

Handout A: Hakluyt Primary Source Packet

NAME: _____

Together: Read the introduction to the document and answer the questions that follow.

Introduction:

Richard Hakluyt (1552–1616), an English promotional writer, wrote his most famous work, *The principall Navigations, Voiages and Discoveries of the English nation* (spelling and capitalization are as he wrote it), in 1589. He began writing the work during the English naval conflict with Spain that resulted in the defeat of the Spanish Armada. England's maritime power was growing under Queen Elizabeth I at this time, which led many Englishmen to call for the global expansion of European power and influence. Hakluyt's work was influential politically within England in its time and documents the travels of not only Englishmen but other Europeans as well.

Sourcing Questions:

1. When was this document written?
2. Before the writing of this document, which two European countries led the way in maritime exploration?
3. What were the risks involved in undertaking sea voyages from Europe to the Atlantic?
4. How might the author's perspective and historical context influence his thoughts about undertaking sea voyages?

In your groups:

Read your assigned passage with your group member(s). Answer the comprehension questions and summarize the main ideas as succinctly as possible. Be prepared to share your answers with the class. As each group shares, make notes in your own words for the main ideas of the passages you did not read.

Group members: _____

Passage assigned: _____

The principall Navigations, Voiages and Discoveries of the English nation, Richard Hakluyt, 1589

Vocabulary	Primary Source Text	Comprehension Questions
laud (v): to praise highly, especially in a public context	The first Chapter, wherein the Argument of the Book is contained. Christopher Columbus of famous memory, the first instrument to manifest the great glory and mercy of Almighty God in planting the Christian faith, in those so long unknown regions, having in purpose to acquaint (as he did) that renowned Prince, the Queen's Majesty's grandfather King Henry the Seventh, with his intended voyage for the Western discoveries, was not only derided and mocked generally, even here in England , but afterward became a laughing stock to the Spaniards themselves, who at this day (of all other people) are most bound to laud and praise God, who first stirred up the man to that enterprise. . . .	1. According to Hakluyt, how did the English people react to Christopher Columbus when he first proposed to the English king, Henry VII, his idea to sail west to reach India?
	[In addition], how mightily it has enlarged the dominions of the Crown of Spain, and greatly enriched the subjects of the same, let all men consider. Besides, it is well known, that since the time of Columbus his first discovery, through the planting, possessing, and inhabiting those parts, there has been transported and brought home into Europe greater store of Gold, Silver, Pearl, and Precious stones, then heretofore has been in all ages since the creation of the world. . . .	2. The word "it" as used in the first line of this excerpt refers to:
commodious (adj): convenient	And to this end have I taken pen in hand . . . I will endeavor myself, and do stand in good hope (though my skill and knowledge be simple, yet through the assistance of almighty God) to prove that the Voyage lately enterprised for trade, traffic, and planting in America , is an action tending to the lawful enlargement of her Majesty's Dominions, commodious to the whole Realm in general, profitable to the adventurers in particular, beneficial to the Savages, and a matter to be attained without any great danger or difficulty. And lastly, (which is most of all) A thing likewise tending to the honor and glory of Almighty God. And for that the lawfulness to plant in those Countries in some men's judgements seems very doubtful, I will begin the proof of the lawfulness of trade, traffic, and planting.	3. According to Hakluyt, why is he writing this book? 4. Does Hakluyt believe there are any risks to undertaking sea voyages across the Atlantic Ocean? Cite a line from the text to support your answer.

Vocabulary	Primary Source Text	Comprehension Questions
Main ideas of passage (excerpts from chapter 1):		
impugn (v): to dispute the truth, validity, or honesty of	The second Chapter shows, that it is lawful and necessary to trade and traffic with the Savages: And to plant in their Countries: And divide planting into two sorts. And first for traffic, I say that the Christians may lawfully travel into those Countries and abide there: whom the Savages may not justly impugn and forbid in respect of the mutual society and fellowship between man and man prescribed by the Law of Nations. For from the first beginning of the creation of the world, and from the renewing of the same after Noah's flood, all men have agreed, that no violence should be offered to Ambassadors: That the Sea with his Havens should be common: That such as should fortune to be taken in war, should be servants or slaves: And that strangers should not be driven away from the place or Country whereunto they do come.	5. How does Hakluyt justify the right of Englishmen to trade with "Savages" and to be present on their lands?
molest (v): to harass, pester grieve (v): to cause great distress to	If it were so then, I demand in what age, and by what Law is the same forbidden or denied since? For who doubts but that it is lawful for Christians to use trade and traffic with Infidels or Savages, carrying there such commodities as they want, and bringing from there some part of their plenty? A thing so commonly and generally practiced, both in these our days, and in times past, beyond the memory of man, both by Christians and Infidels, that it needs no further proof. . . . As letting them to understand, how they came not to their hurt, but for their good, and to no other end, but to dwell peaceably amongst them, and to trade and traffic with them for their own commodity, without molesting or grieving them any way: which must not be done by words only but also by deeds. . . .	6. According to Hakluyt in this passage, what is the reason for Englishmen to interact with "Savages"? 7. How does Hakluyt say the Europeans should act toward the Native Americans? What reasoning does he provide?

