DAILY Warm-Up 4

Name _____ Date _____

SPANISH EXPLORATIONS

Explorers are people who search for new places and new things. Some of the early explorers discovered great things about the world. Some of these fearless explorers were Columbus, Cabot, Magellan, Verrazano, and Cartier. But none of these men actually had much interest in the Americas. They were all trying to find the route to the East Indies and Asia. They found gold and other precious items in Asia. America was just a stop along the way.

The Spanish soon realized that America might have even greater riches than the Indies. Conquistadors, another name for conquerors, set out to discover what America had in store. One of these great Conquistadors was Ponce de Leon. He had sailed with Columbus on his second voyage. He was also a soldier on Hispaniola. He went to Puerto Rico to look for gold. He found some and he also found some native Indians. He conquered the land and set up Spanish rule.

In the year 1513, he set off again in search of gold, but some say he was searching for the fountain of youth. He never found the fountain of youth, but he traveled to a beautiful peninsula filled with flowers. Ponce de Leon named this peninsula "Florida." Years later, the first European colony was established in what is now known as the United States at St. Augustine.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What is a conquistador?
   a. a sailor
   b. a Native American
   c. a ruler of a peninsula
   d. another name for conqueror

2. After reading the passage, what characteristics do explorers have?
   a. fear and trepidation
   b. courage and calmness
   c. adventuring spirit and a will to try
   d. a large support army

3. Ponce de Leon was in search of . . .
   a. silver.
   b. gold and a fountain of youth.
   c. Columbus.
   d. a new country.

4. Which of the following explorers was <u>not</u> mentioned in the passage?
   a. Cartier
   b. Cortez
   c. Cabot
   d. Magellan

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 5

Name _____ Date _____

EARLY EUROPEAN SETTLEMENTS

France and England explored and settled in the New World. These countries claimed portions of land in North America. English colonies began to grow quickly. Many of these countries saw Spain's treasury filling with gold, and they were jealous. They wanted some of this gold for themselves. One of these people was Sir Walter Raleigh. He was a friend of the Queen in England and he was also very wealthy. He received permission to set up a colony in North America.

In 1585, Raleigh sent 100 colonists with food and supplies to Roanoke Island, off the coast of what is now North Carolina. The colonists thought that they would receive help and aid from the Native Americans, so they didn't plant their own crops. The Native Americans did help the colonists for a while but that didn't last very long. The settlers began to starve. Fortunately, Francis Drake, another explorer, stopped on one of his voyages. He brought the colonists back to England.

Raleigh lost a fortune trying to start the colony on Roanoke Island. He learned that it was too expensive for one person to start a colony. He got a group of merchants to join him in starting a colony by forming a joint-stock company. This was called the Virginia Company of London. The stockholders made plans to send colonists back. The colonists were to send furs, lumber, as well as other products back to London. These were some of the first settlers of Jamestown in Virginia off the Chesapeake Bay.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What motivated England and France to set up American colonies?
   a. They were ready to leave their own countries.
   b. They saw Spain getting wealthy.
   c. They were trying to learn from the Native Americans.
   d. none of the above

2. What conclusions can be drawn about the people who were early settlers in the American colonies?
   a. They were corrupt and dishonest.
   b. They were hard workers that believed in making changes.
   c. They were inexperienced and naive.
   d. They weren't very organized.

3. After reading the passage, which of the following statements is false?
   a. Raleigh didn't lose a fortune trying to start the colony on Roanoke Island.
   b. The colonists were to send furs, lumber, as well as other products back to London.
   c. The colonists thought that they would receive help and aid from the Native Americans, so they didn't plant their own crops.
   d. France and England explored and settled in the New World.

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 6

Name _____ Date _____

THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

There are three main branches of the federal government. These branches are the judicial branch, the executive branch, and the legislative branch. Each of these branches plays an important role in the federal government. Do you know what role each branch performs?

The judicial branch is made up of the court system. The Supreme Court is the highest court in the land. The Supreme Court decides whether a law is constitutional or not. The courts decide arguments about the meaning of laws, how they are applied, and whether they break the Constitution or not.

The executive branch of the federal government makes sure that the laws are obeyed. The president is part of the executive branch. The president needs a lot of help from the vice president, the cabinet, departments, as well as independent agencies to enforce the law.

The legislative branch is made up of Congress and government agencies. Congress has two parts. They are the Senate and the House of Representatives. This branch of government creates and passes the laws of the land. Congress also makes laws about taxes and borrowing money, and it approves the making of money. Congress can also declare war on other countries.

