

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

- 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

- 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