Vocabulary	Primary Source Text	Comprehension Questions
marshal [martial] (adj): of or appropriate to war; warlike	The fourth chapter shows how that the trade, traffic, and planting in those countries, is likely to prove very profitable to the whole realm in general. Now to show how the same is likely to prove very profitable and beneficial generally to the whole realm: it is very certain, that the greatest jewel of this realm, and the chief strength and force of the same, for defense or offence in marshal matter and manner, is the multitude of ships, masters and mariners, ready to assist the most stately and royal navy of her Majesty, which by reason of this voyage shall have both increase and maintenance. . . .	8. According to Hakluyt, how will sea voyages benefit the entire English nation?
manifest (adj): clear or obvious	To what end need I endeavor myself by arguments to prove that by this voyage our navy and navigation shall be enlarged, when as there needs none other reason than the manifest & late example of the near neighbors to this realm, the kings of Spain and Portugal, who since the first discovery of the Indies, have not only mightily enlarged their dominions, greatly enriched themselves and their subjects: but have also by just account tripled the number of their ships, masters and mariners, a matter of no small moment and importance?	9. How does this passage emphasize the political motivations for undertaking sea voyages across the Atlantic Ocean?
idly (adv): in an inactive or lazy way trifling (adj): unimportant or trivial	Besides this, it will prove a general benefit unto our country, that through this occasion, not only a great number of men which do now live idly at home, and are burdensome, chargeable, and unprofitable to this realm, shall hereby be set on work, but also children of twelve or fourteen years of age, or under, may be kept from idleness, in making of a thousand kinds of trifling things, which will be good merchandise for that country.	10. What economic benefit will sea voyages bring to England, besides resources, according to Hakluyt?
hemp (n): plant fibers used to make rope husbandry (n): care and maintenance of animals or livestock	And moreover, our idle women (which the Realm may well spare) shall also be employed on plucking, drying, and sorting of feathers, in pulling, beating, and working of hemp, and in gathering of cotton, and diverse things right necessary for dying. All which things are to be found in those countries most plentifully. And the men may employ themselves in dragging for pearl, working for mines, and in matters of husbandry, and likewise in hunting the whale for [oil], and making casks to put the same in . . . for those persons that are no men of art or science. . . .	

Vocabulary	Primary Source Text	Comprehension Questions
Main ideas of passage (excerpts from chapters 2 and 4):		
	The fifth chapter shows that the trading and planting in those countries is likely to prove to the particular profit of all adventurers. I must, now according to my promise show forth some probable reasons that the adventurers in this journey are to take particular profit by the same. . . . And first to bend my speech to the noblemen and gentlemen, who do chiefly seek a temperate climate, wholesome air, fertile soil, and a strong place by nature whereupon they may fortify, and there either plant themselves, or such other persons as they shall think good to send to be lords of that place and country: to them I say, that all these things are very easy to be found within the degrees of 30 and 60 aforesaid, either by South or North, both in the Continent, and in Islands thereunto adjoining . . .	11. Why would an Englishman want to leave his family and embark on one of these voyages, on which many have died?
sundry (adj): various victual (n): food	And for such as take delight in hunting, there are Stags, Wild boars, Foxes, Hares, [rabbits], Badgers, Otters, and diverse other such like for pleasure. Also for such as have delight in hawking, there are hawks of sundry kinds, and great store of game, both for land and river, as pheasants, partridges, Cranes, Herons, Ducks, Mallards, and such like. There is also a kind of beast much bigger than an Ox, whose hide is more than eighteen feet long, of which sort a countryman of ours, one Walker a sea man, who was upon that coast, did for a true report in the presence of diverse honorable and worshipful persons, that he and his company did find in one cottage above two hundred and forty hides, which they brought away and sold in France for forty shillings an hide . . . supposing it to be a certain kind of [Buffalo]; there are likewise beasts and fowls of diverse kinds, which I omit for brevities sake, great store of fish both in the salt water and in the fresh, plenty of grapes as big as a man's thumb, and the most delicate wine of the Palm tree, of which wine there be diverse of good credit in this realm that have tasted: and there is also a kind of grain called Maize, Potato roots, and sundry other fruits naturally growing there: so that after such time as they are once settled, they shall need to take no great care for victual.	12. What may be the cultural or environmental effect of contact between Europeans and Americans, as shown by Hakluyt's writing? 13. Why does Hakluyt list the various plants, animals, and other resources available in the Americas?

