Europeans Explore the East

If you’ll remember, the Renaissance spirit of individual accomplishment and humanism led people to pursue a life of adventure and exploration. Soon Europeans were looking outside their borders and pondering the possible lands that lay in the unknown seas.

For “God, Glory,... and Gold”
For years, Europeans had neither the means nor the interest to explore foreign lands. That all changed by the early 1400s, as the desire to spread ____________________ and advances in sailing ____________________ started an age of European exploration.

Riches
The desire for a new source of ________________ was the main reason for European exploration. Merchants and traders hoped to benefit from what was becoming a very profitable business in Europe: ________________ and luxury goods from Asia. Food during this time was very bland, so spices had become a popular way to add flavor to food. Merchants could charge high prices for spices because there was such a high demand for them.

__________________ and ________________ controlled the spice routes along land. Other European traders disliked this arrangement because they had to pay such high prices from the Italians. The only way to bypass this arrangement was to discover a sea route to Asia.

Religion
The Crusades of the 12th century brought more than just spices back to Europe. Hostility between Christians and ________________ was also still present. Europeans believed that they had a duty to fight the Muslims and convert non-Christians throughout the world. The goal, as one Portuguese explorer put it was, “To serve God and His Majesty, to give light to those who were in darkness and to grow rich as all men desire to do.”

Technology
While riches, religion, and glory were the prime incentives to explore, none of it would have been possible without the advances made in technology. Originally, ships found it difficult to travel against the wind, but with the invention of a new sailing vessel, the ________________, and triangular sails, sailors were now capable of sailing 3000 miles. Also, the ________________, invented by the Chinese, and the ________________, which helped sailors track the stars, greatly improved navigation.