Christopher Columbus
and the New World
from the
Exploring the World Series

catalog # 3398
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS
AND THE NEW WORLD
Grades 2-5
Viewing Time: 12 minutes

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

This program examines the life of Christopher Columbus and his role in world history.

CURRICULUM STANDARDS

The design for this program was guided by the curriculum standards of the states of Texas, California, and Illinois, as well as the National Center for History in Schools (U.C.L.A). In accordance with these guidelines, we have attempted to help students…

• Describe the roles of important explorers who sought new trade routes, economic gain, adventure, national glory, and the glory of God.

• Identify the routes of the explorers and conquerors.

• Describe what happened to the native peoples as a result of European colonization.

• Identify improved concepts of time and chronology, as well as a vocabulary appropriate to these subjects.

INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES

Before presenting this lesson to your students, we suggest that you review history textbooks on the subject of early European world exploration. We also advise you to preview the video and review the guide and accompanying blackline masters in order to familiarize yourself with their content.

As you review the materials presented in this guide, you may find it necessary to make some changes, additions, or
deletions to meet the specific needs of your class. We encourage you to do so, for only by tailoring this program to your class will they obtain the maximum instructional benefits afforded by the materials.

It is also suggested that the video presentation take place before the entire group under your supervision. The lesson activities grow out of the context of the video; therefore, the presentation should be a common experience for all students.

You should also duplicate selected hand-out materials from the blackline masters included with this guide.

**STUDENT OBJECTIVES**

After viewing the video and participating in the follow-up activities students should be able to…

- Describe why Columbus wanted to sail west from Europe to Asia.

- Explain how Columbus was able to pay for the ships and crew he needed to cross the Atlantic.

- Explain that, before Columbus, people in Europe only had knowledge of three continents: Europe, Asia, and Africa (and knowledge of the two latter continents was very limited).

- Explain that the people of North and South America knew nothing of the world’s other continents.

- Describe how the explorations of Columbus opened the doors to transatlantic immigration because of the establishment of European colonies in the New World.

- Explain a few of the ways Native Americans and Africans were affected by the colonization of the New World.
TEACHER PREPARATION

Set up a “Learning Center” or table display on Christopher Columbus. This display could contain a map which would show Genoa, Italy, where Columbus was born; and Lagos, Portugal, where his ship got wrecked the first time he came to Portugal. The map could trace Columbus’s northern voyages to Ireland and Iceland; his southern voyages to Madeira; and the mouth of the Volta river. Trace Columbus’s four voyages back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean and highlight places such as Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, the Bahamas, Panama, Venezuela, and Florida.

If possible, the “Learning Center” should also have models or pictures of Columbus’s ships, along with their weights and sizes.

STUDENT PREPARATION

Before viewing Christopher Columbus and the New World...

1. Introduce to or review with your students the meaning of the following vocabulary words and terms. These words are also found on Activity Sheet 2, Vocabulary List.

admiral: A commander and chief of a fleet or navy.
age: A certain period of time in history.
Age of Exploration: A period of history that began in the 1400s and lasted about 500 years, during which Europeans began to cross the oceans to explore the world.
Bahama Islands: A group of islands that lies southeast of Florida. Columbus landed on one of these islands on October 12, 1492.
Beijing: The capital of China. Columbus searched Cuba looking for Beijing because he wanted to give the Chinese emperor a letter from Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand.
caravel: The light, fast types of ships used by Columbus.
Caribbean Sea: The part of the Atlantic Ocean that is bound by Central America, South America, and the West Indies.
Catholic: A person who follows the Roman Catholic religion.
Central America: The countries that lie between Mexico and South America.

Columbus, Christopher, 1451-1506: The explorer who sailed for Spain and went back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean four times between 1492 and 1504, searching for a western route to Asia.

colonial empire: All of a country’s colonies form a colonial empire. At one time, the colonial empire of Spain stretched from north of Mexico to the tip of South America.

colony: A group of people who settle in a distant land but stay under the rule of their native land. Columbus founded the first Spanish colony in the New World.