Vocabulary	Primary Source Text	Comprehension Questions
Main ideas of passage (excerpts from chapter five):		
route (n): a disorderly retreat of defeated troops	The sixth Chapter shows that the traffic and planting in those countries, shall be unto the Savages themselves very beneficial and gainful. Now to the end it may appear that this voyage is not undertaken altogether for the peculiar commodity of ourselves and our country (as generally other trades and journeys be) it shall fall out in proof, that the Savages shall hereby have just cause to bless the hour when this enterprise was undertaken. First and chiefly, in respect of the most happy and gladsome tidings of the most glorious Gospel of our Savior Jesus Christ, whereby they may be brought from falsehood to truth, from darkness to light, from the highway of death to the path of life, from superstitious idolatry to sincere Christianity, from the devil to Christ, from hell to heaven. And if in respect of all the commodities they can yield us (were they many more) that they should but receive this only benefit of Christianity, they were more than fully recompensed. . . . But this is not all the benefit which they shall receive by the Christians: for, over and beside the knowledge how to till and dress their grounds, they shall be reduced from unseemly customs to honest manners, from disordered riotous routs and companies to a well governed common wealth, [etc.], shall be taught mechanical occupations, arts, and liberal sciences . . .	14. Why, according to Hakluyt, will the Native Americans ultimately “bless the hour when this enterprise was undertaken”? Provide at least two reasons.

Vocabulary	Primary Source Text	Comprehension Questions
purse (n): (in this context) treasury, wealth available to a country allegation (n): claim or assertion that someone has done something wrong malicious (adj): intending to do harm pestilence (n): a fatal epidemic disease	The seventh Chapter shows that the planting there, is not a matter of such charge or difficulty, as many would make it seem to be. Now therefore for proof, that the planting in these parts is a thing that may be done without the aid of the Prince's power and purse, contrary to the allegation of many malicious persons . . . I say and affirm that God has provided such means for the furtherance of this enterprise, as do stand us instead of great treasure: for first by reason that it has pleased God of his great goodness, of long time to hold his merciful hand over this realm, in preserving the people of the same, both from slaughter by the sword, and great death by plague, pestilence, or otherwise, there are at this day great numbers (God he knows) which live in such [shortage] and want, as they could be contented to hazard their lives, and to serve one year for meat, drink and apparel only, without wages, in hope thereby to amend their estates: which is a matter in such like journeys, of no small charge to the prince. . . .	15. Why might others oppose undertaking these voyages, according to this passage?
	Also the passage is short, for we may go there in thirty or forty days at the most, having but an indifferent wind, and return continually in twenty or four and twenty days at the most. And in the same our journey, by reason it is in the Ocean, and quite out of the way from the intercourse of other countries, we may safely trade and traffic without peril of piracy: neither shall our ships, people, or goods there, be subject to arrest or molestation of any Pagan potentate, Turkish tyrant, yea, or Christian prince, which heretofore sometimes upon slender occasion in other parts have stayed our ships and merchandise, whereby great numbers of our countrymen have been utterly undone . . . Besides, in this voyage we do not cross the burnt line, whereby commonly both beverage and victual are corrupted, and men's health very much impaired, neither do we pass the frozen seas, which yield sundry extreme dangers: but have a temperate climate at all times of the year, to serve our turns. . . .	16. What did Hakluyt mean by "cross the burnt line"? 17. List additional reasons Hakluyt advocates that these voyages are quite feasible.

Vocabulary	Primary Source Text	Comprehension Questions
	All which (no man doubts) are things grateful in the sight of our Savior Christ, and tending to the honor and glory of the Trinity. . . . Wherefore my dear countrymen, be not dismayed: for the power of God is nothing diminished, nor the love that he has to the preaching and planting of the Gospel any [bit] abated. Shall we then doubt he will be less ready most mightily and miraculously to assist our nation in this quarrel, which is chiefly and principally undertaken for the enlargement of the Christian faith abroad, and the banishment of idleness at home, then he was to Columbus , Vasquez, Nunez, Hernando Cortes, and Francis Pizarro in the West: and Vasquez de Gama, Peter Alvares, and Alonso de Albuquerque in the East? Let us therefore with cheerful minds and courageous hearts, give the attempt, and leave the sequel to almighty God: for if he be on our part, what forces it who be against us? Thus leaving the correction and reformation unto the gentle Reader, whatsoever is in this treatise too much or too little, otherwise unperfect, I take leave, and so end.	18. How does Hakluyt use religion to justify the undertaking of these voyages?
Main ideas of passage (excerpts from chapters 6 and 7):		

Individually:

Choose **one** of the assessment options below to complete on your own paper and turn it in before you leave. Include historical evidence from the time period in your answer.

- A. Write a letter to parliament as the king or queen of England justifying the expense of these voyages and your hopes for their return. Convince parliament to support your decision to send or perhaps continue to send voyages to the New World.
- B. In your memoirs, as the king or queen of England, you are reflecting on your decision to spend great amounts of money and risk dangerous seas and pirate for what you got in return. Think about the changes that were revolutionary to England as a result of these voyages, and what England and your reign would look like had they not been made.