

A Vasco da Gama

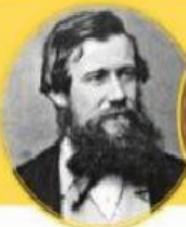
Vasco da Gama was a Portuguese explorer. In 1497, he was the first person to **sail** from Europe to India. What was so special about his journey? He found a way by sea that was safer than other routes by land. Ahmad ibn Mäjid was a very famous Arab explorer who helped Vasco da Gama on his long journey. Ibn Mäjid had a special name – the 'lion of the sea'!

**B** Ibn Fadlan

In 921, Ibn Fadlan travelled from Baghdad to Bulgaria. Why did he **travel** so far? He wanted to tell people about the Islamic religion and help them to understand Islamic laws. How far did he travel? More than 4000 kilometres! He wrote a **diary** about his journey, and about the people he met.

**C** Richard Burton and John Speke

Richard Burton and John Speke were two British explorers. In 1857 they travelled to Africa. It was a very **difficult** and **dangerous** journey. So why did they do it? They wanted to find the start of the River Nile! Now people know that the River Nile starts at Lake Victoria, in Tanzania and Uganda.

**A. Match the title with the text. [A – B – C]**

- 1 A hard trip to **find out** where something starts
- 2 A long journey to **explain** something new
- 3 Two explorers from different countries **travel together**

Why did the explorers make their journey? Match the reason with the text.

[A – B – C]

- 1 To find out important information about a place _____
- 2 To find another way to get from one place to another _____
- 3 To help people and tell them about Islamic laws _____

Match the words in blue in the texts with their definitions.

- a) to go on a boat
- b) not easy
- c) not safe; you can get hurt
- d) where you write what you do and see
- e) to go from one place to another

Read the texts again. Answer the questions.

1 Did Vasco de Gama go to India by train?	Yes / No
2 Did Ibn Fadlan travel to Bulgaria?	Yes / No
3 Did Richard Burton and John Speke travel to Africa in 1957?	Yes / No
4 Did Ibn Fadlan write a diary?	Yes / No

Complete the text with a word from the box.

sail dangerous diaries travel

The Age of Exploration

Did you know that there was a time when explorations were very popular? It began in the 15th century and explorers used to _____⁽¹⁾ a long way by sea or land to find new places. They would _____⁽²⁾ for many days or weeks on big ships. They usually did not know when or where they would arrive! Their journeys were often very _____⁽³⁾, and many people died on the way. Many of them wrote in _____⁽⁴⁾ about what they saw and did, and that's why we know about their journeys today.

