



Drake: Explorer or Pirate?

Directions: You will have 3 1/4 minutes to read the selection below and answer all the questions on the back side of this paper. Do not begin reading until your teacher tells you to.

Essential Vocabulary:

- Cargo – the goods transported in a ship, airplane, or vehicle.
- Pirate - A person who attacks and robs ships at sea

Ferdinand Magellan may have been the first man to lead a voyage that circumnavigated the globe but he was not the only one. Other explorers sought to find ways to make the trip faster and more safely. One such explorer was Sir Francis Drake who sailed for England in the late 1500s. He hoped to find a way to pass through North America, a “Northwest Passage”, without sailing all the way around South America.

Drake, however, was not your typical explorer. He financed his voyages by attacking Spanish treasure ships and stealing their cargo. He was also known to attack and plunder Spanish colonies in the New World. Spain suspected that he was secretly working for the Queen of England but she denied it claiming that Drake was simply a pirate out of her control. Drake became so feared by Spanish captains that he was given the nickname “El Draque” which means “the dragon.” For Drake, stealing from the Spanish was not a crime but an act to defend his country. He was happy to take whatever he could from the Spanish to weaken them.

Drake was also not your typical pirate. Though he had no problem stealing from the Spanish he treated the people he robbed rather well. In one case he invited the captain of a ship he was robbing to have dinner with him. He provided the man with a huge feast and then peacefully sent him back to his ship. In another case he actually provided medical care to one of his enemies who had been hurt when Drake’s crew attacked him.

On your own paper write the letter of the correct answer. Be prepared to explain why you think your answer is correct (where in the reading did you find it?)

1. What does “plunder” in line 7 mean? (Vocabulary)
 - A. conquer
 - B. destroy
 - C. rob
 - D. sell
2. What can we **assume** from the passage? (Inference)
 - A. Drake successfully sailed around the world.
 - B. Drake became very rich from his activities.
 - C. Drake is still considered a villain in Spain today.
 - D. Drake’s actions were completely unknown to the queen.
3. Which of the following statements is an **opinion**? (Fact vs. Opinion)
 - A. The Spanish feared Drake so much they called him *El Draque*.
 - B. Drake was the best explorer at the time.
 - C. The queen of England supported Drake’s piracy.
 - D. Stealing, to Drake, was a way to defend his country.
4. For which **nation** did Drake sail? (Comprehension)
 - A. France
 - B. Spain
 - C. England
 - D. North America
5. Which of these statements best **summarizes** this passage? (Summation)
 - A. The Spanish were so afraid of Drake that they called him *El Draque*.
 - B. Francis Drake was an English explorer who sailed the world and robbed Spanish ships and towns.
 - C. Queen Elizabeth paid Drake to attack Spanish ships and towns.
 - D. Piracy was very common at the time of the explorers.

Number Right	5	4	2-3	0-1
Rating	Excellent	Very Good	Fair	Poor