**Most Spanish expeditions carried priests with them.**

**“We have come to look for Christians and spices.” –Portugese explorer, Vasco da Gama**

**Spices were valuable because they helped make rotten food edible.**

**Even in wealthy homes, the meals cams to the table spoiled because there was no refrigeration.**

**“The orient is dripping with spices and paved with gold.”-Marco Polo**

**“We have come to look for Christians and spices.”**

**-Portugese explorer, Vasco da Gama**

**Spices came from the Spice Islands, located in the Far East.**

**The science of cartography, or mapmaking, had become sophisticated and increasingly accurate by Columbus’s time.**

**New inventions like the astrolabe and mariner’s compass made longer and more difficult trips possible.**

**New ships called caravels were faster and easier to navigate than any ship before.**

**New developments in science and technology led to better ships, equipment, and maps, which made a long journey like Columbus’s possible.**

**Possible hypotheses:**

**The only land route to the Far East was controlled by the Turkish Empire, so Europeans were traveling by sea more than ever before.**

**Many powerful people, including kings and queens, merhcants, and the pope were paying explorers to find new routes to China and the Spice Islands.**

**There were many valuable items in the Far East such as gold, silk, jewels, and spices.**

**Spices were extremely valuable because they made rotten fool edible.**

**King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella agreed to pay for Columbus’s journey because they believed he could get to the East faster than the Portugese if he sailed across the Atlantic Ocean.**