



# *Under Drake's Flag*

by G. A. Henty



Family Study Guide Answer Key  
by Susanna Ashdown

Illuminations Year 4

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# Illuminations Year Four

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### ~ Weeks 1, 2, and 3 ~

#### Supplies

- *Under Drake's Flag* by G.A. Henty
- Bible
- Blank journal or notebook to take notes for an activity
- Flash Cards with Vocabulary Words
- GO A-1
- World Map outline

#### Introduction

*Under Drake's Flag* focuses on the life of Ned Hearne, a young teenager, as he faces, head-on, the conflicts between Great Britain and Spain for supremacy of the high seas. As a part of the voyage, along with the daring English Captain Drake, Ned is swept along in adventure after adventure, along with his three friends. Ned becomes an eyewitness to the amazing naval battle between Great Britain and the Spanish Armada. Set in the sixteen century, this novel introduces readers to one of the most popular authors of his day.

#### Important Notes

This novel was originally published in 1905 which means the writing style is completely different from today's novels and much more challenging. It may be necessary to read the first chapter or two along with your student to help them become accustomed to the language and the style.

#### Vocabulary

This novel uses language and words in ways not commonly utilized now. To better assist the student in understanding the novel, certain words have been chosen and defined. Create your own flash cards to make certain the student comprehends the material.

#### Hands-On Activities

There are activities listed after the discussion generators for each day of study. **Do not try to complete all of the activities**, but choose the one/ones that interest your student. The **minimum** requirement would be completing 2 activities per week. The Mapping Activity would be completed with each chapter of the book as necessary.

## **Mapping Activity**

- Requirements:
  - 1 World Map that students would be able to write on
  - Sharpie Markers or other Markers

Activity: Each time a location is mentioned in the book, have the student find the location on the map. If it is a general area within a country, that is ok. Put a star next to each location. Once the characters (Ned and friends) move, chart the movement on the map by drawing an arrow in the direction of the movement, connecting each star. If the location named isn't on the map, do a little research and find out the current name of the place and perhaps the reason(s) behind the name change. This could be as simple as a different language or as complex as being taken over by a different country and being renamed in the past.

## **Character List**

- **Francis Drake** - fearless leader of the band of explorers that Ned and his friends set out with to explore the Spanish Main
- **John Drake** - brother of Francis Drake and captain of the ship *The Swanne*
- **Ned Hearne** - main character of the novel. He is fifteen when the novel begins.
- **Gerald Summers, Reuben Gale, Tom Tressilis** - friends of Ned and each have adventures with Ned as the novel progresses
- **Don Sagasta & Daughter Anne** - come to the aid of Ned and friends when needed
- **Don Estevan** - another who assists Ned and another boy when they are in need

