

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

# Great Explorations

In this week's *Scholastic News*, you read about two explorers who traveled to the North Pole 100 years ago. The chart below highlights a few other famous explorers in history. Each of them helped increase people's knowledge of different areas around the world. Use the chart to answer the questions below.

YEARS	EXPLORER	NATIONALITY	AREA EXPLORED
1271-95	Marco Polo	Italian	Traveled through what is now Central Asia, India, China, and Indonesia.
1492-93	Christopher Columbus	Italian	Sailed four times from Spain to America and started colonies there.
1497-98	Vasco da Gama	Portuguese	Sailed around the Cape of Good Hope in Southern Africa to East Africa and to what is now India in Asia.
1519-21	Ferdinand Magellan	Portuguese	Sailed from Spain around the tip of South America and across the Pacific Ocean to the Philippines.
1603-13	Samuel de Champlain	French	Charted the course of the St. Lawrence River, which connects the Great Lakes with the Atlantic Ocean, and explored the Northeastern U.S.
1804-06	Meriwether Lewis and William Clark	American	Traveled 8,000 miles across the American West and back, gaining great knowledge of the Louisiana Territory.
1887-1909	Robert Peary and Matthew Henson	American	Went on several expeditions to Greenland and the Arctic region; generally credited with being the first people to reach the North Pole.

1. Samuel de Champlain was a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ explorer.

- (A) Italian                       (C) Portuguese  
 (B) French                         (D) American

2. Ferdinand Magellan traveled around which of the following?

- (A) South America             (C) East Africa  
 (B) India                          (D) China

3. According to the chart, Matthew Henson and Robert Peary both \_\_\_\_.

- (A) were from France  
 (B) explored Greenland  
 (C) are generally credited with being the first people to reach the North Pole  
 (D) b and c

4. During what years did Lewis and Clark explore the American West?

- (A) 1519-21                       (C) 1804-06  
 (B) 1603-13                       (D) 1887-09

5. Who on the chart explored Central Asia?

- (A) Columbus                     (C) Polo  
 (B) Magellan                      (D) Champlain

6. BONUS: Think about the areas each of these explorers visited. If you could go to one of them, which would it be? Why?

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