

# Age of discovery

By the **fourteenth century** Italy controlled Europe's trade with India and the Far East, **including** China and the East Indies. Muslim (1) \_\_\_\_\_ sailed from Africa across the Indian Ocean and brought back spices and **fine cloth**, which they sold to Italian **merchants** for a good profit. The Italians sold the goods to other Europeans for an **even larger profit**.

In time the **cost of goods** became so high that only the (2) \_\_\_\_\_ people could **afford** them. The Europeans needed the goods. They needed metal to make **coins**, and their own supply was **running out**. They used the spices to make their **salted and spoiled food** (3) \_\_\_\_\_. Europeans living in countries that (4) \_\_\_\_\_ the Atlantic Ocean began to look for a **direct sea route** to India and **the Far East**. In (5) \_\_\_\_\_ to their desire for **precious** metals, spices, and **silk**, they **wanted to spread** (6) \_\_\_\_\_ to other parts of the world.

By **this time**, (7) \_\_\_\_\_, who had been studying the information that came from **early explorers** like Marco Polo, had begun to **make more accurate maps**. **Meanwhile**, the large amount of trade between northern and southern Europe had created a need for bigger and better ships.

New ships were built that were faster, **less likely to sink**, and could carry **heavier loads**. (8) \_\_\_\_\_ was made easier by the **improvement of instruments** that **sailors** had used for hundreds of years.

One of these was **the compass**, or an instrument with a (9) \_\_\_\_\_ needle that always **points north**. Another was **the astrolabe**, or an instrument that measures the **angle of the stars**. These (10) \_\_\_\_\_ **aided** the Europeans in their search for new **sea routes**.

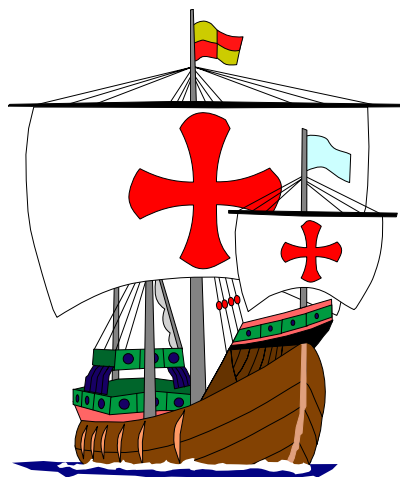
1) Merchandise

2) Wealth

3) Eat

4) Border

5) Add



6) Christian

7) Map

8) Navigate

9) Magnet

10) Develop