

Cabeza de Vaca Worksheet

Seventh Grade

1. Based on your observations of the 1529 map of the New World, what did the Spaniards know about Texas geographically?

2. How would the 1529 map be a hindrance to explorers?

3. Read the description of Cabeza de Vaca's treatment at the hands of the Coastal Indians. What would your reaction be to the situation?

4. Why did the Indian tribes ask Cabeza de Vaca to trade and barter for them?

5. Cabeza de Vaca felt the life of a trader gave him advantages. What were these advantages?

6. What was Cabeza de Vaca's principal objective in becoming a trader?

7. What did the Coastal Indians think about Cabeza de Vaca's role as a trader?

8. What action did Cabeza de Vaca take to help the Indian who was suffering from an arrow wound?

9. Why was this an exceptional accomplishment?

10. Based on the Indians reaction to the surgery, had they seen medicine of this type before? How would you have reacted?

11. What, if any, fame did Cabeza de Vaca receive for his “cure”?

12. Who did the Spaniards say were “lords of the land”? How should the Indians serve their “lords”?

13. List the comparisons the Indians made between Cabeza de Vaca to his fellow Spaniards?

14. Based on the Indians’ description of Cabeza de Vaca, how would he have looked to his fellow Spaniards?

15.Cabeza de Vaca called buffalos “cows”. How did he describe their hair and meat? _____
