

Age of Exploration Project

Background Info: The Age of Exploration took place from the early 1400s to the 1600s and was a period in which European countries, notably Spain, Portugal, France, and England undertook extensive explorations. These explorations were initially driven by Europe's desire to find new trade routes. However, they also resulted in extensive mapping, resource extraction, cross-cultural exchange, exploitation and the colonization of Africa, Asia, and the Americas.



The **goal** of this project is to showcase your knowledge (and creativity) of the Age of Exploration through one of the following project options. You **MUST** address one of the "essential questions" for the unit within your project.

Project Options:

- Create a **website or wiki** that provides an overview of the Age of Exploration. You should be sure to include motives and specific explorers. (resource: Wikispace or Google Sites)
- **Magazine** – Create a magazine that chronicles the Age of Exploration. You must include at least 5 different sections in your magazine.
- **Museum Wing Design** – You have been chosen by the Smithsonian Museum to celebrate the Age of Exploration by creating a museum wing. The new wing will display items that represent the reasons and outcomes of exploration. Your project should demonstrate knowledge of exploration as well as include artifacts. For instance, you could include a model of a caravel, diaries/letter entries from an explorer, instruments used for exploration, etc. (resource: Museum Box)
- **Documentary Video** – You have just been awarded a grant to produce your own documentary film on the Age of Exploration. It could be a documentary on an explorer, trade routes, and the effects of European colonization, etc. It must be a minimum of 5 minutes. (resource: Go Animate!)
- **Podcast** – As part of your weekly podcast series, you have decided to cover the topic of the Age of Exploration. You should include a theme song and a graphic to accompany your podcast. It should be a minimum of 5 minutes long. (resource: Audacity)

Essential Questions:

- ▶ *What were the motives for exploration? (political, economic, religious)*
- ▶ *What are the effects of cross-cultural exchange on worldwide relations?*
- ▶ *How did exploration shape the modern world?*
- ▶ *Why is the legacy of European exploration so controversial?*

Days in the Media Lab: _____ & _____

***Please hand in this **rubric** with your project!! (See reverse side)