Chapter 17: Sea route to India

Fill in the blanks

1. India was called the "_____" due to its abundance of jewels, silk, and spices.
2. King Emmanuel of Portugal wanted to bypass merchants and establish _____ trade with India.
3. Vasco da Gama was chosen to lead the expedition because of his experience as a _____ officer.
4. The fleet avoided dangerous coastal currents by sailing through the _____ Ocean.
5. Bartholomew Diaz had previously sailed around the _____ of Africa.
6. At _____, Vasco da Gama hired a local pilot to guide his ships across the Arabian Sea.
7. The Portuguese first landed in India at the trading port of _____ on May 18, 1498.
8. The ruler of Calicut, adorned with rubies and pearls, was called the _____.
9. The Portuguese trade failed partly because their _____ were considered unimpressive.
10. Only _____ out of 170 Portuguese crew members survived the return voyage.

Multiple Choice questions

1. Why did King Emmanuel prioritize finding a sea route to India?

   a) To spread Christianity in Asia
   b) To compete with Spain's discoveries in the Americas
   c) To map unknown parts of the Atlantic Ocean
   d) To bypass Arab merchants and control the lucrative spice trade

2. How did Bartholomew Diaz's earlier voyage influence da Gama's expedition?

   a) Diaz provided ships designed for Indian Ocean currents
   b) His warnings about coastal dangers led da Gama to sail through open Atlantic

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c) Diaz joined the crew as chief navigator

d) His maps showed gold mines in Africa

3. The Zamorin's reaction to Portuguese trade goods reveals:

a) A cultural mismatch in expectations of gift-giving

b) Indian disinterest in European technology

c) Portugal's lack of preparation for diplomacy

d) Calicut's isolation from global trade

4. What does the hire of a local pilot at Malindi symbolize?

a) Da Gama's distrust of his own crew

b) Arab control over Indian Ocean navigation

c) Portugal's reliance on indigenous knowledge for success

d) The superiority of African sailing techniques

5. Why was da Gama's voyage considered pivotal despite its commercial failure?

a) It proved the Earth was round

b) It established a navigable sea route to Asia

c) Portugal immediately colonized Calicut

d) It discovered new spices in Africa

6. The Zamorin's acceptance of poor Portuguese gifts suggests what about Indian-European relations at the time?

a) Indian rulers valued symbolic gestures over material wealth

b) Europeans fundamentally misunderstood Asian gift-giving traditions

c) Calicut deliberately slighted Portugal to maintain Arab trade ties

d) Da Gama intentionally insulted the Zamorin to provoke conflict

7. How did da Gama's naval background aid the expedition?

a) He negotiated better with the Zamorin

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b) He defended ships from French attacks en route

c) He invented new navigation tools

d) His experience ensured survival in treacherous seas

8. The phrase "Golden Bird" reflects:

a) European perceptions of India's wealth

b) India's actual gold reserves

c) A literal nickname for Calicut's king

d) The color of Indian spices

9. What unintended consequence did this voyage trigger?

a) Immediate Indian surrender to Portugal

b) European colonialism in Asia

c) The collapse of Arab trade networks

d) A Portuguese monopoly on African gold

10. Which source would BEST verify claims about da Gama's journey?

a) Portuguese ship logs (Correct)

b) The Zamorin's court records

c) Arab merchant diaries

d) Indian folk songs

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