Cuba: The largest island in the Caribbean Sea.

da Gama, Vasco, 1469-1524: The Portuguese explorer who sailed around Africa and reached India in 1498. Vasco da Gama discovered the first sea route from Europe to the eastern parts of Asia. Because of Vasco da Gama, Portugal, not Spain, began to control the trade between Asia and Europe.

Far East: The eastern parts of Asia.

Genoa: The city in Italy where Columbus was born.

Granada: The Muslim kingdom that was defeated by Spain in 1492.

Hispaniola: The island where Columbus founded the first Spanish colony in the New World. Today Hispaniola contains two countries – Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Hispaniola means the “Spanish Island.”

Indies: The Spice Islands, which lie off the coast of Asia.

Indians: Columbus named the native people he found “Indians” because he thought he was in the Indies.

lateen sails: Triangular sails. Each of Columbus’s ships had at least one lateen sail.

missionary: A person sent out by a church to preach or teach religion in a foreign country.

Native American: The native people of North and South America.

navigation: The science of finding out where a ship is at sea.

navigational instruments: The instruments that sailors use to find out where their ships are at sea; navigational
instruments help sailors from getting lost.

**New World**: A term first used by Amerigo Vespucci to describe the continent of South America which he believed was a new, undiscovered continent. Later the term “New World” meant North and South America and their islands.

**Porcelain**: Very fine, thin pottery made in China.

**Roman Catholicism**: The largest, and one of the oldest, Christian faiths, which is headed by the pope in Rome. The Spanish missionaries were Roman Catholics.

**San Salvador**: The name given to the island by Columbus on which he landed on October 12, 1492. San Salvador means “Holy Savior” in English. Today, the island is called “Watling Island” and is part of a group of islands called the “Bahamas.”

**Settlers**: People who leave their home country to start new lives in another land.

**Silk**: Fine cloth made of silkworm cocoon fibers produced in eastern Asia.

**Spices**: Plant products, such as leaves, seeds, and bark, that are used to flavor foods. Pepper, cinnamon, and cloves are spices.

**Traders**: People whose business it is to trade one thing for another as a way of making a living.

**Vespucci, Amerigo, 1454-1512**: The Italian navigator after whom North and South America were named.

**Voyage**: A long trip, especially at sea.

**West Indies**: The islands in the Caribbean Sea.

2. Have students explore the “Learning Center” on Christopher Columbus (see page 3).

**INTRODUCING THE VIDEO**

• Using a large map, point out the important places Columbus visited during his lifetime. Trace the exploration routes of Vasco da Gama and Amerigo Vespucci, as well.

• Discuss the Vikings and explain how they crossed the Atlantic Ocean via Greenland and Iceland. Explain how they settled in Newfoundland and probably reached the
continent of North America around the year 1000 A.D. Explain why knowledge of the Viking journeys were lost to mainstream European civilization, so that by Columbus’s time, no one in Europe thought that there were more than three continents. Trace the route of the Viking voyages.

• An optional pre-test is provided on Activity Sheet 1, Pre-Test. This test will help you determine the level of student comprehension prior to participating in this lesson. An Answer Key begins on page 8.

• If you choose to do so, distribute Activity Sheet 6, Video Quiz, which contains the questions found at the end of the program. The quiz may be taken immediately following the video presentation or at a later date after students have participated in other related activities.

• Present the video. The viewing time is 12:00. The program is followed by a short optional video quiz.

FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION

It is recommended you involve students in a brief discussion after viewing the video and before beginning the Follow-Up Activities.

1. If you were Christopher Columbus, name five people (anyone, present or past) you would like to take along as sailors on your ships. Why would they be helpful on a voyage?

2. Explain to students that when Columbus lived, there were no television sets, radios, computers, telephones, or movies, not only because of a lack of knowledge about these things, but because electricity had yet to be harnessed. Point out that when Columbus sailed to the New World, he had only the wind to carry him, because steam and gas engines hadn’t been invented yet. Have students try to imagine what their lives would be like without electricity and the engines used by cars, jets, and trains.
3. Discuss what it must have been like for Europeans when they realized the earth had two huge continents that none of them had known about before. How would this compare to landing on a new planet that was just like earth?

