

# Calendar Connections

## October ~ Explorers

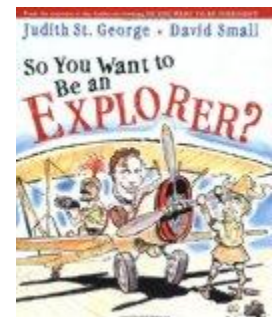
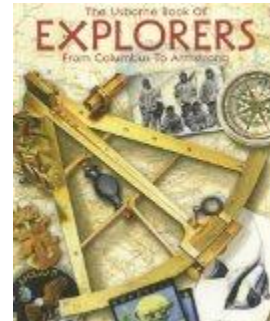
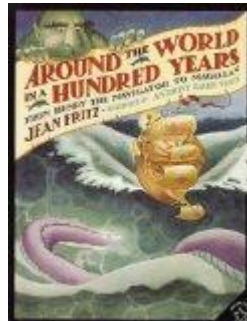
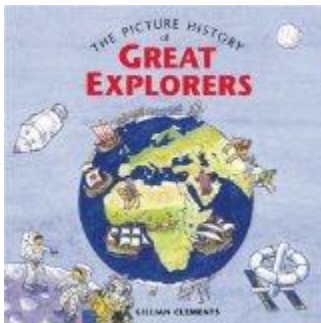
Target Level: grades 3-6

The facts are created at a more advanced level but can easily be used for the entire homeschool family! Young children will soak up the information their older siblings are taught while all together.

Although the cards were created for October, they can be used for any month of the year!

### Explorer Books

Click on the book image to see it on Amazon. The 2 in the blue box are the books that were used while creating this set!



# Calendar Connections

## Helpful Items

~these are the exact products we use~



cardstock



laminator



laminating film

[Oriental Trading](#) carries the exact calendar I used to create these cards, it is item # IN-62/2017. Many times it is out of stock, so just check to see if they are carrying it by searching for the item #. [Use my link](#) to get free shipping with a \$49 purchase!

Home >



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### Classroom Calendar Pocket Chart

IN-62/2017

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Classroom Calendar Pocket Chart. This nylon calendar has 60 clear plastic pockets and colorful days of the week, date and month cards. Use it to bring order to a classroom or day care — or organize a large family! Includes 3 grommets for hanging. Includes 60 date/holiday cards and 12 month cards. 29 1/2" © OTC

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## Explorers

An explorer is one who investigates unknown regions. Many of the people we will look at this month traveled beyond their comfort zone to unravel the mysteries that lay beyond. As they traveled and discovered new things they changed what people thought about the world. Exploration is still occurring everyday as we venture into space and into the depths of the sea – two areas of which little is known. As you read about each discovery – try to find them on a map or atlas.

2

## Claudius Ptolemy

Ptolemy (**tol**-uh-mee) is known as the Father of Geography and even though it is thought he never left his home city of Alexandria, Egypt he was an integral part of helping explorers navigate the unknown by being the first to place North at the top of the map and East to the right. He also experimented with drawing a sphere on a flat surface to allow for the curve of the earth. He also divided the sphere into lines of latitude and longitude to make it easier for navigators to know where they were.  
Can you locate these lines on a globe or map?

3

## Eric the Red

(@986 A.D.)

Vikings are famous for being seafarers and warriors who lived in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. In the 9<sup>th</sup> century they began traveling west in search for new territory. Eric the Red, a criminal banished from his country for three years, decided to use those years to search for new land to colonize. He discovered a piece of land that he named Greenland – though it's name was deceptive as it was a harsh and merciless territory. Eric was, however, successful in establishing a settlement.

4

## Leif Ericsson

(@ 1000 A.D.)

The son of Eric the Red, Leif was the first European to set foot on American soil. Leif and a group of men set sail from Greenland and sailed southwest. They landed three places on the eastern coast of America and gave them these names: Markland (now Labrador), Heluland (now Baffin Island), and Vineland (now either New England or Newfoundland). In 1968 evidence that the Vikings had discovered America was proven as remains from a Viking settlement were discovered in Newfoundland.

