

## Water Journey Trivia Clues and Summaries

### Journey “A”

#### Clues:

- The president of the United States requested this journey in the first years of the 1800s. If it hadn't been for the Louisiana Purchase, the trip might never have been taken.
- Many new species of plants and animals were discovered and named, including the grizzly bear.
- They were just a couple of ramblin' guys, but sometimes they had help from an extraordinary Native American woman, Sacajawea.

#### Summary:

Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, along with their company (consisting of more than 30 people), spent more than two years (1804-1806) exploring the wild frontiers of what is now the western United States. Their journey took them up the Missouri River to its headwaters, across the Continental Divide and the Rocky Mountains, and down the watershed of the Columbia River to reach the Pacific Ocean. After spending a miserable winter there, they retraced their route to St. Louis, exploring the Yellowstone River along the way.

They were sent on their mission by President Thomas Jefferson, largely to secure America's claim to the recent Louisiana Purchase. Accompanying the party were William Clark's slave, York, and the wife of an interpreter, Sacajawea, who brought her young son. Remarkably—in a journey of that duration and covering thousands of uncharted miles—only one man in the expeditionary party perished. Charles Floyd died of appendicitis on August 20, 1804.

#### Water Path:

**Start:** St. Louis, Missouri    **End:** St. Louis, Missouri

### Journey “B”

#### Clues:

- My three ships were the *Pinta*, the *Niña*, and the *Santa Maria*.
- When I touched land at the end of my voyage, I thought I had reached the Orient.
- My claim to be the first European in the New World is now in doubt.

#### Summary:

Christopher Columbus, born in 1451 in Genoa, Italy, went to sea at the young age of 14. After a decade or more of sailing adventures, Columbus harbored a growing ambition to achieve great glory, and great wealth, by sailing westward over the Atlantic. As years passed he became obsessed with his goal.

It wasn't until 1492 that Columbus secured the support of Ferdinand and Isabella, sovereigns of Spain, that would allow him to set out. He left from the port of Palos on August 3, 1492. His voyage to a landfall on the Caribbean island of San Salvador covered 3,066 miles (4,913 km) and took 33 days. On October 12, 1492, Columbus set foot on land he thought was part of the Orient. It was a misconception he carried to his deathbed in 1506.

His voyage has been credited with the “discovery” of America, a land long inhabited by native peoples. But more recent information indicates that the first European visitor here may well have been Saint Brendan of Ireland or Norse explorer Leif Ericson.

#### Water Path:

**Start:** Palos, Spain    **End:** San Salvador



### **Journey “C”**

**Clues:**

- I was tagged on a beach in Costa Rica, late one moonlit night, and was found one year and 800 miles later on the coast of Cuba.
- My children were hidden under layers of warm sand.
- Chances for my survival have improved since humans started putting escape devices on fishing nets.

**Summary:**

Green sea turtles are a threatened and endangered species. They live in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans and migrate across long stretches of open water. Browsing in beds of turtle grass, they prefer shallow water vegetation for their food. Their habit of basking in the sun out of water is unique for marine turtles. Adults can attain shell lengths of 3-6 feet (1-2 m) and weigh up to 300 pounds (150 kg).

Along with other species of marine turtles, green sea turtles lay their eggs in sand pits at specific beach locations scattered around the world. Green sea turtles are known to live as long as 20 years, and will, in that life span, travel many thousands of kilometers. (This specific journey was verified by tagging studies.)

As with many marine turtles, the green sea turtle's future is uncertain. Destruction of nesting beaches and the practice of raiding nests for eggs threaten the species' continuation.

**Water path:**

**Start:** Tortuguero, Costa Rica   **End:** Cortes, Cuba

### **Journey “D”**

**Clues:**

- I “talk” in songs.
- Each year I migrate between two watery homes—one in the Arctic and one off the west coast of Mexico.
- My babies are called calves, and at birth are 15 feet (5 m) long.

**Summary:**

Summering each year in the north and wintering in the Gulf of California, where they give birth to their young, California gray whales spend their lives in the Pacific Ocean. From late May through October, they reside in the north, where they seem to be limited by pack ice in the Arctic Ocean. They concentrate along the coasts of Alaska and Siberia, feeding on a rich ocean harvest in shallow waters.

From the end of October through January, the gray whales move south, staying within a few miles of shore most of the time and traveling at an average rate of 115 miles (185 km) per day.

By February the gray whales have reached the warm tropical waters near the Gulf of California. Calves are born, usually in shallow lagoons. Although just 15 feet (5 m) long at birth, gray whales reach lengths of up to 42 feet (14 m) and weigh as much as 36,000 pounds (16,500 kg) as adults.

**Water path:**

**Start:** Gulf of California   **End:** Off coast of Siberia or Alaska



### **Journey “E”**

**Clues:**

- I am a river of water 1,000 times bigger than the Mississippi River, and I have no banks.
- England is warmer than Newfoundland because of me.
- Ships use me to increase their speed.

**Summary:**

The Gulf Stream originates in the Gulf of Mexico, passes through the Straits of Florida, then flows northward across the Atlantic toward Europe. Powered by ocean currents, the Gulf Stream moves as fast as 70 miles (112 km) per day and has a rate of flow 1,000 times that of the Mississippi River.