## **Reading Schedule**

### **Week One**

Day 1: Chapters 1, 2, and 3

Day 2: Chapters 4 and 5

Day 3: Chapters 6 and 7

Day 4: Chapters 8 and 9

### **Week Two**

Day 1: Chapters 10 and 11

Day 2: Chapters 12 and 13

Day 3: Chapters 14 and 15

Day 4: Chapters 16 and 17

### **Week Three**

Day 1: Chapters 18 and 19

Day 2: Chapter 20

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Day 3: Chapter 21

Day 4: Chapter 22

## **Week 1 - Day 1**

- Read Chapters 1, 2, and 3
- Mapping Activity, if needed

### **Discussion Generators**

1. When and where does this novel begin? *[Village of Westport, in England, in May, 1572]*
2. How do the English view the Spanish people? *[They think the Spaniards believe themselves to be gods and that they are haughty. They take captives and enslave them and mistreat them.]*
3. What does “The Otter” or Ned do to receive attention and praise from Francis Drake? *[Ned swims out to try to rescue a shipwrecked vessel and in the process saves a dog and a small child.]*
4. Only the boy the villagers call “The Otter” has the courage to jump in and try to save the ship that wrecks on the shoals. Would you have the courage to jump in and save them? *[Answers will vary.]*
5. How does Ned’s father, the schoolteacher, view Francis Drake? *[Ned’s father believes that Francis Drake is nothing but an adventurer and that he will probably die before returning and fulfilling his promise to Ned.]*
6. Ned asks his father if he believes it lawful to “kill the Spaniard and to take the treasures which he robbeth from the poor heathens of the West?” [pg. 9]. How does the English killing the Spanish for the treasure differ from the Spaniards killing the natives for their treasures? Do you agree with the answer Ned’s father gives him? *[It does not truly differ at all. All that is at stake with the treasures is man’s inherent greed and desire for adventure.]*
7. What religion was England opposed to at the time this novel was written? *[Catholicism or “Popery” as the novel calls it.]*
8. What motivated the English sailors to fight against the Spanish besides religion? *[Hatred and greed for gold, treasures, and money]*
9. How does Ned prove himself to the other boys and the older sailors on board? *[He stays cheerful and works hard with no complaints.]*
10. Describe the initial reaction from each Captain once the boys have been rescued and are back on board. Which reaction would you have preferred if you were one of the boys? *[Francis reacts by simply questioning the boys, while John is eager to yell at them and reacts with anger.]*
11. Do you think the boys did the right thing in not calling anyone out when questioned by the other crewmembers? Would calling out Giles Taunton have caused problems for the boys? *[Yes, they were right not to spread rumors and gossip around the ship. Calling out Giles could have asked for trouble from him again or his friends aboard ship.]*



12. How long did the ships sail before sighting land? *[They sighted land about two months after setting sail on May 24<sup>th</sup>.]*
13. On page 26, the boys describe a particular type of bird. Based on the description given, it is most likely to be what type of bird? *[Hummingbird]*
14. How do the English describe the African Americans or “black fellows” (pg. 27) according to the sailor the boys befriended? *[As murderers and people who fight against their own race]*
15. Even so, does the sailor agree with the slave trade? *[No]*
16. How does Ned once again risk his life to save another? *[He battles with a shark.]*
17. What does Ned gain from this encounter with the shark? *[Giles and his friends will no longer mess with him, and Ned now has the trust and loyalty of the other sailors.]*

### **Hands-On Activities**

- Research Francis Drake. Where was he born? When and how did he die? What is he best known for? Write a short 1-2 page paper/essay about what you learned.
- In 2-3 paragraphs, describe one person whom you have had problems getting along with. Have they done something to you? Have you done something to them? Why is it so difficult to like this person or get along with this person? Talk with your parents and write down some steps **you** can take to resolve the situation and change your attitude.
- What is Whitsun Eve? Do a little research and discover what holiday this is/was. Share with your family the importance of this holiday and what it means to you.
- The Bible also has a story about a man who “fights” against a beast and wins. Read Daniel 6. Using GO A-1, compare and contrast Daniel and Ned as they display courage and bravery in each situation.
- Research some of the places that the sailor mentions as he talks with the boys. Do any of these places still exist? What country are they located in on the modern day continent?
- In the beginning of chapter 3, the boys and crew are given fruits that they never had seen before. Have you ever eaten a pineapple or a pomegranate? Try eating a fruit or vegetable you haven’t tried. Describe the experience, in 2-3 paragraphs. Was it good? If you did not like it, try to describe why not.

### **Week 1 - Day 2**

- Read Chapters 4 and 5.
- Mapping Activity, as needed.

### **Discussion Generators**

1. How was Captain Drake’s small crew supposed to capture the gold and treasures from a town? *[They used the threat of burning down the town and appearing to be more in number than they actually were.]*

2. Why was the attack on the town unsuccessful? *[Captain Drake was wounded and fainted at the wrong moment.]*
3. Why did Captain Drake so easily give away the answers to the questions that the hidalgo asked? *[In their day, it was considered to be courteous and entertaining.]*
4. Why did Captain Drake keep it a secret when he ordered that the *Swanne* be sunk in order to continue their mission? *[Sailors became attached to their ships, and while they would have followed his orders, they would have become unhappy and possibly disobeyed his orders later.]*
5. What was the secret to the success of the English soldiers as they fought and won against the crew of the Spanish galleon? *[The fury with which they fought was the secret to their success.]*
6. Ned once again saves the life of another of his friends and when thanked, shrugs it off again. Why do you think Ned never takes the credit for his actions? *[The answer here is a personal response, but possibly because Ned believes God is more to thank than himself since God blessed him with his ability to swim. This is supported by what Ned says after his friend thanks him.]*
7. Why is the daughter of the Spanish noble willing to assist him? *[Ned saved her life when she jumped overboard when the galleon she was on was captured.]*
8. What would happen to Ned and Gerald if the public were to find out that two members of Captain Drake's crew were hiding in their town? *[They would be angry and probably torture and kill them.]*
9. Why then is the father also willing to help the boys? *[Simply, he'd like to help them in gratitude for saving his daughter.]*
10. Where did the boys end up after the ship was wrecked? *[Porto Rico or Puerto Rico]*

### **Hands-On Activities**

- Who was Vasco Nunez? Research him and write a summary of what you learned.
- Research the history of Hispaniola. Does it still exist? Where is/was it. Write a short summary on what you find.

