

Christopher Columbus
Sea Route to the Americas
Spain, 1492



Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, a seaport in Italy.

Columbus studied geography and history at the Prince Henry's Center for Navigators in Portugal.



Prince Henry's School of Navigation,
by Charles Frederick William Mielatz

Dec 13-11:12 AM

Sep 11-10:19 AM

Back in those days, everyone wanted spices and silk from Asia.



Christopher Columbus' First Journey (1492)


So far, explorers had been traveling **east** to get to Asia from Europe.

Columbus decided to sail **west**.

The map shows the Atlantic Ocean, Caribbean Sea, and Indian Ocean. It highlights the route from Palos, Spain, westward across the Atlantic to the Caribbean Sea, and then south to the Spice Islands in Asia. The continents of North America, South America, and Africa are also labeled.

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Sep 11-7:46 AM



Columbus tried to convince the kings of England, France, and Spain to finance (pay for) his voyage.

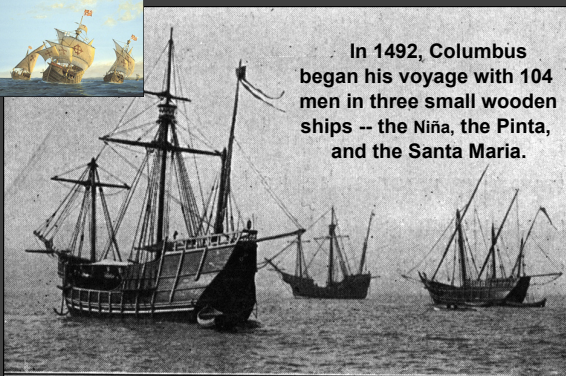
Engraving of Christopher Columbus offering his services to King John (João) II of Portugal before winning the backing of Spain.

Dec 13-11:25 AM



It took him ten years, but he finally convinced Ferdinand and Isabella, the rulers of Spain to finance his voyage.

Sep 11-8:38 AM




In 1492, Columbus began his voyage with 104 men in three small wooden ships -- the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.

This is a photograph of replicas of the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria

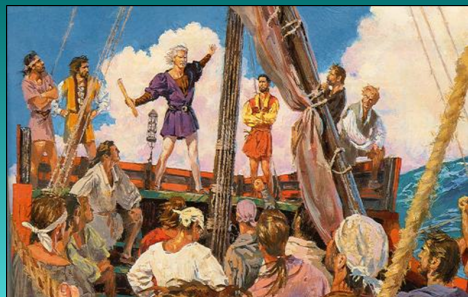
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The ships sailed along the African coast then headed west into the unknown.

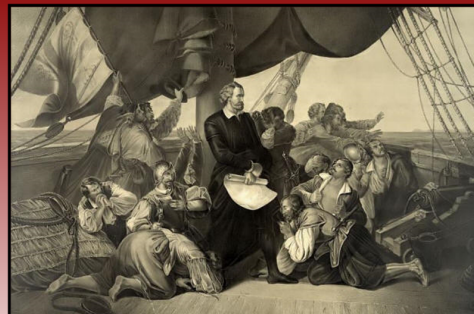


After three weeks, Columbus' sailors lost heart. No one had ever been out of sight of land for so long.

Sep 11-9:22 AM



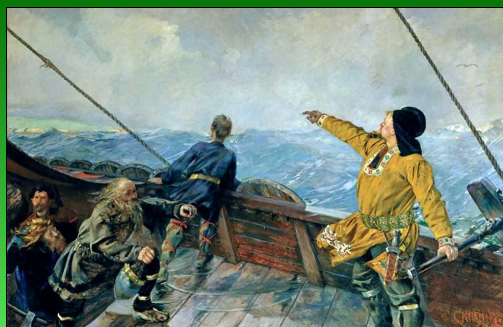
After 68 days at sea, the crew panicked. On October 10th, they threatened mutiny and insisted that Columbus turn back.



Columbus remained calm and confident. He promised to turn around and head home if no land were sighted in three days.

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Dec 13-11:40 AM



Luckily, they sighted land two days later -- on October 12, 1492.

For people in the United States, October 12th is Columbus Day.

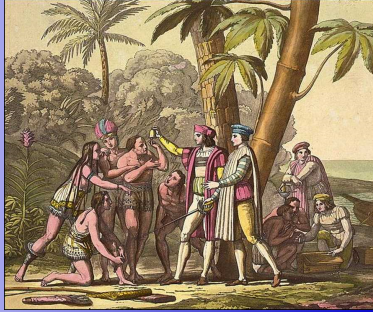


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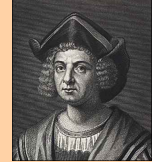
Europeans in the Americas

Columbus did not "discover" America. Native Americans already lived here.



