1400 – 1600

Age of Exploration Quiz

Name _____ Date _____

Fill in the circle beside the best answer.

1. Who pioneered ocean exploration in the early 1400s?

- (A) Italy, through the Medici family of Florence
- (B) Spain, through Queen Isabella of Castile
- (C) Portugal, through Prince Henry the Navigator
- (D) England, through Sir Francis Drake

2. What was the significance of Columbus's 1492 voyage?

- (A) He opened lasting contact between Europe and the Americas
- (B) He opened the first sea route from Europe around Africa to India
- (C) He led the first voyage to sail all the way around the world
- (D) He conquered the Aztec Empire and claimed Mexico for Spain

3. Why was Vasco da Gama's voyage to India in 1498 important?

- (A) He opened a sea route from Europe to India for the rich spice trade
- (B) He crossed Panama on foot, becoming the first European to see the Pacific
- (C) He crossed the Atlantic for Spain, reaching islands in the Caribbean
- (D) He sailed around South America, finding a western route to the Pacific

4. What did Magellan's expedition prove?

- (A) That Asia lay only a few weeks of sailing west of Spain's coast
- (B) That the Earth could be sailed around, showing its true size
- (C) That no ocean lay between the Americas and the coast of Asia
- (D) That ships could not pass south of the American continents

5. How did the Americas get their name?

- (A) A Portuguese king named them after a navigator who mapped Brazil
- (B) Columbus named them after a sailor on his first voyage in 1492
- (C) A mapmaker named them after Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci
- (D) The Spanish crown named them after an early governor of Mexico

6. What happened when Spain conquered the Aztec Empire in 1521?

- (A) Spain and the Aztecs signed a treaty to share rule over central Mexico
- (B) Spain gained little, and the Aztec Empire kept ruling Mexico for another century
- (C) Spain withdrew from Mexico after Cortes was defeated at Tenochtitlan
- (D) Spain gained wealth, but millions of indigenous people died of war and disease

7. What was Balboa the first European to see in 1513?

- (A) The Caribbean Sea from the coast of Florida
- (B) The Pacific Ocean from the American continent
- (C) The Indian Ocean from the east coast of Africa
- (D) The Atlantic Ocean from the tip of South America

8. What was the long-term global impact of the Age of Exploration?

- (A) A world where Asian and African empires ruled colonies across much of Europe
- (B) A decline in ocean trade, as Europe turned back to overland routes across Asia
- (C) A lasting peace among European powers, with trade shared equally among all nations
- (D) A global economy linked by trade, but also colonization, disease, and the slave trade

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Age of Exploration Quiz: Answer Key

1. **C** Portugal, through Prince Henry the Navigator

2. **A** He opened lasting contact between Europe and the Americas

3. **A** He opened a sea route from Europe to India for the rich spice trade

4. **B** That the Earth could be sailed around, showing its true size

5. **C** A mapmaker named them after Italian explorer Amerigo Vespucci

6. **D** Spain gained wealth, but millions of indigenous people died of war and disease

7. **B** The Pacific Ocean from the American continent

8. **D** A global economy linked by trade, but also colonization, disease, and the slave trade