4. Ask students to think about how the native people of the New World felt when they had their first glimpse of the Europeans with their huge ships, horses, metal armor, strange clothing, guns, etc.

5. Ask students: “If you met Columbus today, what questions would you ask him; what things would you show him; what things do you think he would like the best?”

6. Ask students to imagine what it must have felt like to sail across the wide open ocean for weeks and weeks without ever seeing land. How would they have felt when land was finally found?

**FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITIES**

There are eight blackline master activity sheets provided for this program’s lesson. In addition to the Pre-Test, the other activity sheets may be used during the program’s presentation, during other class time, or as homework assignments.

**Activity Sheet 3, Crossword Puzzle**, challenges students to use some of the words from the vocabulary list presented in this program.

**Activity Sheet 4, Time Line**, provides students with chronological information pertaining to the video lesson.

**Activity Sheets 7 and 8, Measuring and Using Math To Learn About Columbus**, presents some interesting facts about Columbus’s journey to the New World.
EXTENDED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

Papers or oral reports could be prepared on the following subjects:

1. Columbus’s early life.
2. Columbus’s first voyage.
3. Columbus’s second voyage.
4. Columbus’s third voyage.
5. Columbus’s fourth voyage.
6. What Columbus’s ships were like and what provisions they took along.

ANSWER KEY

Activity Sheet 1, Pre-Test
1. False, he was looking for Asia.
2. True
3. True
4. False; although Columbus was the first to cross the middle of the Atlantic, the Vikings crossed the north Atlantic 500 years earlier.
5. False; as a young man, Columbus sailed all over the Mediterranean and up and down the eastern side of the Atlantic Ocean, from Iceland to the Volta River in Africa.

Activity Sheet 2, Vocabulary
1. Columbus, da Gama, Vespucchi
2. Bahamas, San Salvador, Hispaniola, Cuba
3. spices, silks, jewels, porcelain
Activity Sheet 3, Crossword Puzzle

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Activity Sheet 5, Quiz
1. Vikings (Norsemen)
2. Any two of these: spices, silks, jewels, porcelain pottery
3. Niña, Pinta, Santa Maria
4. Ferdinand, Isabella
5. Hispaniola

e-1    a-6
d-2    h-7
g-3    c-8
f-4    b-9
j-5    i-10
Activity Sheet 6, Video Quiz
1. True
2. True.
3. False, the king and queen of Spain paid for the ships.
4. True
5. False, they were named in honor of Amerigo Vespucci.

Activity Sheet 7, Measuring and Using Math To Learn About Columbus
Total Number of crew members: 40+24+26=90
Food Needed per day: 90 X 2 lbs =180 lbs; 90 X 900 g=81,000 g, or 81 kg.
Water Needed per day: 90 X 2 qts = 180 quarts, or 45 gallons; 90 X 2 liters=180 liters
Food needed per year: 365 X 180 = 65,700 pounds, or 29,565 kg
Water needed per year: 365 X 45 = 16,425 gallons, or 65,700 liters

SCRIPT OF VIDEO NARRATION
Five hundred and fifty years ago, Europeans, using new types of sailing ships, were just beginning to explore the world. Way back then, European people didn’t know the continents of North and South America even existed, and, likewise, the people of North and South America knew nothing of the world’s other continents. The reason for this was quite simple: up until that time they had been afraid to cross the mighty oceans that cover most of our planet.

But, in 1492, things really began to change, when this man, named Christopher Columbus, sailed across the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

Columbus was born in the famous Italian port city of Genoa in the year 1451, and as a young man, he worked on ships that sailed all around the Mediterranean Sea.
When Columbus was young, the small European country of Portugal, whose southern coastline is seen here, had the world’s best explorers. They were the best because they had the world’s finest ships and navigational instruments, and, for many years before Columbus was even born, they had been sending ships down the coast of Africa trying to find a sea route to India.

