

## “X” Marks the Spot

### **Scenario:**

A new history show, “X Marks the Spot,” highlights the travels of historic world explorers and the interesting locations they have traveled. The show’s producers, who know little about history, need help selecting explorers who will be interesting to their viewers. As historians, your job is to select an explorer that you think would be interesting and do a promotional presentation to the producers. It will be important that you provide the main historical facts about your explorer, as well as interesting facts that may not be in your classroom history book. It is recommended that you have some way they can visualize the journey.

### **Possible topics to cover (these are only suggestions and are not a requirement for a superior presentation):**

1. What was the background of both your explorer and the country that financed their exploration?
2. What would the explorers have known about their destination(s) prior to undertaking their journey?
3. What types of navigational tools were used?
4. Describe the civilizations the explorer encountered; were these civilizations different from their own?
5. What was the goal of their exploration and to what degree was the exploration successful?
6. What dangers did the explorer face?
7. How did their exploration change the country they came from?
8. How did their exploration change the other parts of the world?
9. Compare and contrast one explorer with another.
10. Summarize what makes your explorer significant in history and interesting to viewers.

### **Possible Sources**

History Text Book, Historians, Librarians, Biographies of Explorers

ERS Portal sources: Facts on File, United Streaming, California Streaming, World Book Online, Associate Press Extensive Photo Archive and Thinkfinity: <http://www.erslibrary.org>

Internet websites:

The Mariners’ Museum, Biographies of Explorers

<http://www.mariner.org/educationalad/ageofex/biographies.php>

The Metropolitan Museum of Art: Europe and the Age of Exploration

[http://www.metmuseum.org/TOAH/hd/expl/hd\\_expl.htm](http://www.metmuseum.org/TOAH/hd/expl/hd_expl.htm)

Wikipedia, Age of Discovery [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age\\_of\\_Exploration](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Age_of_Exploration)

Marine Navigation in the Age of Exploration

<http://www.seattleartmuseum.org/exhibit/interactives/spain/launchWin.htm>

### **Bibliography**

Be sure to have a printed bibliography to hand to the judges before you begin your presentation.

You are encouraged to cite all of your sources including graphics. A simple web tool to organize your bibliography can be found at <http://citationmachine.net/>.