5

## Marco Polo

Marco began his travels with his father and uncle in 1271, when he was just 15 years old. Along the way he noted all the amazing sights and events he witnessed. He spent 17 years in service to Kublai Khan where he acted as a diplomat on the Khan's behalf to different places such as Malaya, Sumatra, Tibet, Sri Lanka, Burma, and India. Each trip was recorded along with the various inventions and discoveries found in each area. After 24 years of travel, Marco returned home, married and became a merchant. Rustichello, a writer, wrote his stories and published a book, "The Travels of Marco Polo". Many of the stories seemed unbelievable. Marco's book, however, inspired many to become explorers themselves.

6

## Early Reason for Exploration

Europeans became interested in exploration as a result of their love for spices, silks, sugar, and precious stones found in the East (India & China) thanks to Polo's travels and findings. Getting these items was difficult as the land route once traveled by Polo was controlled by the Turks, who were at war with the Europeans, making the items expensive and rare. They needed to find a way around Africa to obtain these items more cheaply. They turned to the Pacific Ocean to find that way.



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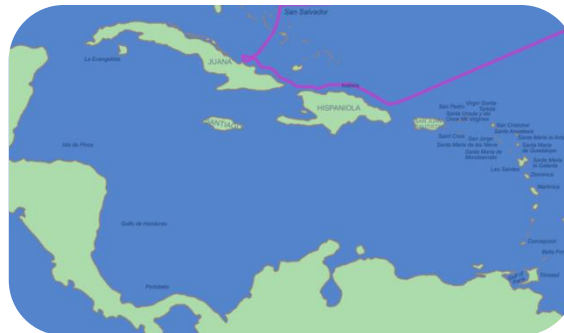
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## 7 Prince Henry the Navigator

Prince Henry is known as the explorer who stayed home! He devoted his life to discovery and built a school to train navigators to lead expeditions that would open new trade routes. Henry sent out 14 expeditions over 12 years – but fear of the “Green Sea of Darkness” had each ship turn back at Cape Bojador, Africa. Sailors believed the sun was so close that it burned people’s skin black, the sea boiled and sea monsters waited to eat them. It wasn’t until 1434 that one ship gathered enough courage to sail farther and lived to tell the tale. Though none of Henry’s ships managed to sail around the tip of Africa, his efforts gave others the courage to try.

## 8 An Accidental Finding!

In 1487, 27 years after Prince Henry’s death, King John II sent three ships out from Lisbon to find a sea route around Africa’s southern tip. Bartolomeu Diaz, the captain, reached Cape Volta when they were caught in a storm for two weeks and were blown around the tip of Africa into the Indian Ocean. They sailed to the Great Fish River and then turned around to sail back to Portugal. When they saw the Cape, the southern most tip of Africa, they realized they had succeeded. Upon their return King John named the southern tip “Cape of Good Hope” for a route to the east had been found!

## 9 Christopher Columbus

Columbus is probably the most popular of all explorers, though his most famous discovery, the continent of America, was purely accidental. Columbus’s objective was to sail to the far east to obtain precious spices, and silk from China and Japan as well as spread Christianity to non-Christian countries. At this point in time people still believed the earth was flat and one would fall off the edge if sailing west. Columbus believed the earth was round and petitioned first the King of Portugal and then the King and Queen of Spain for 8 years to fund his trip to prove his theory of being able to reach the east by sailing west.

## 10 Columbus Day!

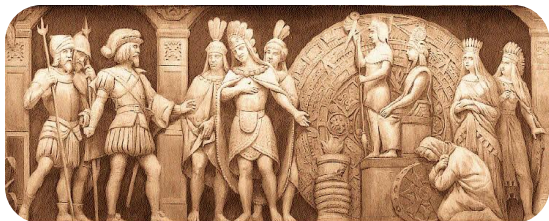
Columbus set sail August 3, 1492 with three ships: the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. Among the three ships, 104 men and large quantities of supplies were carried for the long journey that lay ahead. They arrived at the Canary Islands, off the coast of Africa, and set sail on September 6<sup>th</sup> into open water. It was unusual to sail out of sight of land for fear of sea monsters. Columbus persuaded the crew to continue sailing by promising to turn around if land was not sighted in a few days. It wasn’t until October 12<sup>th</sup> that what is now called Watling Island in the Bahamas was sighted. Columbus believed he had reached China.

