

## Znam za več – Angleščina 9+

### Preizkus 1

### Naloga A

## AMERIGO VESPUCCI

### PICTURE 0

North and South America were named after Amerigo Vespucci. He was born in Florence, Italy in March 1454, and grew up in a house near the river Arno.

### PICTURE 1

As a young boy, Amerigo's happiest moments were spent studying the stars. He was very good at maths and his hobby was copying maps. His biggest wish was to travel the world and see what it was like.

### PICTURE 2

Amerigo spent half his life working as a businessman in the hope of striking it rich so he could afford to explore. In 1492 he moved to Seville in Spain because Italy didn't need, or want, explorers. He became the director of a company that made ships for long voyages. This was the first opportunity Vespucci had to travel overseas and he was extremely excited because he wanted to discover new worlds.

### PICTURE 3

In 1497 King Ferdinand of Spain allowed Amerigo to start a voyage of discovery. Little is known about this voyage, other than the fact he returned in 1498, because there are no records of maps or the crew's journals.

### PICTURE 4

On 16<sup>th</sup> May, 1499 Amerigo set off on his second voyage. He set sail for Cape Verde, crossed the Equator and explored the coast of Brazil. He discovered Cape St. Augustine and the River Amazon. In the following years he made two more voyages, exploring mostly South America. On the return trip of his 4<sup>th</sup> journey he discovered Bahia and the island of South Georgia and established an agency trading in Brazilian wood.

### PICTURE 5

In 1507 the German mapmaker Martin Waldseemuller printed the first map that used the name 'America' for the New World, clearly named after Amerigo Vespucci. Vespucci died in Seville, Spain, on 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 1512.

### PICTURE 6

The question whether Amerigo Vespucci discovered America still puzzles some historians. But most of them believe that Christopher Columbus was the first to reach land in the Bahamas on 12<sup>th</sup> October 1492. Vespucci's real historical importance may well be more in his letters than in his discoveries. From his letters, Europeans first learnt about the discovery of the American continents; their existence became generally known throughout Europe within the next few years.

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### Naloga B

#### POLO

Polo is almost unheard of in Slovenia, but it is very popular in Great Britain. Prince Charles played the game for 40 years, but from 1992 he only played in charity matches.

Polo is a team sport which is played outdoors on horseback. There are four players in each team. The players use long sticks called mallets to hit the ball. The balls are made of plastic or wood. The game usually consists of 4-8 seven minute periods. During the breaks the players are allowed to switch horses.

Polo was first played in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC in Persia, or modern-day Iran. At first it was a game for training the king's soldiers. Initially, the game was only played by rich men and women.

It was not until the 1860s that military officers brought polo to Britain. It soon became a very popular sport and in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century it spread to some other countries, such as Argentina and the United States of America, where it is still popular today.

In Asia, especially in Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand, they play polo riding elephants, not horses. There are some differences between classic polo and elephant polo. Elephants are bigger than horses so the mallets are longer and they are made of bamboo. They are slower than horses and there are two people in charge of each elephant: one player tries to score goals, while the other player 'drives' the elephant so that it goes in the right direction.

Recently, animals' rights organisations have been trying to stop this game. They are convinced that the elephants are being exploited by the entertainment industry.