

# Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus was an explorer. He was born in Italy in 1451, during the beginning of the Age of Exploration. He was very interested in sailing and learned to sail in a wooden ship. His dream was to go to China. He tried to persuade people to pay for his voyage.

First, he tried to get the King of Portugal to sponsor his trip but was unsuccessful. Finally, he was able to convince King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, the King, and Queen of Spain, to give him money to buy ships. He set sail from Europe on August 3, 1492, with his sailors. They set sail with three ships: Santa Maria, Niña, and Pinta. The voyage was very difficult, and the sailors wanted to give up. Before they did, they discovered a new land and called it the "New World."



Columbus first arrived in the Americas in 1492, however, Christopher Columbus did not discover America. When he first arrived, he thought he was in Asia, so he called the native peoples "Indians." Today we call them Native Americans. Due to Christopher Columbus's voyages, many were encouraged to explore the New World.

When Columbus sailed back to Spain after his first trip, he had to leave one ship and over 40 sailors behind. Unfortunately, when he returned, all the sailors were dead. When he returned to Spain, Columbus was greeted as a hero by the Spanish. He was able to convince King Ferdinand to pay for future voyages.

Columbus made several voyages to the Americas. He even brought over horses from Europe. He also brought back new foods from the New World. He became very ill and died in 1506. He was buried in Spain but was moved to Santo Domingo. Then moved back to Spain for his final burial site.

# Questions

1. When was Christopher Columbus born?

- 1451
- 1541
- 1492
- 1452

2. How many ships did Christopher Columbus have?

- 5
- 3
- 2
- 4

3. Where did Christopher Columbus think he landed in 1492?

- Spain
- Portugal
- Asia
- Central America

4. What was the author's purpose for writing this passage?

- persuade
- inform
- entertain
- explain

5. Why did Christopher Columbus call the Native Americans "Indians?"

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6. Pretend you are going to explore a new world. Name one thing you would take to the new world. Give two reasons why.

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# Answers

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5. Why did Christopher Columbus call the Native Americans "Indians?"

**Christopher Columbus called the Native Americans "Indians" because he thought he had landed in Asia.**

6. Pretend you are going to explore a new world. Name one thing you would take to the new world. Give two reasons why.

**Answers will vary.**