Ships ride the Gulf Stream to shorten their sailing times, and animal and plant species also hitch rides on the current. The Gulf Stream parallels the eastern coast of North America and is separated from the shore by a zone of chilly water, known to sailors as the “cold wall.” By the time the Gulf Stream reaches Newfoundland, it has slowed to approximately 10 miles (16 km) per day. It continues east toward Europe, becoming the North Atlantic Current.

Much of Europe has a warmer climate than corresponding latitudes in North America. These gentler climates can be traced, at least in part, to the moderating effect of the warm Gulf Stream.

**Water path:**

**Start:** Gulf of Mexico **End:** The North Atlantic off European Coast

### **Journey “F”**

**Clues:**

- I travel by water, but don’t need a boat.
- I will grow into a tropical tree, associated with beaches and islands.
- My milk is used in Asian curry dishes.

**Summary:**

Coconuts are less dense than water, so they can float. The outer husk encloses the critical nut, which is capable of riding ocean currents for up to four months without dying. With luck, and favorable currents, the coconut will wash up on a beach, where it can sprout and send down roots.

Once established, coconut trees grow with a pronounced lean toward the sea, so that when their seeds drop, they will land in sand below the high-tide mark and be carried away on their journey.

This specific coconut voyage began on the island of Madagascar, off the east coast of Africa, and ended on a small volcanic island called Aldabra, 250 miles (400 km) away in the Indian Ocean. It rode the Equatorial Counter Current.

**Water path:**

**Start:** Madagascar **End:** Aldabra

### **Journey “G”**

**Clues:**

- We are the original colonists of America’s 50th state.
- Our boats were held together by coconut fiber.
- We were also the first people known to colonize New Zealand and Easter Island.

**Summary:**

Polynesians in the South Pacific were accomplished sailors thousands of years before Columbus was born. Because they live in a section of the world full of small islands, Polynesians have counted boats and ocean travel as a part of their culture for millennia. Evidence indicates that Polynesians purposefully explored and

colonized much of the Pacific, including the Hawaiian Islands.

Polynesians traveled in double canoes capable of carrying hundreds of passengers. These boats were lashed tightly together with twine made from coconuts, and their sails were woven from other plant fibers. Their astonishing skill as navigators took them as far afield as Easter Island, New Zealand, and Hawaii. Traveling from Samoa to Hawaii required an ocean voyage of 5,000 miles (8,000 km).

**Water path:**

**Start:** Samoa **End:** Hawaii



### **Journey “H”**

**Clues:**

- Sir John Franklin, along with 128 others, died trying to navigate me.
- I am icebound much of each year, and sometimes for years at a time.
- Darkness reigns over me for half of each year.

**Summary:**

In the late 1800s and early 1900s the quest for a Northwest Passage to the Orient fueled a feverish competition between European expeditions. Dozens of men, scores of ships, and more than a few fortunes were lost in the process. Expeditions often spent years frozen in the ice pack, suffered the effects of scurvy and other diseases, and endured the rigor of Arctic storms and six months of night, all to pioneer a route that would never result in any prize other than geographic conquest.

The islands north of the Canadian mainland bear the names of these explorers, their sponsors, and the homes they must have longed for through the long winter nights.

It was Roald Amundsen, the Norwegian who would also be the first to reach the South Pole, who finally navigated the tortuous, ice-locked Northwest Passage, during the years 1903-1906.

**Water path:**

**Start:** London, England   **End:** North coast of Alaska

### **Journey “I”**

**Clues:**

- I was unintentionally introduced into the United States in the late 1980s; I was carried in freshwater ballasts (loads that provide stability) of ships traveling from Europe.
- I am only about 2 inches (5 cm) long, and have a hard, striped shell; like my American cousin, I secrete tough fibers which I then use to attach myself to rocks, boats, pipes, and many other things.
- Much to the dismay of the fishing industry and water treatment plants, my population is quickly growing and expanding into each of the Great Lakes as well as to connecting rivers . . . If my population continues to grow, I may appear in a river near you!

**Summary:**

Zebra mussels are freshwater mollusks. It is believed they originated in the Black and Caspian Seas and were carried by ship through fresh waters in Europe. They were accidentally introduced to the United States in the mid-1980s. The mussels spread quickly down the St. Lawrence River and through the Great Lakes. They were first discovered in Lake St. Clair in 1988. They are expected to spread to a majority of United States waterways within a decade. The spread of zebra mussels throughout freshwater systems is attributed to their ability to cling like barnacles to almost any surface, some of which (boats, drifting materials, and fishing equipment) unintentionally transport the mussels to new locations. They have a high reproduction rate and lack natural predators in this new habitat.

The growing population of zebra mussels causes many problems. They colonize on pipes, clogging and contaminating water treatment systems; they remove large quantities of nutrients and out-compete native organisms; they foul beaches and jam boat engines. Communities, industries, and businesses are currently spending hundreds of thousands of dollars to eliminate zebra mussels.

**Water path:**

**Start:** Black Sea   **End:** Mississippi River



# Global Map

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

