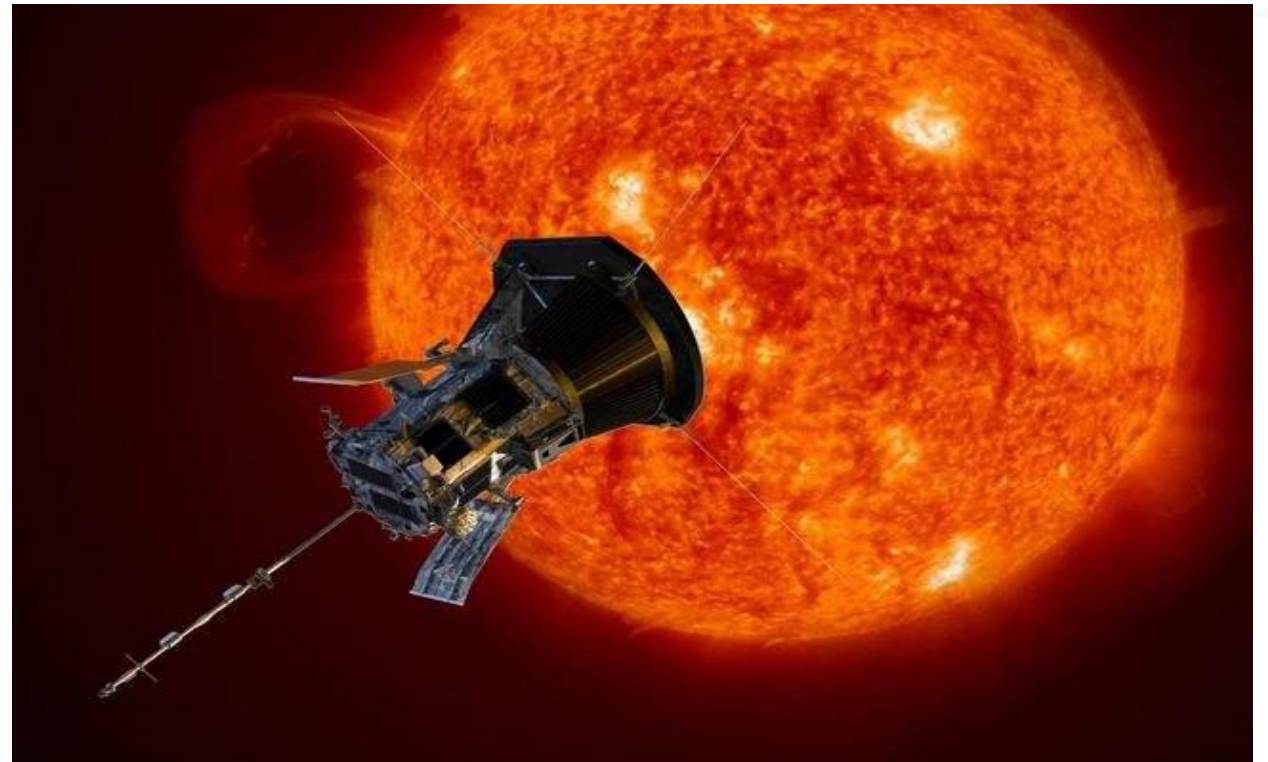




humans' space exploration



Sailing the oceans



Reading for comprehension (structure)



Zheng He

Para 1

Introduction to Zheng He's first voyage

Para 2

More details about Zheng He's voyages

Para 3-4

Significance of Zheng He's voyages



Reading for comprehension (structure)

Christopher Columbus

Para 1

Introduction to Christopher Columbus

Para 2

Details of Christopher Columbus' discovery

Para 3

Significance of Christopher Columbus' discovery



Reading for comprehension (details)

		Zheng He's exploration	Christopher Columbus's exploration
The first voyage	Departure time	In the summer of 1405	On 3 August 1492
	Departure point	Taicang	Spain
	Fleet size	Over 200 ships	Three ships
	Number of crew members	Almost 28,000 people	About 90 crewmen
Places of arrival		As far as the east coast of Africa	The shores of the Caribbean
Total number of voyages		Seven	Four

Reading for comprehension (details)



Zheng He's exploration

The first
voyage

Departure time

**in the summer of
1405**

Departure point

Taicang

Fleet size

over 200 ships

Zheng He's seven voyages had a far-reaching impact on China and its neighbours. In the countries and regions where Zheng He set foot, legends have been passed on about this great explorer. **1** Zheng He's efforts helped develop and strengthen harmonious relations with these countries and regions. **2** exposing foreign people to Chinese culture, **3** allowing the Chinese to better understand overseas lands.