### **Week 1 - Day 3**

- Read Chapters 6 and 7.
- Mapping Activity, as needed.

### **Discussion Generators**

1. Don Sagasta conceals the boys until news reaches the governor that two white men have apparently been seen near the town. How is this proven to the governor? *[The two men who claimed to have seen them went before the governor to tell their stories, and the piece of wreckage from the ship with the ship's name on it was discovered which led to the knowledge that the ship was from Captain Drake's fleet.]*

2. What kind of gifts does Don Sagasta give to Ned and Gerald before they leave to flee into the mountains? *[He gives them a pair of pistols each, money, and a sword, along with the basket of supplies.]*
3. There is a message of hate against races/cultures in this novel. The English hate the Spanish, the Spanish hate the English, and the Spanish hate the natives, and so on. This becomes clearly evident when the old woman in the forest speaks about the destruction of her people and her belief that the whites [English] would destroy the Spanish. Read Proverbs 10:12 and James Chapter 4. What does God say about hatred? Are the people who judge and hate each other blessed by God? *[Answers will vary.]*
4. How do the Spanish try to track their runaway slaves in the forest? *[They use tracking dogs such as bloodhounds.]*
5. Why does Ned propose to attack the Spanish when the runaway slave ends up in the grove where they are? *[He believes that if the Spanish are taught a quick lesson, they will hesitate in taking further action against the natives and runaways.]*
6. What is the turning point in the battle between the Negroes and the Spaniards? *[The turning point occurs when Ned hollers out his threat, and the Spaniards think there is more English amidst the Negroes.]*
7. Ned is always putting other people ahead of himself. How is this shown in this chapter? *[Ned tries to make Gerald the captain over himself. Ned inspires the natives and Negroes to train with the weapons and become better fighters.]*
8. Ned does not allow the Negroes to kill any of the Spaniards when they head down into town. Why? *[Ned is not a true warrior or killer at heart, and he believes in humanity.]*
9. Why does Ned not allow a lot of wine to be brought back to the Negroes' hiding places? *[He has seen the effects of it during his time with Captain Drake and does not want the Negroes to learn of its effects. He needs everyone to have a clear head.]*

### **Hands-On Activities**

- Ned and the Negroes are resourceful in how to escape capture and use everyday objects around them as weapons. Look at the room around you. Pretend that you were meeting a new and possibly threatening person for the first time. What would you offer as a gift or peace offering? What item would you quickly grab if you needed to defend yourself? Discuss ways to protect yourself and your home with your parents.
- Research a famous battle from any war and make a list of why the winning side was so successful. How was the battle planned out? Did geography (the lay of the land) assist in the win? What types of tactics did the winning side use? Which side had better weapons? Add anything else that helped out the winning side. Compare this with the battle Ned waged with the Spaniards. Are there any similarities?

## Week 1 - Day 4

- Read Chapters 8 and 9.
- Mapping Activity, as needed.

### Discussion Generators

1. Ned sends away those Negroes that he does not completely trust. Why does he do this? *[He sends away the ones he does not trust so that none will betray him and lead the Spaniards to their hiding place.]*
2. How many Spaniards lost their lives after that first wave of attack? *[Around 200 Spaniards lost their lives.]*
3. Ned and his group of Negroes escaped from their fortress in the mountain only through what means? *[They thought ahead and had cut steps into the rocks to enable their escape.]*
4. Capturing the governor of the town gave Ned and the Negroes what advantage? *[It gave them a bargaining tool or way to try to control the Spaniards and call a truce between the two parties.]*
5. Ned and Gerald were able to gain what from the Spaniards after the Spaniards realized that, for the moment, they were defeated? *[They gained a treaty promising not to harass the natives and Negroes.]*

### Hands-On Activity

- Ned's courage under fire is comparable to David when he stood against Goliath. Read aloud the account of David and Goliath in 1 Samuel 17 with your teacher/parent and, using GO A-1, compare/contrast the courage that both Ned and David showed.