However, Columbus was significant for two major reasons:

1. He landed on two continents totally unknown to Europe.



2. He was the first person to establish a long-term relationship between Europe and the Americas.

Dec 13-11:49 AM

Sep 11-9:51 AM

The exchange of ideas, foods and diseases between the Old World and the New World is known as the **Columbian Exchange.**




Sep 11-12:12 PM


Dec 13-11:53 AM

PREDICT: What is fact and what is myth?
How much do you know about Christopher Columbus?

Identify each statement on the Tiny Document as "fact" or "myth."



Why didn't Columbus just use MapQuest?



Dec 13-3:35 PM

1. People were against Columbus' voyage because they believed the world was flat.

Sep 11-12:15 PM

Myth.

People had known since the time of the Greek Civilization that the world was round. People disagreed over the distances involved.

2. Columbus could only make the voyage because of the invention of the astrolabe which was a navigation instrument that enabled sailors to sail out of sight of land.

Dec 13-3:37 PM

Myth.

Columbus did not use an astrolabe.

3. Queen Isabella financed Columbus' voyage by selling her jewels.

Dec 13-3:39 PM

Myth.
The Queen offered to pawn her jewels but did not.

4. Columbus did not know how far he would have to sail before he reached land.

Dec 13-3:41 PM

Myth.
Columbus had carefully calculated the distance.
His calculations were in error for finding the Indies but were correct for finding America.

5. Columbus was the first European to reach America.

Dec 13-3:41 PM

Myth.

Norsemen arrived in North America 500 years before Columbus.

6. Columbus became wealthy because of his discovery.

Dec 13-3:41 PM

Myth.
Columbus did not die in poverty, but he did not discover and gather the great amounts of gold that he expected.

7. Columbus proved his critics wrong when he discovered America.

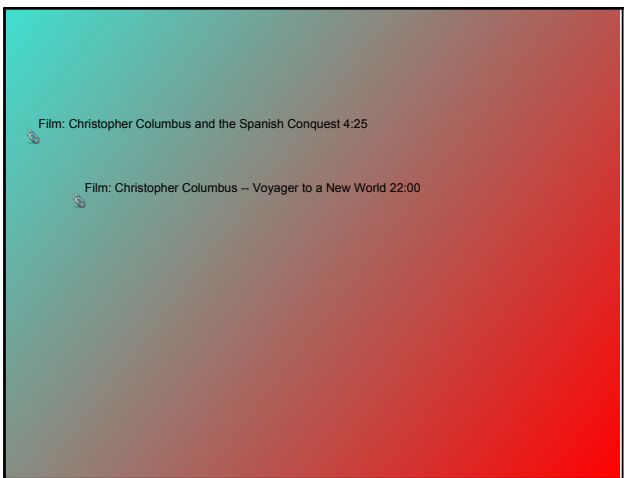
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Myth. Well, sort of . . .

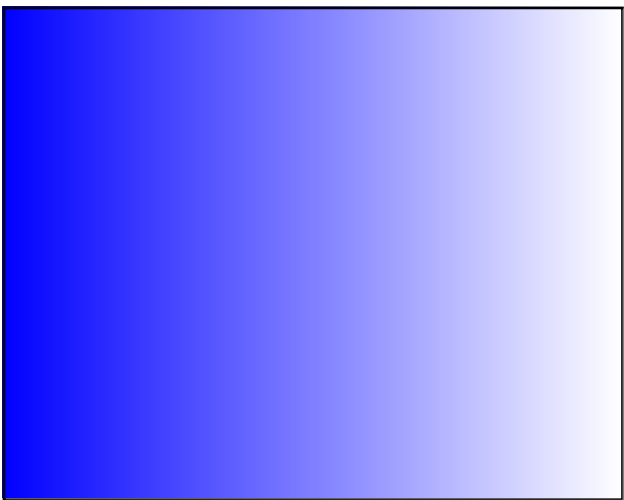
The critics' calculations were correct for the distance to Japan and China. Columbus' calculations were not correct.

However, Columbus was lucky to find America where he thought Japan might be!

Sep 17-10:14 AM



Dec 15-9:41 AM



Nov 28-12:33 PM

Attachments



Christopher_Columbus_and_Spanish_Conquest 4 25.mp4



The_Explorers__Christopher_Columbus__Voyager_to_a_New_World 22 00.mp4