## 11 More Land

After Columbus found the Bahamas, he traveled south and found an island that he named San Salvador. He then visited Cuba and Hispaniola. He was eager to head back to Spain to report his findings – thoroughly believing he had found China, even though there was no evidence of the riches described of being found in the East. Upon his return he was welcomed as a hero. The islands he found became known as “The Indies” as people thought they were off the coast of Asia in the Indian Ocean. Columbus never accepted his mistake and never realized the importance of his discovery.

## 12 Vasco da Gama

Now that the southern tip of Africa had been cleared the Portuguese were determined to find a trade route to India to acquire spices. Vasco da Gama was chosen to lead four ships and 170 men on this expedition. Along the way to India, da Gama made stops to attempt to establish trade relations. This proved to be difficult as Arab merchants controlled the trade. Many areas, including India, found Portuguese goods of low quality compared with their wealth. Da Gama could only purchase small amounts of spices, but it was enough to prove to the king that trade could be established with India. The entire trip there and back took 23 months!



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### 13 **Hernándo Cortés**

Conquistadors, Spanish for “conquerors”, were adventurers and soldiers. They believed the ‘New World’ that Columbus had discovered and its resources were there for the taking – no matter who lived there.

Cortés heard stories of an empire rich in gold and went in search of it. He discovered the Aztec Empire. The Aztecs were American Indians who lived in Mexico.

Their culture was highly sophisticated in science, art, architecture and agriculture.

Cortés intended to make his fortune by conquering the Aztecs. Unfortunately, Cortés succeeded in destroying this empire mostly through the diseases to which he exposed the Aztecs.

### 14 **Ferdinand Magellan**

Portugal was leading the race to establish trade routes and relations in the East and Spain wanted a claim in those routes and relations, especially with the Moluccas (Spice Islands). Magellan believed he could reach this area by sailing west around the southern tip of America instead of going around Africa. He set sail in September 1519 with five ships and 260 men. He sailed across the Atlantic and then down the east coast of South America where he found a narrow passage, now called the Straights of Magellan, to the Pacific. This discovery proved that there was a way to the East by sailing West.

### 15 **Around the World**

With Magellan’s discovery of the passage to the Pacific he continued his journey to the Philippines. By this time, disease, starvation and shipwreck had reduced the crew to three ships and 155 men. However, while in the Philippines Magellan became involved in an argument with local chiefs resulting in his death and 40 of his men. Sebastian del Cano took command of 115 men and two ships. To try to ensure that some of the cargo arrive home the ships took two different routes. Only the Vittoria arrived in Spain in 1522 by traveling through the Indian Ocean and around the southern cape of Africa. The first circumnavigation of the globe took three years!

### 16 **Jacques Cartier**

The French were also interested in finding a route to the East. King François I sent Cartier to find a way west to the Pacific and claim land in the name of France. His first trip in 1534 he sailed through the Belle Isle Strait to the mouth of the St. Lawrence River. He failed to

investigate further and sailed home. His second voyage in 1535 he hired guides to help navigate the St. Lawrence River. While

traveling they passed a native village called Stadacona (now Quebec) and named a small hill Mont Real, which is now the capital known as Montreal. Due to wars the French forgot about the New World. Groups of Frenchmen, however, continued to travel Cartier’s route and explore the different waterways and learn how to survive in the wilderness.

### 17 **Francis Drake**

In 1577 there was a great debate as to whether Tierra del Fuego, the shore line of the Strait of Magellan, was part of a huge southern continent called Terra Australis or an island. Queen Elizabeth I commissioned

Drake to find the answer. She also expected him to bring back treasure and spices. Drake traveled the same route as Magellan and also endured the same hardships or storms, starvation and sickness.

But he did discover that Tierra del Fuego was an island. This became known as the second great voyage of circumnavigation. This trip also took three years!

### 18 **William Barents**

By this time many people were familiar with the African and South American routes to reach China and India. In order to compete northern European countries started searching for a Northeast Passage – traveling around northern Asia and into the Pacific to reach China and India. Barents, a Dutchman, attempted to sail above Norway and reached Novaya Zemlya, where pack ice blocked his way. Two years later, 1596, Barents made another attempt at a Northeast Passage where his ship became stuck in the ice. It was during this time Barents and his crew made great progress in Arctic exploration but never found a passage.