Significance

Reading for comprehension (details)



Christopher Columbus's exploration

The first voyage

Departure time

on 3 August 1492

Departure point

Spain

Fleet size

3/three ships

Between 1493 and 1504, Columbus found more land over the course of his three subsequent voyages. The major contribution of this great explorer is that he

1 discovered" the New World **2** his discovery inspired explorers such as Captain

20 James Cook to explore and discover more vast areas of the world **3** His voyages
opened a new chapter of the Age of Exploration, a period which witnessed many
important geographical findings. This period also **4** allowed for an international
exchange of ideas and cultures.

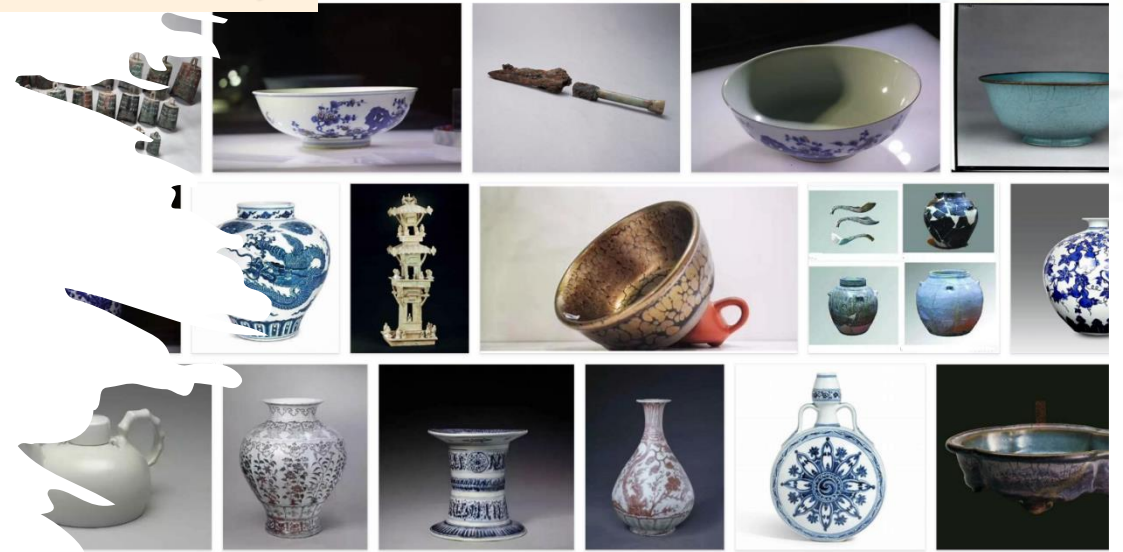
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Significance

Reading for comprehension (details)

1. Why were Zheng He's ships loaded with china, silk, tea and other treasures?

Because these were gifts to foreign rulers, which helped demonstrate the power of the Ming Dynasty and spread Chinese culture.



Reading for comprehension (details)

2. What helped prove that the records of Zheng He's voyages were not legends?

An enormous shipyard was discovered in Nanjing, where the fleet had been built.



Reading for comprehension (details)

3. What challenges did Columbus and his crew encounter during the journey in 1492?

It took longer than expected, they faced the food shortage and the ships were leaking badly. Besides, they suffered mental breakdown.



Reading for thinking

1. Why does the author use the following figures ? (*Para 1*)

In the summer of 1405, Zheng He, one of China's greatest explorers, set sail from Taicang on his first voyage. A fleet of over 200 ships navigated the blue seas, with almost 28,000 people on board, which was a splendid scene. It would take 500 years before a larger fleet sailed the seas. According to some records, the largest ships were over 140 metres in length, demonstrating the advanced technology and special skills used in constructing ships.

The figures are used to display the greatness of Zheng He's voyage and demonstrate the prosperity (繁荣) of the Ming Dynasty at that time.

Reading for thinking

2. What factors made the voyages of Zheng He and Columbus so successful? Use the information in the articles to support your opinion.



Reading for thinking

the factors that
made the
voyages of
Zheng He so
successful:

Zheng He

In the summer of 1405, Zheng He, one of China's greatest explorers, set sail from Taicang on his first voyage. A fleet of over 200 ships navigated the blue seas, with almost 28,000 people on board, which was a splendid scene. It would take 500 years before a larger fleet sailed the seas. According to some records, the largest ships were over 140 metres in length, demonstrating the advanced technology and special skills used in constructing a ship.

