

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

### Bell Ringer: Ocean Gyres, Portugal, and Dias

**Instructions:** Examine the picture. Read the Background. Answer the questions.



**Background:** At the edge of the Iberian Peninsula, Portugal was in an ideal location for exploration, since they bordered the Atlantic Ocean. Portugal practiced colonization, when a larger nation controls weaker areas around the world. Their innovations in sailing allowed them to control trade in West Africa. This permitted the nation to gain resources and goods outside their own realm and increase their wealth. These innovations in sailing eventually allowed Portugal to travel all the way to the Indian Ocean. A Portuguese sailor, Bartolomeu Dias (1450-1500), wanted to sail around Africa. The waters around the Southern tip of Africa are treacherous. Yet, Dias found a way to get through, the first European to do so. Due to rough weather, he headed for open sea. To his surprise, his ship was pushed back around the tip of Africa. The reason was that Dias had discovered ocean gyres, whirlpool like currents that work like rivers in the ocean.

1. What is colonization? Why do you think any nation would want to practice colonization?

2. What geographic trait of Portugal made it able to start practicing colonization?

3. Who was Bartolomeu Dias? What contribution did he have on Portuguese exploration?

**Answers:**

1. What is colonization? Why do you think any nation would want to practice colonization?

Colonization is when a large nation conquers weaker areas. The goal is to use the resources of conquered areas to increase the wealth of the nation colonizing.

2. What geographic trait of Portugal made it able to start practicing colonization?

At the edge of the Iberian Peninsula, Portugal was in an ideal location for exploration, since they bordered the Atlantic Ocean.

3. Who was Bartolomeu Dias? What contribution did he have on Portuguese exploration?

A Portuguese sailor, Bartolomeu Dias (1450-1500), wanted to sail around Africa. The waters around the Southern tip of Africa are treacherous. Yet, Dias found a way to get through, the first European to do so. Due to rough weather, he headed for open sea. To his surprise, his ship was pushed back around the tip of Africa. The reason was that Dias had discovered ocean gyres, whirlpool like currents that work like rivers in the ocean. This helped Portugal to expand even further in its colonizing pursuits.