

Activity 4: Fears

Discuss the fact that voyages during this time period had many dangers. Maps were often inaccurate or incomplete, bad storms or rocky coasts could cause shipwrecks, and sailors could become sick due to lack of food or unsanitary conditions on the ship. Sailors may have feared the unknown — since the sailors was often sailing new routes, they didn't know how long the trip would take, whether the ship would make the journey safely, or what they would encounter once they landed.

Let your child select one of the following options.

Option 1

Ask your child to draw a picture that illustrates the dangers sailors faced during the Age of Exploration. Encourage him to use colors and images that would make some people fear sailing far into the ocean. Let him give his picture a title.

Option 2

Ask your child to write a poem or song that reflects the dangers sailors faced during the Age of Exploration. Tell him to use words and phrases that would make someone fearful. Tell your child that if he is going to add music, he should be sure that the mood of the music compliments the words of the song.