

Read the text and choose the correct option.

Alaska

The first Europeans to visit what is now called Alaska were Russian sailors led by Captain Bering. The **1** _____ was funded by Russian czar Peter the Great.

In 1728 Bering and his crew **2** _____ through the strait that is now named after him, between the easternmost part of Asia and the westernmost part of the Americas. Their journey **3** _____ that Asia was not connected to North America; however, due to the heavy fog, they never actually saw the nearby land of North America. In 1741 Bering headed further south, landing on tiny Kayak Island off the **4** _____ of what is now the south-eastern part of the state.

In the 1780s and 1790s Russians began small colonies, first on Kodiak Island and later on the mainland. In 1799 the Russian-American Company was established to **5** _____ Russian interests. For the next 68 years the company provided the only form of government for the European colonists, **6** _____ never numbered more than a few hundred. The Russians ruled the **7** _____ until the late 1860s, when they sold it to the United States for \$7.2 million dollars.

The **8** _____ of gold in 1896 in the Yukon Territory started a huge gold rush that brought thousands of settlers.

- | | | | | |
|----|----------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| 1. | 1. journey | 2. travel | 3. expedition | 4. trip |
| 2. | 1. travelled | 2. rowed | 3. paddled | 4. sailed |
| 3. | 1. proved | 2. persuaded | 3. convinced | 4. appeared |
| 4. | 1. shore | 2. bank | 3. beach | 4. sea-side |
| 5. | 1. look for | 2. look at | 3. look after | 4. look away |
| 6. | 1. who | 2. whose | 3. what | 4. which |
| 7. | 1. country | 2. earth | 3. area | 4. ground |
| 8. | 1. exploration | 2. detection | 3. discovery | 4. innovation |