Each branch has its own functions that help our government run smoothly. Each branch can also limit the power of the other two branches. This is called Checks and Balances.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. Which branch of government passes new laws in this country?
   a. Library of Congress
   b. judicial
   c. executive
   d. legislative

2. Which paragraph explains which branch of the federal government the Senate and the House of Representatives belong to?
   a. first paragraph
   b. second paragraph
   c. third paragraph
   d. fourth paragraph

3. After reading the passage, who assists the president in enforcing the law?
   a. vice president and the cabinet
   b. The Supreme Court
   c. constituents
   d. Congress

LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 7

Name _____ Date _____

NORTH VS. SOUTH

The Civil War was a war in which Americans fought against Americans. It was the deadliest war of all the wars fought by Americans. The country had been split into two divisions known as the North and South. Many southern states had formed a confederacy. This was essentially a new country. The southern states no longer wanted to be a part of the United States of America. There were many reasons for this action, but one of the main issues was slavery. The southern states wanted to be able to have slaves.

In April of 1861, the Confederate soldiers bombarded Fort Sumter. This was the last of the southern forts still in the hands of the United States government. This event began the Civil War. Both the North and the South had advantages during the Civil War. The North had a larger population. The North also had most of the factories and mills. They could produce more supplies and guns than the South. The South had to depend on help from European countries. The North also had railroads to move troops and supplies.

The South had advantages as well. The biggest advantage was that the South was fighting a defensive war. This meant that they were fighting to defend their country and their beliefs, and their way of life. In order for the North to win, they would have to conquer the South. The South also had better generals than the North at the beginning of the war. These generals had experience fighting the Mexican War.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. What happened in April 1861 that initiated the Civil War?
   a. United States declared victory.
   b. Abraham Lincoln was elected president.
   c. Fort Sumter was fired upon.
   d. General Lee joined the Confederacy.
2. The Southern generals had experience fighting in the . . .
   a. Civil War.
   b. Battle of Bull Run.
   c. war against slavery.
   d. Mexican War.
3. Which of the following would make another good title for this passage?
   a. "Between the North and South"
   b. "Sweeping Changes for Confederacy"
   c. "Women's Assistance in the Civil War"
   d. "The Civil War Soldiers"

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LIVEWORKSHEETS

DAILY Warm-Up 8

Name _____ Date _____

THE COTTON GIN

Since the mid-1700s, Southern plantation owners had been growing cotton. This cotton was used to make cloth. As a result of the Industrial Revolution in the United States, the demand for cotton increased. The problem came from the fact that cotton was filled with green, sticky seeds. It was a tedious task to remove all the sticky seeds so that the cotton could be used. It took most workers an entire day to clean one pound of the cotton. This made the cotton very expensive.

In 1793, Eli Whitney made a visit to a plantation in Georgia. Eli was known for tinkering with machines and solving problems. Eli was encouraged by a plantation owner to see if he could create a machine that could remove the sticky seeds from the cotton. Eli was able to do just that. He was able to do it in just 10 days! This new machine was called the cotton gin. In a short amount of time, Eli was able to build a large cotton gin. This new gin was able to clean 50 pounds of cotton in one day.

As a result of this new invention, cotton could be sold at a cheaper price. Plantation owners began selling their cotton to factories in the North as well as in Great Britain. They were able to grow larger and larger crops. Soon cotton became the south's biggest crop. As a result, the need for slaves was even greater. The South's economy depended on this slave labor. This would eventually lead to a debate about the legality and morality of owning slaves. This debate fueled a division that would lead to the Civil War.

STORY QUESTIONS

1. After reading the passage, what can be inferred about why Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin?
   a. to eliminate slavery
   b. to remove the sticky seeds from the cotton
   c. to satisfy southern slave owners
   d. to fulfill an order

2. What can be implied about why the invention of the cotton gin made the need for slavery even greater?
   a. Cotton could be sold at a cheaper price.
   b. The cotton gin made cleaning the cotton easier, leading to more cotton needing to be picked.
   c. This new gin was able to clean 50 pounds of cotton in one day.
   d. Eli was encouraged by a plantation owner to see if he could create a machine that could remove the sticky seeds from the cotton.

3. What skills did Eli Whitney have that helped him invent the cotton gin?
   a. He had been well trained in his profession.
   b. He was personally in need of a new cotton machine.
   c. He was a natural at tinkering with machines and learning how they work.
   d. He was good friends with many plantation owners.

LIVEWORKSHEETS