

Unit 6

Name: _____

Date: _____

Venturing Westward Questions

Before Reading

Preview the selection on pages 136 and 137 in *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 exploration of what will become Western Canada.

2. What is the purpose of the selection?

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

3. **What I Think I Know:** What do you already know that might help you read and think about this selection? (Use your background information and your preview of the selection to answer.)

Answers will vary.

4. **How I Know:** 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 exploration of Western Canada.

During Reading

Read the selection, *Venturing Westward*, on pages 136 and 137 in *Literacy in Action* by reading the title, headings, and captions, and by looking at the images.

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

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



Websites

You can use the **Online Dictionary** (<http://kids.wordsmyth.net/we/>) to check words or spelling.

1. **After the opening paragraph:** What caused the Russians to explore the west coast.

The Russians traded with the First Nations living there.

2. **After the first two paragraphs of Explorers by Sea:** What information is important?

Spanish explorers came from Mexico in 1774 to expand trading routes; an explorer from Europe named George Vancouver explored the area from present-day Vancouver Island to Alaska.

3. **After the next paragraph:** Why might the writer have focused on George Vancouver?

Vancouver charted hundreds of inlets, bays, and islands from Vancouver Island to Alaska.

4. **After the first three paragraphs of Explorers by Land:** What is important about the exploration of land?

It took a long time to explore this area because explorers had to go through the Rocky Mountains; explorers who made this journey were Mackenzie, Thompson, and Fraser.

5. **At the end:** What did this exploration mean for Canada?

This exploration meant that the map of the region was taking shape and trade between the East and the West increased.