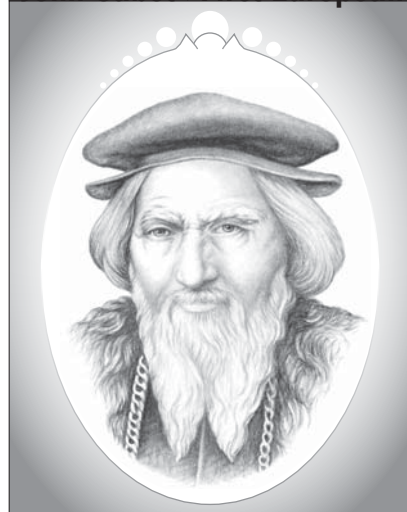


Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**John Cabot First European in America**



**Five years after Columbus sailed from Spain to North America, another Italian crossed the ocean with a similar plan. Giovanni Caboto, or John Cabot in English, sailed west across the Atlantic Ocean in 1497.**

Born around 1455 in Gaeta, Italy, John Cabot moved to Venice, Italy, in 1461. He married a Venetian woman named Mattea, and they had three sons. Cabot worked in Venice as a **merchant**, trading in spices with the ports of the eastern Mediterranean.

Goods like spices, silks, and precious stones were brought from Asia for sale in Europe. The **monarchs** of England, Spain, Portugal, and France wanted a sea route to Asia so that they could buy goods directly. These nations began sending explorers to search for better ways to get to Asia.

Wanting to be a part of this adventure, Cabot asked the monarchs of Spain and Portugal to send him on an expedition. However, neither country was interested in Cabot's **proposal**. In the meantime, news arrived that Columbus had sailed west across the Atlantic to Asia. We now know he had really reached the islands of the Caribbean. Columbus claimed the land for Spain.

Cabot moved to Bristol, England, and asked the king to send him on an expedition. King Henry VII agreed. Cabot planned to sail across the Atlantic to Asia, like Columbus had. However, he chose to sail across the North Atlantic, thinking that this route would be faster.

In 1496, Cabot sailed from Bristol, but soon returned because of bad weather, a **shortage** of food, and arguments with his crew. In May 1497, Cabot tried again. He sailed on the ship *Matthew* with a crew of 18 men, including his son, Sebastiano. Cabot landed in southern Labrador, Newfoundland, on June 24, 1497. He went ashore and claimed the land for England. Cabot then explored Canada's eastern coastline.

Pleased with his findings, Cabot sailed back to Bristol and arrived on August 6, 1497. He said that he had found a wonderful place. The climate was **temperate**, and the sea was full of fish. The king approved a second trip to the same place. Cabot left Bristol in 1498. This expedition was probably made up of five ships and about 200 men. One ship immediately returned to Ireland because it was damaged. After that, nothing was ever heard from John Cabot's expedition. It is believed that they were lost at sea, though some believe they reached America before disappearing.

John Cabot is credited as the first European to set foot on mainland North America. Because of Cabot's travels, England made its first claims in North America.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**John Cabot First European in America**

**MULTIPLE CHOICE** Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. John Cabot was born in \_\_\_\_\_ and sailed for England.  
A. Italy  
B. Spain  
C. Portugal  
D. Canada
2. Before becoming an explorer, Cabot was a \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. king  
B. merchant  
C. fisherman  
D. writer
3. Goods like \_\_\_\_\_ were brought from Asia for sale in Europe.  
A. spices  
B. silks  
C. precious stones  
D. all of the above
4. Cabot claimed land in \_\_\_\_\_ for England.  
A. Newfoundland  
B. Ireland  
C. Japan  
D. All of the above
5. John Cabot's final expedition \_\_\_\_\_.  
A. was a huge success  
B. was lost at sea  
C. included a crew of 18  
D. returned because of bad weather

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**John Cabot** **First European in America**

**VOCABULARY** Find the bold words in the article. Use the words around them to help you figure out the meanings. Circle the best answer, and write the letter in the box.

1. In paragraph two, the word “merchant” means \_\_\_\_\_.  
**A.** a person who lives in the eastern Mediterranean  
**B.** a person who works in a port  
**C.** a person who has three sons  
**D.** a person who buys and sells things to make money
2. In paragraph three, the word “monarchs” means \_\_\_\_\_.  
**A.** the absolute rulers of a nation  
**B.** types of butterflies  
**C.** taxes on spices  
**D.** sea routes to Asia
3. In paragraph four, the word “proposal” means \_\_\_\_\_.  
**A.** a plan  
**B.** an expedition  
**C.** an island  
**D.** a trade route
4. In paragraph six, the word “shortage” means \_\_\_\_\_.  
**A.** to have too much of something  
**B.** to have too little of something  
**C.** to have just enough of something  
**D.** to have nothing
5. In paragraph seven, the word “temperate” means \_\_\_\_\_.  
**A.** too hot  
**B.** too cold  
**C.** neither too hot nor too cold  
**D.** unappealing