The Age of Exploration Web-Quest

Use the following website: marinersmuseum.org

Click on Explore
Then click on Age of Exploration
Then click on The Ages of Exploration
Then click on “Age of Discovery”

1. Under the heading **Tools**: Answer the questions regarding the following Navigational Technology:

   (a) Read the information and use your headphones to watch the video on the **Astrolabe**:
   
   1. What is its claim to fame? What are the dates of its use?

   2. Why was it weighted?

   3. How many mariners did it sometimes take to use the astrolabe?

   (b) Read the information on the **Compass**:

   1. What is its claim to fame? What are the dates of its use?

   2. What was a lodestone and how was it used?

   (c) Read the information on the **Kamal**:

   1. What is its claim to fame? What are the dates of its use?

   2. What does Kamal mean in Arabic?

   3. What star does it use to determine latitude?
(d) Read the information and use your headphones for the video information on the **Quadrant**:

1. What is its claim to fame? What are the dates of its use?

2. What portion of a circle is the quadrant?

3. How was it used?

2. Under the heading Explorers read about **Christopher Columbus**, **Zheng He**, **Hernando Cortes** and **Francisco Pizarro**. Write a short profile (5 sentences) for each explorer. Use the following questions to guide your paragraph and a separate sheet of paper to write your answers:

   (a) When were they born? When did they die?
   (b) Which country did they belong to?
   (c) Why did they explore?
   (d) What is their claim to fame?

3. The End of the Age of Exploration?
“The Age of Exploration is inherent in the human existence. It did not end with vast sea exploits. Adventurers explored by land and air, and now venture into space. Once most of the earth was charted and documented, human beings sought to break time records of air travel around the world. Now that air travel is rapid and routine, mankind has ventured out to the infinity of space. Space exploration now holds the same wonder and fables that once fascinated the Europeans of the fifteenth century. Modern generations marvel at mankind's first steps on the moon. Perhaps future generations will marvel at mankind's first steps on Mars, or the first meeting with an alien civilization. What modern truths will turn into the myths of the future? If it were not for the bravery and adventurous spirit of the explorer, mankind would never know what lies beyond or advance comfortably with rapidly changing technology.”

   (a) What do you think is the most important discovery or achievement of the Age of Exploration?

   (b) Do you think the Age of Exploration is over? Explain your answer.