

Unit 6

Name: _____

Date: _____

The Search for the Northwest Passage Questions

Before Reading

Preview the selection on pages 132 and 133 of *Literacy in Action* by reading the title, headings, and captions, and by looking at the images.

Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

1. What is this selection mainly about?

This selection is mainly about the search for the Northwest Passage by different explorers.

2. What is the purpose of the selection?

This type of non-fiction writing is to give information about a topic.

3. What do you already know that might help you read and think about this selection?

Answers will vary.

4. How do you know that information?

You may be able to recall past Social Studies work or past reading you may have done on the explorers who tried to find Northwest Passage to enable a shorter route to Asia.

During Reading

Remember that the main or key ideas can be found in the first or last sentence of a selection or implied throughout.

Use the **crack the code** strategies to solve unfamiliar words as you read.

- 1. After the opening paragraph:** What caused the explorers to head northwest by sea?

Explorers were looking for a shorter trade route to Asia.

- 2. After *A Tough Job*, the first paragraph:** Why was the search so difficult?

The area they travelled through in northern Canada was a maze of islands and explorers could not tell where a waterway would lead.

- 3. After *A Tough Job*, the second paragraph:** What is important in this paragraph?

The paragraph lists many of the explorers who tried and failed to find the Northwest Passage. Even though they failed, they added to the knowledge that the Europeans were gathering about the North.

- 4. After *The Second Wave*, first paragraph:** What does the title *The Second Wave* mean?

Another generation of explorers attempted to find the passage approximately two hundred years later.

- 5. At the end:** Why was the search for the Northwest Passage an important exploration?

The explorers learned a lot about the geography, resources, and peoples of the North. The English explorers learned that the Hudson's Bay area was a very good place to trade for furs, so they set up the Hudson's Bay Company, which soon controlled most of the fur trade in North America.