

1421 Essay Handout

Directions: Now that you have become familiar with The Voyage of Zheng He video segments and evaluated all the evidence presented, write an essay expressing your opinion on whether Gavin Menzies's claim is or is not valid. Include evidence to support your ideas. Remember, you are only evaluating this part of his claim:

The Chinese in the 15th century had the naval capability to build a fleet of ships used for global exploration that led to the discovery of North America before Columbus.