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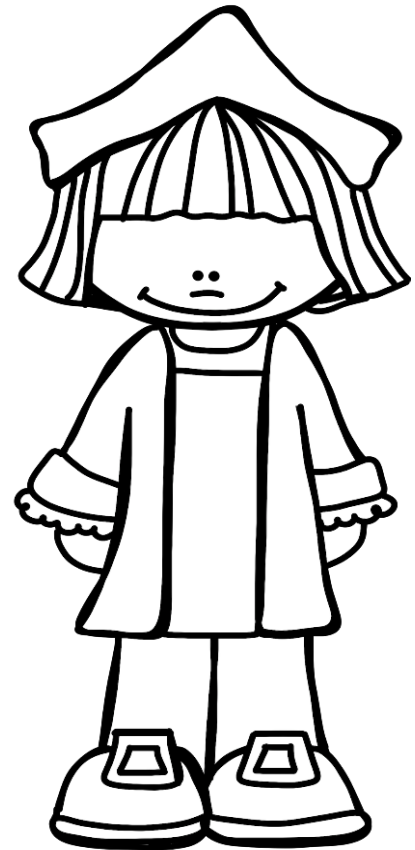
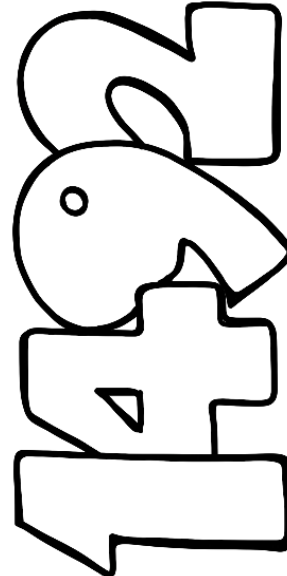
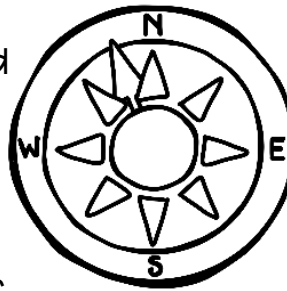
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Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus, was born in Genoa around 1451. From a young age Christopher knew how make the best of a hard situation. As a teenager, young Christopher worked on a boat. The boat was attacked and it sank to the bottom of the ocean. Christopher survived on his own with just what he had and things he created when he made his way to land. Later, we would learn that Christopher's journey with the ocean was not yet finished.

Between the years of 1492 and 1502, the explorer Christopher Columbus made four trips across the Atlantic Ocean from Spain. He was determined to find a direct route west from Europe to Asia through the water, but he never did. Instead, he accidentally stumbled upon the Americas. On August 3, 1492, Columbus and his crew set sail from Spain in three ships: the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. On October 12, Columbus thought the ships had reached Asia but instead they had docked on one of the Bahamian Islands (just south of Florida.) Columbus sailed for months around the Caribbean looking for treasures but he never found any. In March 1493, he returned to Spain knowing he had discovered new land.

Many people say Columbus discovered America; this may be figuratively true because we learned much more about America after Columbus learned the location. However, millions of people lived in America before Columbus ever found it. American was just not named yet and no one had staked claim to the land. Christopher Columbus' journey kicked off centuries of exploring on the American continents. While Columbus' journey was hard and things did not always go smoothly, he went down in history as the person who discovered the Americas.. Without his determination, it may have been decades or even centuries before someone else "discovered" America.



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Pardoning the Turkey

The presidents of the United States have a long-standing tradition of being photographed with a turkey for the National Thanksgiving Turkey Presentation. Traditionally, this photograph is taken shortly before Thanksgiving every year.

Many years ago, presidents of the United States sporadically, or at random times, started to pardon these chosen turkeys so they would not be cooked for Thanksgiving dinner. Instead, these turkeys would be sent to live somewhere wonderful for their remaining days.

We are not exactly sure how many presidents have participated in this tradition but we know one president, in particular, made this tradition an annual event. President George H.W. Bush pardoned a turkey every year of his term starting in 1989. This pardoning pattern eventually caught on and every president after George H.W. Bush has pardoned at least one turkey for each year they have been in office. Today, the tradition continues with two turkeys being pardoned each year. One turkey is pardoned for the original tradition and the 2nd turkey comes along for support.

Both turkeys are pardoned and sent somewhere different to live. Some turkeys have gone to live in petting zoos, turkey farms, and even Disney World. Being a pardoned turkey is nothing to gobble at; these turkeys live happy lives in wonderful places and go down in history as one of the turkeys pardoned by The President of the United States of America.



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The Wright Brothers

Orville and Wilbur Wright are two brothers, inventors, and aviation, or flying pioneers who are credited with inventing, building and flying the world's first successful airplane.

Orville Wright was born August 19, 1871, and his older brother Wilbur was born April 16, 1867. From a young age, the boys loved adventure. The Wright Brothers were fearless and enjoyed trying new things. Orville and Wilbur's father traveled often for work. One day, after returning from a long trip, their father gave them a toy helicopter. The helicopter was made from rubber bands, wood, and string. The boys played with this helicopter until it broke. Then they decided to build a new one. Years later, the boys would give credit to that toy for sparking their interest in flying.

Orville and Wilbur grew up building models of flying machines. Each time they would build one, it was bigger and better than the last. The boys enjoyed spending time outside flying these machines. They knew that one day it would lead to something amazing. Each of the machines The Wright Brothers made was a learning experience in some way. It took years to make a flying machine, with power, that would fly more than a few yards. However, on December 17, 1903, The Wright Brothers made two flights each. While the flights did not go an extremely long distance, the flights were still deemed a success. Five people witnessed the flights that The Wright Brothers made that day. More importantly, this was the first flight that had not crashed and destroyed the boys' plane. The brothers would be able to take the flight up again and continue to learn how to improve. Orville and Wilbur sent a telegram to their father about the flights and asked him to alert the press. The press was not excited at first because the flights were so short. In time though, the world was buzzing about The Wright Brothers and the "first flight." Wilbur and Orville faced troubles along the way with others trying to take credit for their idea, but in the end, December 17th is known as The Wright Brother's Day. The day we give credit to them for the "first flight."