2

the support from Ming emperor

Between 1405 and 1433, on behalf of the Ming Dynasty, Zheng He made a total of seven voyages. His ships were loaded with china, silk, tea and other treasures as gifts for foreign rulers.

3

The kindness and friendliness to others

and regions. He even encouraged his sailors to be friendly to the people they met. His navigators took compass readings, kept logs of their voyages and charted the coast.

4

excellent navigation skills

Zheng He's seven voyages had a far-reaching impact on China and its neighbours.

In the countries and regions where Zheng He set foot, legends have been passed

15

on about this great hero. Zheng He's efforts helped develop and strengthen harmonious relations with these countries and regions, exposing foreign people to Chinese culture, and allowing the Chinese to better understand overseas lands.

5

For many years, some historians dismissed the records of these voyages as legends. The final proof came when an enormous shipyard was discovered in Nanjing, where the fleet had been built. Zheng He's accomplishments are now widely acknowledged, and he is remembered as one of China's most influential explorers.

20

Reading for thinking

Christopher Columbus

the factors
that made
the voyages
of Columbus
so successful:

Those who
the way-

born in a port city of Italy in 1451. As a teenager, **1** he loved sailing, and he showed great interest in geography, which inspired him to begin his career as a seaman.

interest, curiosity

5 Columbus insisted on **2** crossing the Atlantic Ocean. After continuous attempts, **3** he received financial support from the King and Queen of Spain. On 3 August 1492, he departed from Spain with **the support from the King and Queen of Spain** it to

perseverance; determination

10 was leaking badly, which put everyone on this ship in grave danger. The men on board were **4** desperate. Regardless of all the challenges, Columbus managed to keep everyone out of danger with his knowledge and bravery across the ocean. Finally, on 12 October, the crew spotted land in the distance. Columbus called the natives living in the **knowledge, bravery** Indies. East Indies.

Between 1493 and 1504, Columbus found more land over the course of his three subsequent voyages. The major contribution of this great explorer is that he "discovered" the New World. His discovery inspired explorers such as Captain James Cook to explore and discover more vast areas of the world. His voyages opened a new chapter of the Age of Exploration, a period which witnessed many important geographical findings. This period also allowed for an international exchange of ideas and cultures.



Reading for thinking

external factors:

advanced technology
shipbuilding skills
financial support
...

internal factors:

Personal qualities
curious/ enthusiastic/
passionate
knowledgeable
brave / courageous
determined/
strong-willed/
persistent
...

Reading for thinking

What are other personal qualities for becoming **an explorer**?

Explorers should be

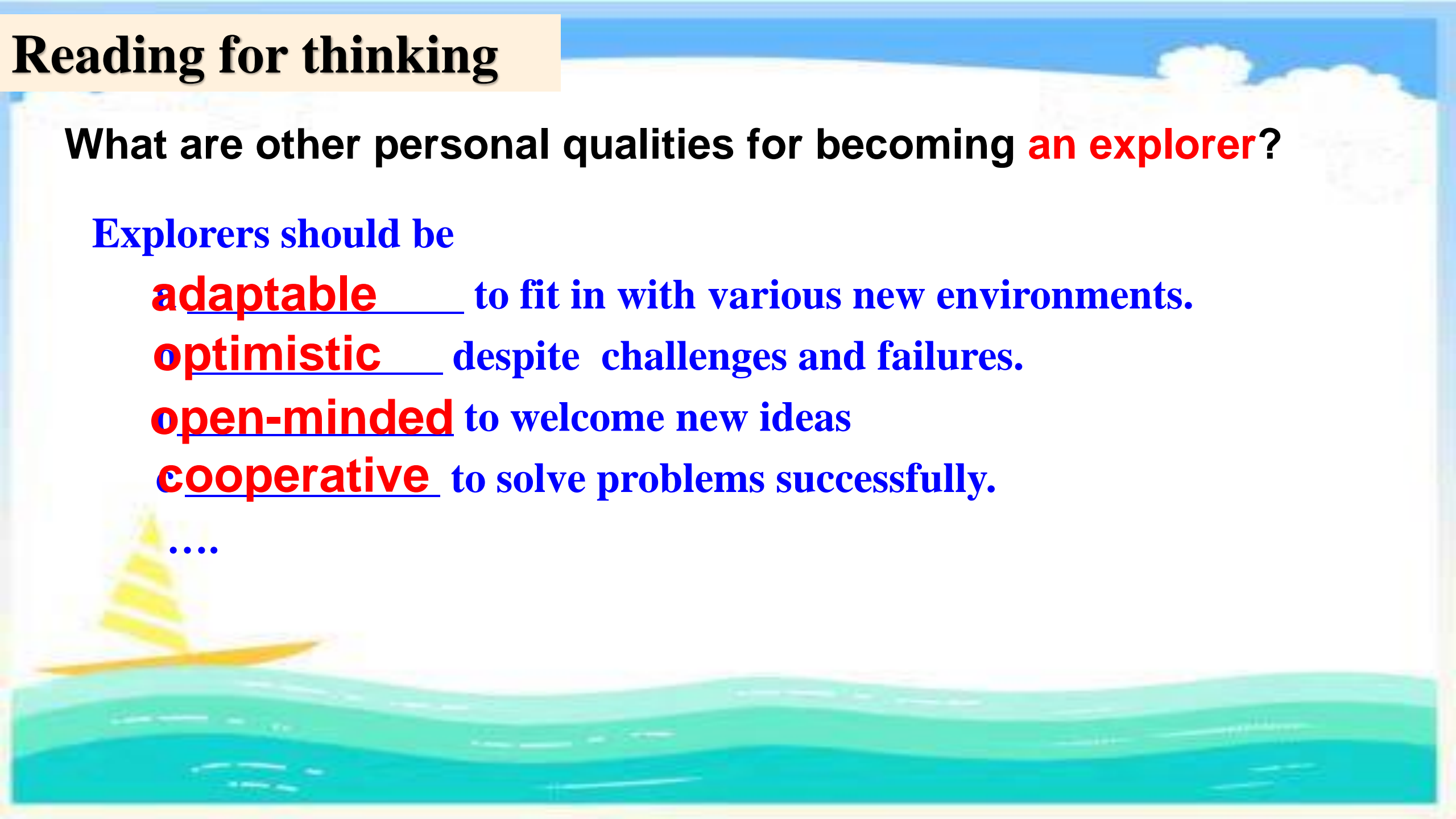
adaptable to fit in with various new environments.

