

Take the “Which Great Explorer Are You?” Quiz

{ Inspired by *Northwest Passage* by Stan Rogers, as seen by Matt James }

1. What’s your favorite hobby?

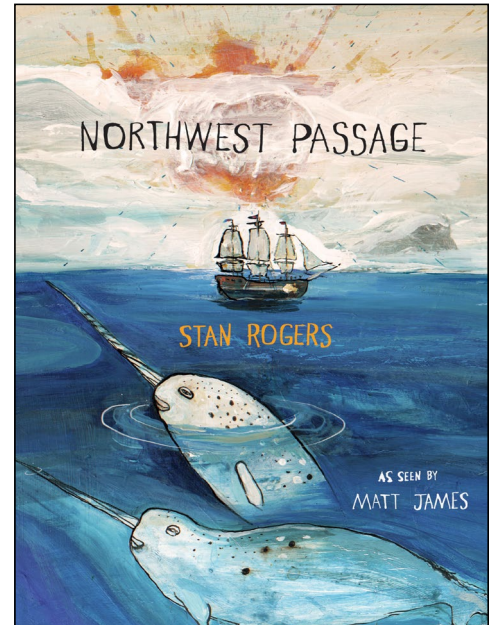
- a) Team sports of any kind.
- b) Drawing and painting.
- c) Reading and spending quiet time alone.
- d) Playing music.

2. Your friends would describe you as...

- a) Someone who thinks outside the box.
- b) A methodical thinker and planner.
- c) Ambitious.
- d) A nature lover.

3. How do you feel about meeting new people?

- a) There’s something new to learn from everyone you meet.
- b) You often find yourself trying to figure them out — what makes them tick?
- c) You don’t mind new people, but you’re quite happy with the friends you already have and your own company.
- d) Everyone has a story to tell. You love to hear them all — and tell your own.



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4. What’s your favorite subject?

- a) Geography.
- b) Math.
- c) You’d rather just learn on your own.
- d) Social Studies.

5. When facing a particularly difficult problem or situation, you are most likely to...

- a) Seek advice and help from someone who’s been there before.
- b) Make a list of pros and cons to help you make up your mind.
- c) Trust your instincts — you’ll do whatever makes sense to you.
- d) Help those around you first.

Results

If your answers were mostly As:



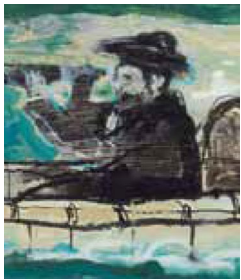
You are Sir Alexander Mackenzie (1764-1820).

You're adventurous and not afraid to ask for help.

Mackenzie is best known for two remarkable feats of exploration under the North West Company, a rival to the Hudson's Bay Company, also known as the HBC. First he went north on a river (now known as the Mackenzie River) to the Beaufort Sea. He had been instructed to go to Russia via this

route. He traveled with First Nations people, going a distance of 3000 miles (4828 km) in 102 days. Having failed to reach the Pacific, he set out again. Following the advice of his First Nations guides he took what seemed an unlikely route and went down the turbulent Bella Coola River until he reached a First Nations settlement perched on stilts overlooking what was the Pacific. He became the first European to reach the Pacific by crossing North America on July 22, 1793.

Mostly Bs:



You are David Thompson (1770-1857).

You're wise and a good problem-solver.

One of the great mapmakers, Thompson worked first for the HBC, but then moved to the North West Company, exploring the lands in the west. His major achievement was his mapping of the Columbia River from its

source to its mouth in the Pacific. In so doing, he put up a post where the Columbia and Snake rivers meet, claiming the land for Great Britain and the North West Company. He was especially interested in those places where US and Canadian interests and borders were at stake.

Mostly Cs:



You are Sir John Franklin (1786-1847).

You're a strong leader, but can sometimes be stubborn.

John Franklin was a British naval captain who fought in the Napoleonic wars. He was sent on a number of expeditions seeking the Northwest Passage by Sir John Barrow, second secretary of the British Admiralty, the man

responsible for the great age of exploration. Franklin undertook expeditions by sea and by land, but he demonstrated serious weaknesses in his inflexibility, lack of physical strength and stamina, and perhaps a lack of ability to make successful contact with Aboriginal people. The story of his final expedition is told in *Northwest Passage*.

Mostly Ds:



You are Stan Rogers (1949-1983).

You are artistic and empathetic.

Born in Ontario, Rogers spent his summers in Nova Scotia. He played the guitar from the age of five and by fourteen was giving concerts. His songs were about Canada, its nature and the people who worked on the land and the sea — farmers, fishermen and sailors — as

well as the poor. As a musician he traveled the country playing and singing in bars, folk clubs and festivals. Tragically, he died after the plane he was on caught fire upon landing. Rogers was helping others get off the plane when he died of smoke inhalation. He was one of Canada's best-loved musicians.