Ming Dynasty Webquest

Directions: Complete the assignment below using the appropriate websites and documents provided for you to locate the answers to the following questions. This assignment will cover the Ming Dynasty and important facts relating to exploration, encounters, and a comparison to the Europeans.

Enjoy! Please ask questions if you need help.

Opening Question:

What do you think about the picture above? Write 3 ideas about this.

1.
2.
3.

STEP 1: EXPLORATION – Use the website to answer the following questions on Ming Exploration

Hint: Focus on headlines and key words.


1. When was the Ming Dynasty created? How long did it last?
2. Who was Zheng He? What did he do?
3. Fun Question: How tall was he?
4. Describe his fleet with specific details. (Hint: The more details you use will make your life easier later.)
5. What year did he begin his voyages? Why might you think this date is significant? (3-5 sentence response)
At the time of Portuguese arrival in China in 1514, the Ming government thought little of the arrival. The Portuguese soon outraged Chinese officials with their behavior. They were expelled from Guangzhou (Canton) but were allowed to occupy Macao, a port on the southeastern coast of China. At first, the Portuguese had little impact on Chinese society. Portuguese ships did carry goods between China and Japan, but direct trade between Europe and China remained limited.

Perhaps more important than trade, however, was the exchange of ideas. Christian missionaries had also made the long voyage to China on European merchant ships. The Jesuits, a Catholic order that focused on education and establishing missions, were among the most active. Many of them were highly educated men who brought along instruments, such as clocks, that impressed Chinese officials and made them more receptive to western ideas.

Both sides benefited from this early cultural exchange. Chinese scholars marveled at their ability to read better with European eyeglasses. Christian missionaries were impressed with many aspects of Chinese civilization, such as the teachings of Confucius, the printing and availability of books, and Chinese architecture. When the Jesuits’ reports began to circulate back home, Europeans became even more curious about this great civilization on the side of the world.

1. Explain the first encounter between the Ming and the Portuguese in 1514. What ideas were exchanged?

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<th>What did the Europeans receive from the Ming?</th>
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Christopher Columbus voyage contained three ships: The Nina, the Pinta, and Santa Maria. The ships carried about 120 men in total. There was a lack of proper sanitation. Large ships would have carried a surgeon or doctor. One of the worst health problems on board the three Christopher Columbus Ships would have been scurvy. Fresh livestock included pigs and chickens were part of the ships provisions. Meat would have been preserved by being salted. Cooking was done in a fire box located on decks in the bow of the ship, Cooking pots or cauldrons would be suspended from a bar. The seamen would sleep in cramped and damp conditions on the deck of the ships. These three ships ranged from 45 to 80 feet in length.

Compare the similarities and differences between the fleet used by the European’s to the New World with the fleet of Zheng He. (HINT: Use information and website from the first section to answer information for Zheng He’s Voyages.)

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<th>Differences about the European Voyages</th>
<th>Similarities of Each</th>
<th>Differences about Zheng He’s Voyages</th>
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1. What do you think about the differences of these voyages/ fleets?
2. Why do you believe the Europeans continued their voyages while the Chinese stopped? (One paragraph response)
STEP 4: RATIONALE – Use the following websites to answer the questions about European and Chinese motives for exploration

http://geography.about.com/od/historyofgeography/a/ageexploration.htm
1. Why did the Europeans start exploration?

http://asianhistory.about.com/od/china/f/zenghefaq.htm
2. What are reasons why the Ming Dynasty stopped exploring? Give 4 reasons.
3. What might have happened if they continued to explore?

STEP 5: FINAL QUESTION – Using the information you have compiled in steps 1-4 answer the following question in paragraph form

After learning about the Ming Dynasty and the European exploration, who had the better strategy and why? (The Europeans expanded through multiple ways but the Ming limited exploration due to other reasons. Explain who had the better idea and why?)