optimistic despite challenges and failures.

open-minded to welcome new ideas

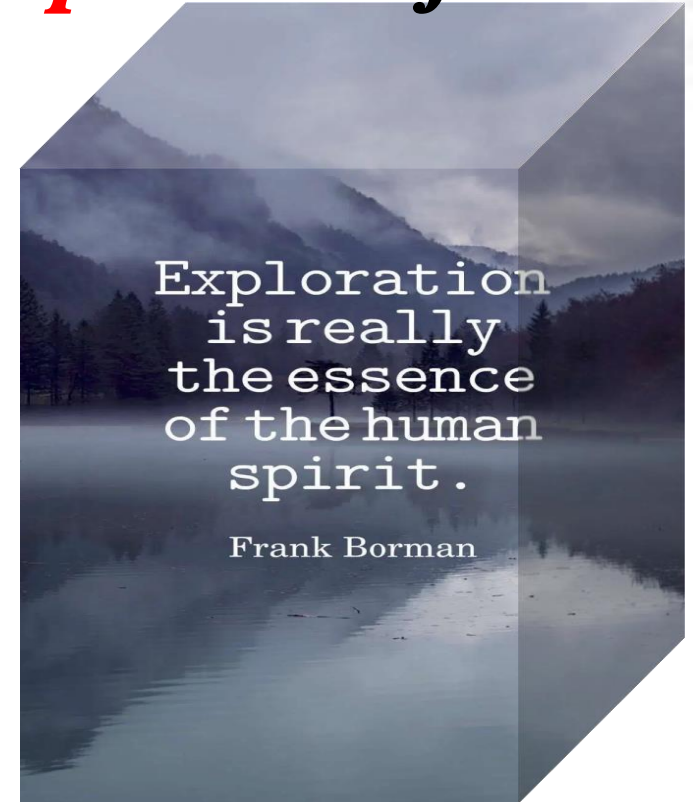
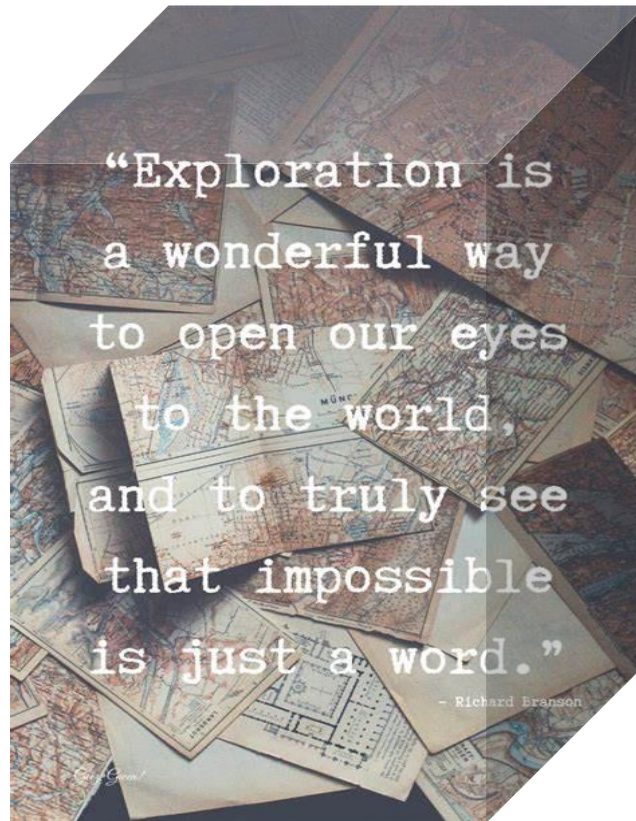
cooperative to solve problems successfully.