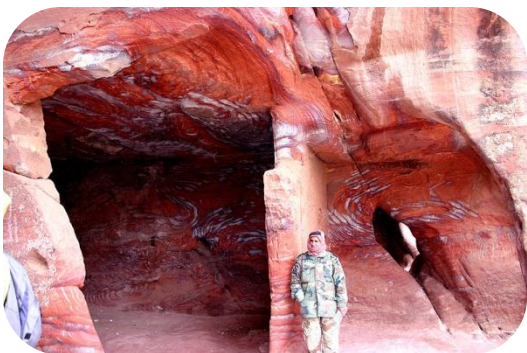
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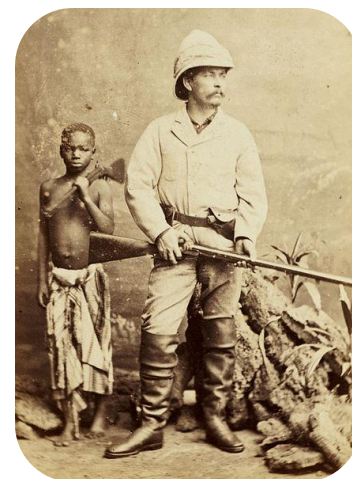
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**William Jantszoon**

In the late 1500's there was great speculation that there was a great southern continent somewhere to west of the tip of South America. In 1606 William Jantszoon, a Dutch captain from Amsterdam, sailed into the Gulf of Carpentaria and became the first European to reach Australia. He spent some time charting the 320 km of coastline before finding the land too swampy and the people unfriendly. It would be more than 100 years before Australia would be explored further.

20

**James Cook**

Up to this point most explorations were driven by a need to access the East and the spices it offered as well as to bring Christianity to the heathen of the world. However, in 1769 Cook sailed for scientific reasons. His first mission was to sail to Tahiti to observe the planet Venus as it passed between the Earth and the sun. After his observations were made he opened a letter containing secret orders given by the king. It told Cook to seek out the fifth continent, study the plants, animals, and natives found there and to claim the land for Britain. He named the area he landed Botany Bay after all the botanical specimens found there.

21

**Lewis & Clark**

These are probably the most popular names of any American explorers. By the mid-18<sup>th</sup> century the original northeast colonies were getting overcrowded. People were still fearful of the "Unknown" – this now included the land west of the Mississippi. Lewis and Clark lead a group of 30 men, known as the Corps of Discovery, on a 7,456 mile journey over two-and-a half years. They left from St. Louis traveling up the Missouri River, into what is now North Dakota, around Great Falls, through the Rockies (with the help of Sacagawea!) to the Columbian River and finally to the Pacific Ocean! They discovered a way west which gave them access to the rest of the continent.

22

**Johann Burckhardt**

After the rise of Islam in the 7<sup>th</sup> century, very few people ventured into Arabia. The holy cities of Mecca and Medina were closed to all but Muslims. Burckhardt, a Swiss scholar, traveled to Africa and stayed in Aleppo for three years learning Arabic and Islamic law. He then traveled to Cairo in 1812, stopping at the famed city of Petra. He was the first European to set foot there in over 1500 years. He looked upon the Khaznet, an incredible building carved from pink-gold rock. He then crossed the Red Sea to Jeddah and then visited Mecca. He returned to Cairo where he wrote of his journey which encouraged others to visit.

23

**David Livingstone**

Dr. Livingstone was an ordained Christian missionary sent to Cape Town, South Africa. While working with the people he was constantly reminded of the cruel treatment they endured through slavery. It became Livingstone's life goal to eliminate slavery. He set out to explore the interior regions of Africa in hopes that other missionaries would follow and that their presence would end slavery. Between 1852-1856 he became the first European to walk across Africa and see the great falls known as "the smoke that thunders" which he named Victoria Falls. In 1866 he entered the heart of slaving country, Ujiji, while trying to find the source of the Nile River. Here he set up a base – and then disappeared.

