

Name _____ Date _____

The Search for Seven Cities

Stories about seven golden cities were recorded in a ship's record that Paganini found. Years of weather have worn away some of the words. Help Paganini put the missing pieces together by following the directions below.

Directions: Read the story below to find out about the Seven-Cities-of-Cibola. Fill in each blank with one of the words from the word box. Each word is used once.

The Seven Cities of Cibola were seven cities that were supposedly filled with treasures. They were thought to be in what is now the American Southwest. Early Spanish explorers believed that the cities' houses were covered with jewels and the streets were paved with gold.

Marco de Niza, a Spanish priest, heard stories told by the Indians in northern Mexico about these rich cities. In 1539, de Niza decided to explore the land north of Mexico. He sent a black slave named Estevanico to find out more information from the Indians. The Indians told Estevanico about seven cities in a land they called Cibola. Estevanico traveled further to Hawikuh, the largest of six Zuni villages. Hawikuh was located near present-day Gallup, New Mexico. When he reached Hawikuh, the Zuni Indians told him stories of Estevanico's travels led to another famous explorer. In 1540, Francisco Coronado led 300 soldiers in search of gold through parts of Arizona, New Mexico, Texas, and Kansas. He wanted to reach the cities and claim their wealth for Spain. Coronado never did find the seven golden cities. However, he and his men were the first Europeans to travel up the Rio Grande Valley and reach the Grand Canyon, one of the seven natural wonders of the world. After he found no cities, Coronado returned to Mexico in 1542.

Bottom Line! Pretend you are a Spanish explorer who actually found a golden city. Write a descriptive paragraph telling what it looks like.



Word Box

golden	1542
located	guide
Grand Canyon	Southwest
expedition	Estevanico
streets	stories
cities	green
Span-	killed
ish	conquer
riches	1540
explorer	travelled