....



Reading for thinking

*What have you learnt about the **spirit of exploration** from the articles?*



Reading for thinking

*What have you learnt about the **spirit of exploration** from the articles?*

- *The **spirit of exploration** is an important part of our existence. It encourages us to try new things. Without this spirit, we human beings **would never progress**.*
- *Similarly, if we are not willing to explore new things or are afraid of taking risks **in daily life**, we may **lose many chances** to expand our understanding of the world.*

Summary

Since the ancient past, we humans have never stopped exploring the world. Based on the discoveries of these ancient explorers, we have pushed the boundaries of human achievements and become what we are today.

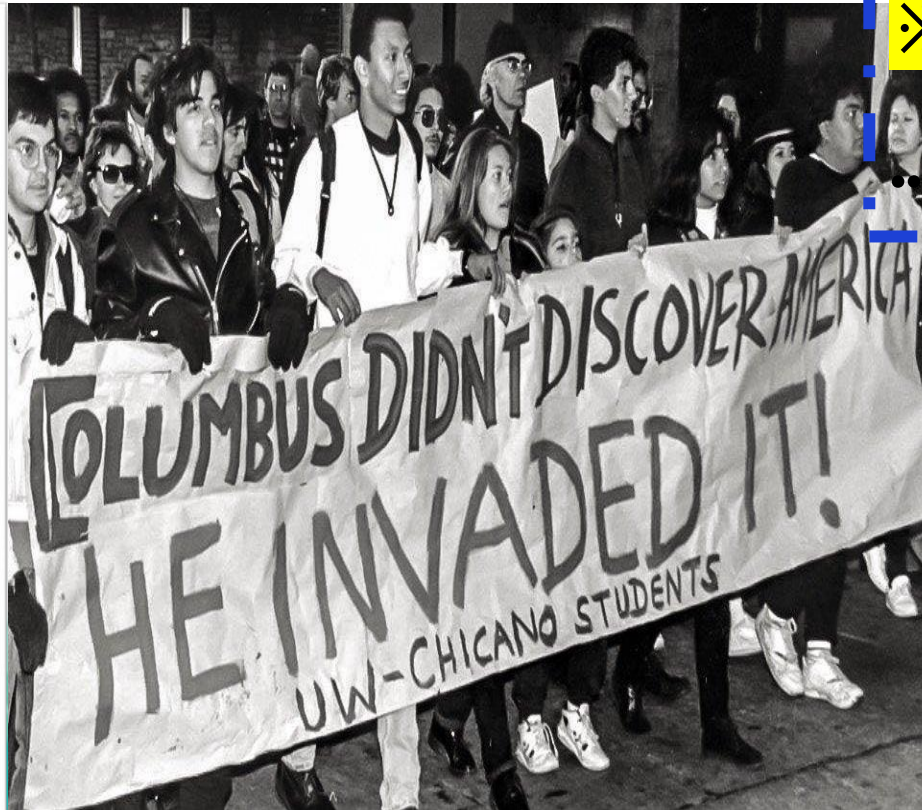
By staying hungry and staying foolish, we will achieve more.

--- Steve Jobs

Critical thinking

Undoubtedly, exploration brought great changes in various fields such as food, language, science and etc. However, unlike Zheng he, Columbus is a controversial figure.

- ✘ Rob the natives of gold and other resources;
- ✘ Build colony;
- ✘ Start slave trade;



Summary

We can't **judge** a historical figure **easily**, but we can learn his **spirit** of exploration despite **hardship** and **push the limits** of what is possible so that we can become strong enough to protect ourselves.