24

**H.M. Stanley**

Stanley was a foreign correspondent journalist for the *New York Herald*. News of Livingstone's travels and disappearance had reached far and wide. The owner of the newspaper assigned Stanley to find out what had happened to Livingstone. Stanley traveled to Zanzibar in 1871 and organized one of the most expensive expeditions ever! After eight months of travel they finally reached Ujiji. There he was led by a crowd of people to an ill, but living, Livingstone. Food and medicine made Livingstone well. After Livingstone's death in 1873 Stanley returned to Africa and led an expedition that finally proved that Lake Victoria was the source of the Nile River. In 1887 Stanley led a final expedition to Africa. Africa was no longer the mysterious continent it had once been.



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## 25 Charles Doughty

60 years after Johann Burckhardt traveled to Arabia, Charles Doughty made the same trip. He did not hide the fact that he was a European Christian, a dangerous act.

Though he spent less than two years in Arabia, he is viewed as one of the greatest explorers of this area. He studied the monuments at Meda'in Salih that were decorated with ancient inscriptions and traveled along the edges of the Nefud Desert, taking careful notes of the customs and geography. In 1878 he returned to England and spent the next ten years writing one of the best known works of travel literature, *Travels in Arabia Deserta*.

## 26 The Poles

Now that the six major continents had been investigated and many mysteries unraveled, explorers set their sights to the Poles, the North Pole in the Arctic Ocean and the South Pole located in the continent of Antarctica. The conditions that surrounded each area were extreme and the frozen tundra remained unexplored. The race was on to see who could reach the Poles first. Many people died in their attempts to win this race.

## 27 Fridtjof Nansen

Fridtjof Nansen is known as one of the greatest Arctic explorers. In planning his June 1893 journey he intended drift with the ice of the Arctic Ocean rather than force his way through. He built a special ship called a "Fram" that could hold under the pressure of the frozen water. Ice drifting, however, proved to be slow and unpredictable. Instead of being carried north, they drifted west. Nansen and another member of his crew set off with a dog team and two kayaks to try to reach the North Pole. However, while still 240 miles away the spring thaw began breaking up the ice and they had to turn back.

## 28 Robert Peary

Peary and his assistant Mathew Henson set sail from Greenland in February 1909 with 50 local inhabitants (Inuit) and 250 dogs! Teams of Inuit went ahead and established bases with Peary and Henson following. Teams were eventually sent back until it was only Peary, Hansen, four Inuit, five sledges, and 40 dogs left in the travel party. This group set off for the final leg of their journey – 133 miles. April 5, 1909 Peary wrote in his diary "The Pole at last!". Experts, however, are doubtful as to whether he could truly have covered the distance in the time stated.

## 29 Roald Amundsen

Amundsen had originally set out to reach the North Pole, but upon hearing Peary had reached it, headed South. He sent a telegram to Robert Scott that he was entering the race and had competition! Scott team of 53 men, horses to pull the sledges and scientific machinery. All this slowed the journey. Amundsen had fewer men and used light, fast husky dogs to pull the sledges through the ice. As a result, Amundsen reached the South Pole first on December 14, 1911. Amundsen became the first man to reach both Poles when the airship he traveled in flew over the North Pole in 1926.

## 30 Jacques Cousteau

With the four corners of the earth having been explored man turned his sights to the oceans. Though several men explored the deep seas, Jacques Cousteau is probably the most well known ocean explorer. In 1943 he and another Frenchman, Emile Gagnon designed what is called an aqualung. An aqualung contained cylinders of compressed air and a mouth-piece. A "demand regulator" gave the diver just the right amount of compressed air to breathe underwater. This invention allowed men to freely explore the ocean to a depth of 200 feet. This device opened up an entirely new world of exploration.



31

### 31 Space – the final frontier!

With the ocean depths being explored there was no where else to go but up! For centuries man had been looking at the stars – wondering what was up there. Yuri Gagarin, a Russian, became the first man to travel in space. He spent a total of 108 minutes traveling around the earth. This flight paved the way for the next conquest – to land on the moon. Neil Armstrong and Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin of the United States accomplished this feat when they stepped out of their Apollo lunar module on July 21, 1969.

"Send some men to explore the land..."  
Numbers 13:2