Mini-DBQ: Columbus’s Letter and Its Effects

Name:

Period:

Directions: Read through Sources A, B, and C and analyze them below.

**Source A**: Alan Taylor, description of how the printing press shaped the Age of Exploration, *American Colonies: The Settling of North America* (excerpts), 2002

Step 1: Mark the text. Underline the thesis/arguments made by the author. Circle any unknown words.

Step 2: Summarize the text in 2-3 sentences. Make sure to use your own words:

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Step 3: Analyze the text and its source. What is the author saying? Why do you think the author is saying that, based on his point of view? Dig deeply into what’s said, what you can infer, and connect it to your prior knowledge and new ideas you have based on the text to write 2-3 explanatory sentences below:

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**Source B**: Christopher Columbus, letter to Queen Isabella I and King Ferdinand II of Spain describing his first voyage (excerpts), 1493

Step 1: Mark the text. Underline the thesis/arguments made by the author. Circle any unknown words.

Step 2: Summarize the text in 2-3 sentences. For this summary, DO NOT include the italicized portion at the beginning of the text, only use Columbus’s words themselves. Make sure to use your own words:

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Step 3: Analyze the text and its source. What is the author saying? Why do you think the author is saying that, based on his point of view? Dig deeply into what’s said in both sections of this source (the italicized and regular text), what you can infer, and connect it to your prior knowledge and new ideas you have based on the text to write 2-3 explanatory sentences below:

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**Source C**: Matthew Edney, map and description of how Columbus’s letter spread across Europe, “Geographical Diffusion of Columbus’s First Letter,” Osher Map Library: Smith Center for Cartographic Education, 1996

Step 1: Mark the text. Underline the thesis/arguments made by the author. Circle any unknown words.

Step 2: Summarize the text and map in 2-3 sentences. Make sure to use your own words:

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Step 3: Analyze the text and its source. What is the author saying? Why do you think the author is saying that, based on his point of view? Dig deeply into what’s said in the text and on the map, what you can infer, and connect it to your prior knowledge and new ideas you have based on this source to write 2-3 explanatory sentences below:

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Conclusion:

Directions: Use the 3 sources and your analysis to write a well-structured and detailed paragraph about the effects of Columbus’s first letter. This paragraph must be hand-written on the back of this paper.

Be sure to incorporate text evidence from all three sources. **Use 3 different colored highlighters to code your use of the sources** and be sure to include your own thoughts and analysis. Keep direct quotes brief and be sure to cite them in parenthesis; otherwise paraphrase the texts and seamlessly cite them within the paragraph itself. **You will be graded on the presence of a thesis statement (answer the question that the prompt asks), how effectively you use the sources, the clarity of your content, your own analyses of the texts, and the conclusions you draw from them in order to respond to the prompt.**

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| **Prompt: To what extent did the printing press and Christopher Columbus’s first letter specifically help contribute to the European Age of Exploration? Explain.** |
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