Columbus’s experiences along the rocky coast of Portugal taught him a lot about the ways of the sea. As a matter of fact, the first time he ever came to Portugal was when he washed up on the beach not far from the fort seen here. After that, Columbus decided to stay in Portugal, and it wasn’t long before he got a job on a Portuguese ship that took him far to the north to Ireland and to Iceland.

When he got back to Portugal, Columbus got a job working for his brother, who owned a shop that sold maps, charts, and instruments used by seamen in navigation. Back then, the best map of the world hadn’t changed much for over 1000 years, and the only continents shown on it were Europe and parts of Africa and Asia. And yet it was thanks to this ancient and very inaccurate map that Columbus came to believe that the eastern shore of Asia lay only about 3000 miles, or 5600 kilometers, across the Atlantic Ocean to the west of Portugal.

The idea of sailing west from Europe to Asia had never been tried before, so people had no idea what, if anything, lay on the other side of the ocean. Even so, there were plenty of European traders who wanted to sail to eastern Asia and the nearby islands known as the Indies, because that was where they could get valuable spices, silks, jewels, and porcelain pottery that people in Europe would pay a lot of money for.

As Columbus got older, he became a ship’s captain, and,
after sailing south far down the coast of Africa, his desire
to cross the Atlantic grew and grew. After a few more years
at sea, Columbus was ready to take his amazing plan to
the King of Portugal and ask him for the ships and sailors
he needed to try to reach Asia.

But after hearing Columbus’s plan, the king refused to help
him, so Columbus headed off to the nearby country of Spain
to try his luck there. He told King Ferdinand and Queen
Isabella his plan, and they liked it, but they didn’t help him
until the year 1492, when Spain finally defeated the nearby
kingdom of Granada, with whom they had been fighting
for many years.

But then they gave Columbus everything he had asked for:
three ships and a crew of men, a part of any trade he
developed, the right to govern any new lands he discovered,
and the highest rank in the Spanish navy. And only a few
months later, his sailors began to get the ships ready for a
long ocean voyage. Then, on August 3, 1492, from the
harbor seen here, his three ships—the Nina, Pinta, and Santa
Maria—left Spain on what would become the most famous
voyage in history, and soon they headed west into the
Atlantic Ocean, where no one had ever gone before.

As they slowly sailed on, the weather stayed good and the
ocean stayed calm, but, after three weeks at sea, they still
hadn’t seen any land, and the sailors started to think
Columbus was wrong about how far it was to Asia. Some
of them worried about sea monsters, or that the world might
be flat and they would sail off its edge. So that, after over a
month had gone by, Columbus decided he would only keep
going three more days, and if no land was found by then,
he would turn around and go back to Spain. But two days
later, a sailor spotted an island, and, as the ships got closer
to shore, everyone could see that it was very beautiful.
Soon they landed, and Columbus claimed the island for Spain, and to thank God for bringing them safely across the ocean, he named it “San Salvador,” or “Holy Savior” island. Finding this island made Columbus very happy because he thought he must be in the Indies, not far from Asia, and that was why he started calling the native people “Indians.” But little did he know that his long voyage from Spain had only gotten him as far as the Bahama Islands, close to Florida in today’s United States, but still a long way from Asia.

Columbus soon left San Salvador to search for the mainland of Asia, and in a short time he came to a huge island that today is called “Cuba.” Cuba is so big Columbus didn’t even know it was an island. He thought it could be Asia, so he sent men inland to find Beijing, the capital of the Asian country of China, but instead of finding Beijing, all they found were native villages and jungles.

Columbus kept exploring, but on Christmas Day, his ship, the Santa Maria, got wrecked on some rocks off the coast of another island they had named “Hispaniola” or the “Spanish Island.” They were able to save a lot of things from the ship, so Columbus decided to built a fort there and to search for gold in the nearby rivers. And, when he actually found gold, Columbus decided he should leave 40 men behind and go back to Spain to show the king and queen the gold and some of the other things he had discovered.