## Week 2 - Day 1

- Read Chapters 10-11.
- Mapping Activity, as needed.

### Discussion Generators

1. When does Captain Drake's new venture set sail from England? *[November 12, 1577]*
2. Why did the fleet then have to report back to Plymouth almost immediately? *[They were caught in a storm, and several ships needed new masts and repair work.]*
3. What caused the skirmish to break out between the natives and the English? *[The string on the armorer's bow broke, and the natives saw the chance to try to strike because they thought that everyone else was unarmed.]*
4. Ned and Tom are now stranded in a strange place. What does Ned propose to do? *[Ned plans to make friends with as many natives as he can and make their way across the continent to try to get to Lima before Captain Drake so that they can meet up there with him and join back up with the expedition.]*



5. How do Ned and Tom befriend the natives they come across? *[They show them how to create a fire and how to cook using the fire and hot stones.]*
6. What do Ned and Tom learn from the natives? *[They learn a new way to construct bows and arrows, although they do modify them a little.]*

### **Hands-On Activities**

- Talk with your parents about taking archery lessons, camping lessons, swimming lessons, etc. How difficult would it be to survive and defend yourself as Ned and Tom?
- Consider what it would take for you to survive if stranded alone in a forest or on the beach.
- Parents: Take your student to someplace that has a forest, meadow, or beach. Ask your children how they would survive if left alone with no modern technology to guide them. Where would they take shelter? How would they construct a shelter? How would they defend themselves? What would they eat? How would they dress once their original clothes were destroyed by the elements? Try to get your student to be as detailed as possible.

### **Week 2 - Day 2**

- Read Chapters 12 and 13.
- Mapping Activity, as needed.

### **Discussion Generators**

1. How do Ned and Tom further impress the natives? *[They impress them with the type of bows they shoot at a greater distance.]*
2. Why do Ned and Tom feel a great need to learn the language of the natives? *[Ned fears that at some point they may come in contact with a warlike group of people and believes that knowing the language could spare their lives.]*
3. Ned and Tom almost die at the hands of a new group of strange natives. How do Ned and Tom prepare to die? *[They talk to each other and then ask God to forgive them their sins.]*
4. Ned manages to escape and scare the natives. How does he do this? *[He loosens the rope on his hands and manages to throw gunpowder on the fire, causing an explosion that scares the natives away.]*
5. While Ned and Tom cannot understand the natives before they escape, they can understand the pantomimes the natives make about their treatment under the Spanish rule. Are those experiences good or bad? *[The experiences are bad. Have the student tell you one or two of the stories that the natives tell.]*
6. As Ned and Tom make their way down the mountains and closer to the ocean, what attacks Ned? *[A giant boa constrictor attacks Ned.]*

### **Hands-On Activities**

- Have you ever tried to learn a new language? Research a new language such as Spanish or French and see how many complete sentences you can make! Write down at least 3 complete sentences.
- In this chapter Tom and Ned teach the natives many things. What is something that you are good at? Try to teach it to someone else who is not as good as you at that activity.
- Ned and Tom teach the natives new ways of cooking. Try cooking a meal or at least a single dish with your parent or teacher. Make something you've never made before or never eaten before. Discuss this experience with your parent or teacher.
- Research more about native tribes in South America around the 1500's. How did the Spanish treat the natives they came into contact with?
- Research snakes called "constrictors." How do they hunt and kill their prey? How large can they get? Do they make good pets? After your research, take a trip to your local pet store that sells animals to see if they sell snakes. Talk to a person about how to care for them if you own one. Would you want a snake as a pet?

### **Week 2 - Day 3**

- Read Chapters 14 and 15.
- Mapping Activity, as needed.

