

## Questions

Christopher Columbus

1. When was Christopher Columbus born?

- 1451
- 1491
- 1492
- 1493

2. How many ships did Christopher Columbus have?

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 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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## 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 María, 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 on his first trip, he had to leave a lot of supplies behind. Unfortunately, many of the sailors were dead. When he returned to Spain, Columbus was treated as a hero by the Spanish king.

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