buy or eat Balboa's pigs because they worshipped the animals.
2. Answers will vary.
3. Answers will vary, but should include some understanding of the research involved in starting a business; if Balboa had done his research, he would not have raised an animal that nobody on the island would buy.
4. Answers will vary.