### **Discussion Generators**

1. Ned and Tom find themselves running from natives and into a convoy of Spaniards heading to work in a mine. How do they conceal their identity and join the Spaniards? *[They lie about being English and convince the Spaniards that they were stolen as young children from another Spanish colony.]*
2. While Ned and Tom agree to lie about their nationality, what do they agree not to lie about? *[Their true religion. They refuse to become Catholic.]*
3. How do Ned and Tom avoid becoming Catholic? *[They pretend not to understand when the Catholic priest comes to teach them.]*
4. Ned and Tom are arrested and charged with heresy. What is Ned's argument for refusing to become a Catholic? *[Ned believes that since he was born and raised a Protestant, he should not have to convert because he at least has faith in something.]*
5. Why were the Spanish so set on converting the natives and everyone else? *[They saw themselves as missionaries of the 'true faith' and believed that they were doing good instead of evil.]*

### **Hands-On Activities**

- Have you ever pretended you did not understand something in order to not have to learn something new or do something you didn't want to do? Write a brief explanation of what you didn't want to do or know and how you avoided it.

- Research the Spanish Inquisition. What were its components? Did it do harm or good? Write a summary of what you have learned.
- What does God have to say about believing in other religions? Read Exodus 20:1-17.

## **Week 2 - Day 4**

- Read Chapters 16 and 17.
- Mapping Activity, as needed.

### **Discussion Generators**

1. Why does Don Estevan save Ned and Tom from the prison of the Inquisitors? *[Ned saved him and others in a previous chapter from a shipwreck, and Don Estevan became friends with the two boys.]*
2. Ned has a change of heart about how the English and Spanish act towards one another in this chapter. Why does he change his mind about the way things were done? *[Ned is able to finally see things from a different perspective, that of a Spaniard.]*

### **Hands-On Activity**

- Research the travels Francis Drake took and see if you can find any historical reference to the places and dates mentioned in this chapter.

## **Week 3 - Day 1**

- Read Chapters 18 and 19.
- Mapping Activity, as needed

### **Discussion Generators**

1. Why do the natives that the crew meets in San Francisco readily give up their lands to the English? *[They are astounded at all the English are capable of doing and view them as gods.]*
2. Why do the strange natives view the four boys as gods? *[They have never seen a white man before.]*
3. How do the natives make the young men comfortable? *[They put them on/in a shrine and make sure they have plenty of food and water. They even try to give them wives.]*
4. How does the group of natives who have captured Ned and the others win the battle against the other natives? *[The boys who appear to be gods startle them amidst the battle and momentarily join in. This frightens the other group who then run away.]*

### **Hands-On Activity**

- God is always there to help us in our own battles as Ned and the boys were for the natives. Read

Ephesians 6:10-20. God has provided us with all of the armor we need to fight against our enemies. How has God helped you to win a battle over something?

## **Week 3 - Day 2**

- Read Chapter 20.
- Mapping Activity, as needed.

### **Discussion Generators**

1. While the Portuguese think that they are helping the natives by converting them to Christianity and having them work for small benefits, what does Ned think of the position of the natives? *[Ned sees them as slaves due to the minimum repayment for their services.]*
2. Why does the Governor put his trust completely in Ned and the others? *[Ned and the others have had many experiences with natives, and Ned has plenty of experience in organizing and leading attacks.]*

## **Week 3 - Day 3**

- Read Chapter 21.
- Mapping Activity, as needed.

### **Discussion Generators**

1. Does the mass conversion of the people of Ternate differ from the forced conversions the Spanish Inquisitors tried to inflict? *[No]*
2. How do you approach others with your views on Christ? Discuss this for a few moments. *[Answers will vary.]*
3. How would/do you handle situations where someone tries to convince you of something that you know is wrong? Discuss this with your parent or teacher. *[Answers will vary]*

## **Week 3 - Day 4**

- Read Chapter 22.
- Mapping Activity, as needed.

### **Discussion Generators**

1. Discuss with your parent/teacher the effect that Ned has on almost everyone he meets. Does he charm them? Impress them? Teach them something? *[Answers will vary.]*
2. How does Ned react in almost every dangerous situation? Does he keep a level head or does he panic? *[Answers will vary.]*

3. Does Ned or any of the other boys ever lose their faith in God? Why or why not? *[Answers will vary, but it is important that your student can defend his answer.]*
4. God keeps Ned and the others safe even through what looks to be certain death in a few instances. How does God keep you safe each and every day? *[Answers will vary.]*

### **Hands-On Activities**

- How does it feel to arrive home after a long trip or vacation? Do you look forward to it or dread it? Discuss this with your parent/teacher.

- Shadowbox Activity

Requirements:

- Building materials including 1 shoebox or slightly larger box in which to build a 3-D diagram, sugar cubes, popsicle sticks, markers, etc.

