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Hardship at Sea

Antonio Pigafetta, an Italian explorer who was on Magellan's expedition, described the terrible conditions when sailing across the Pacific on board Magellan's ship:

We were three months and twenty days without getting any kind of fresh food. We ate biscuits, which was no longer biscuit, but powder of biscuits swarming with worms, for they had eaten the good. It stank strongly of the urine of rats. We drank yellow water that had been putrid for many days. We even forced, so that we might not die of hunger, to eat pieces of leather with which the main yard was covered to prevent it from wearing the ropes. These pieces of leather, constantly exposed to the water, sun and wind, were so hard that they required being soaked four or five days in the sea in order to make them supple; after this we boiled them to eat. Frequently, indeed, we were obliged to live on sawdust and even rats were sought after with such greed that they sold for half a ducat apiece.

1. What would motivate someone to put up with these conditions especially when there were more hardships ahead?

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Global History and Geography I

What is Gold, God, or Glory?

Analyze the documents and answer the questions that follow.

Document 1: The following quotation is Samuel de Champlain's description of the characteristics of a "good and perfect navigator."

"He should be robust and alert, have good sea legs, and be indefatigable...so whatever accident may befall he can keep the deck and in a strong voice order everyone to do his duty...He should punish ill-doers severely, and reward good men, gratifying them from time to time with a pat on the back, praising them but not overdoing it, so as to give no occasion for envy...He should never let himself be overcome by wine, for if an officer or seaman becomes a drunkard it is dangerous to entrust him with responsibility; he might be sleeping like a pig when an accident occurs and be the cause of the loss of the vessel. He must keep a private compass below and consult it frequently to see if the ship is on her course...He must be a good economist in issuing rations, giving each man reasonably what he needs, otherwise dissatisfaction will be created."

1. According to Samuel de Champlain, what characteristics must a good navigator have?

2. What kind of men do you think wanted to go on these voyages?

3. Was this an example of Gold, Glory, or God? Explain.