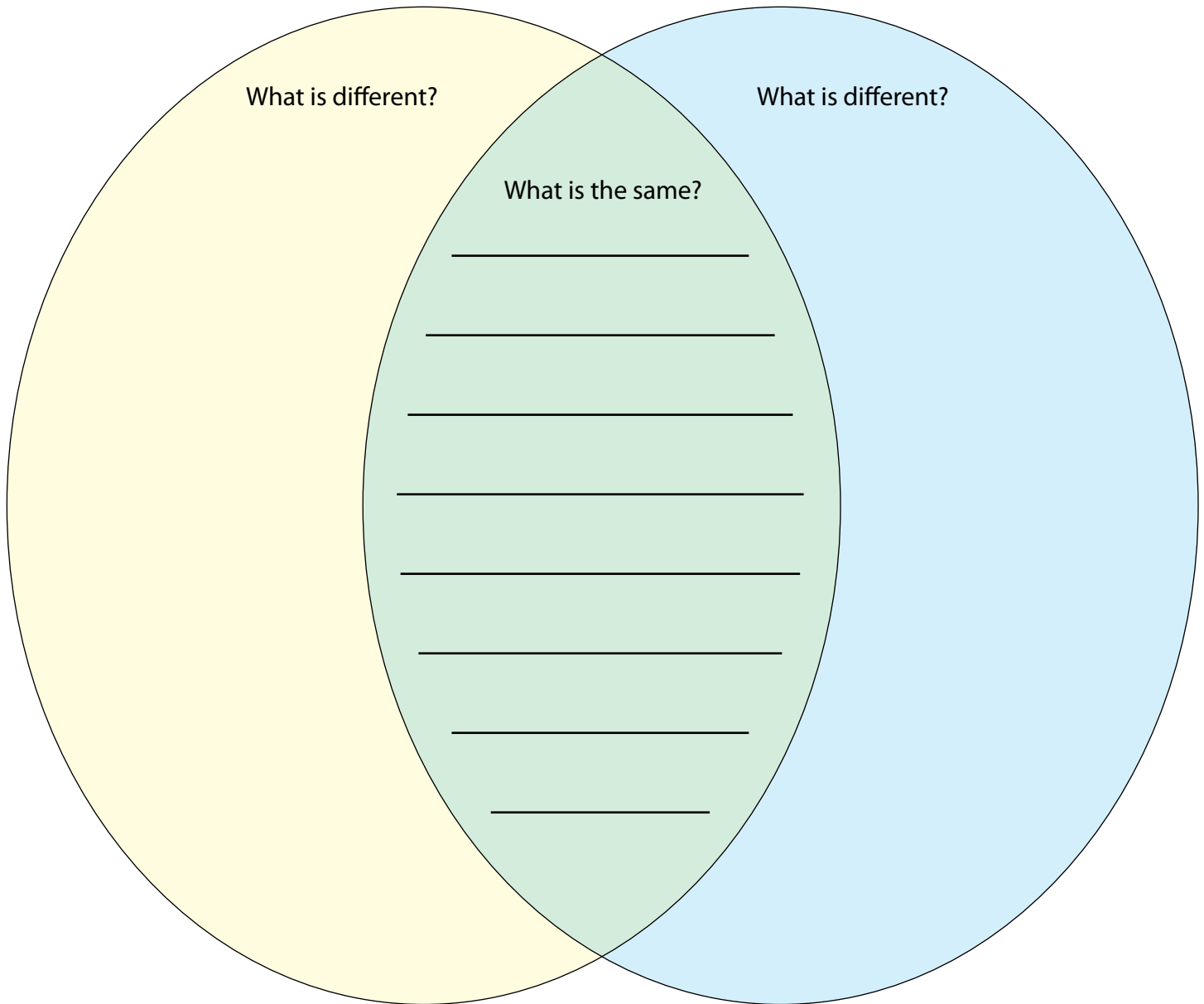
After completing the novel, go back to the sections where Ned and companion are crossing through the different tribes of people. Find a scene that strikes you (ex. Ned showing the natives how to make a fire) and create a 3-D shadow box of that scene. Use whatever materials you have available to construct it. Print out pictures of natives to use as the people if you need to. Make it realistic but style it to fit your interpretation of the scene.







# Compare and Contrast



Project \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_