And, after seeing what Columbus had brought them, the rulers realized Spain could make a lot of money in the Indies. That was why they decided to give him 17 ships and about 1500 men to set up a Spanish colony on Hispaniola. But, when Columbus got back there, he found that all the men he had left behind were dead. The native people had killed them because the Spaniards had been so
cruel to them. But Columbus didn’t want to give up, so he had his men build the new Spanish colony in a different place, and the missionaries who came with the colonists went to work teaching the native people Christianity.

Then Columbus sailed off to search for Asia again, but, even after making two more trips back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean, he still couldn’t find it. And, by this time, it almost didn’t matter because a Portuguese explorer named Vasco da Gama had already reached the eastern parts of Asia by sailing around Africa, and so Portugal beat Spain to Asia and captured the rich trade in spices, silks, and jewels.

Right around the same time, another explorer, named Amerigo Vespucchi crossed the Atlantic Ocean, and he realized that the land he was seeing was not part of Asia at all, but belonged to an undiscovered continent he called the “New World.” Later on, other explorers discovered that there were actually two continents in the New World, and a mapmaker named them “North America” and “South America” in honor of Amerigo Vespucchi.

Even though Christopher Columbus died without realizing he had found a New World, he is still one of the most important people in history because Columbus was the first person to sail across the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and to discover good sea routes between Europe and the Americas, and because he was also the first person to found European colonies in the New World.

The changes begun by Columbus were mostly good for the huge numbers of Europeans who settled in the Americas and got rich on gold and farmland, but they were mostly bad for the native Americans who lost both their land and their lives to their new European rulers. The changes were also bad for the millions of Africans that were brought to
the New World to be slaves. And it is amazing to think that all of these things began because of the explorations of just one man named Christopher Columbus.

VIDEO QUIZ
1. TRUE OR FALSE? When Columbus was a young man, European people had never heard of North and South America.

2. TRUE OR FALSE? Columbus sailed back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean more than once.

3. TRUE OR FALSE? The king of Portugal paid for the ships Columbus used to cross the Atlantic ocean.

4. TRUE OR FALSE? After crossing the Atlantic Ocean in 1492, Columbus thought he was near the mainland of Asia.

5. TRUE OR FALSE? North and South America were named in honor of Christopher Columbus.
Pre-Test

Directions: Label each statement with a “T” if true or “F” if false.

____ 1. Christopher Columbus crossed the Atlantic Ocean to try to find North and South America.

____ 2. Christopher Columbus founded the first European colony on the other side of the Atlantic Ocean.

____ 3. After crossing the Atlantic Ocean, Columbus started to call the native people he found “Indians” because he thought he was in the Indies, just off the coast of Asia.

____ 4. Before Columbus crossed the Atlantic Ocean, no one had crossed it before.

____ 5. Columbus hadn’t done much sailing before he crossed the Atlantic Ocean.
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS AND THE NEW WORLD
VOCABULARY WORKSHEET

admiral: A commander and chief of a fleet or a navy.
age: A certain period of time in history.
Age of Exploration: A period of history that began in the 1400s and lasted about 300 years, during which Europeans began to cross the oceans to explore the world.
Bahama Islands: A group of islands that lie southeast off the Florida coast. Columbus landed on one of these islands on October 12, 1492.
Beijing: The capital of China. Columbus searched Cuba looking for Beijing because he wanted to give the Chinese emperor a letter from Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand.
caravel: The light, fast types of ships used by Columbus.
Caribbean Sea: The part of the Atlantic Ocean that is bounded by Central America, South America, and the West Indies.
Catholic: A person who follows the Roman Catholic religion.
Central America: The countries that lie between Mexico and South America.
Columbus, Christopher, 1451-1506: The explorer who sailed for Spain and went back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean four times between 1492 and 1504, searching for a western route to Asia.
colonial empire: All of a country’s colonies form a colonial empire. At one time, the colonial empire of Spain stretched from way to the north of Mexico to the tip of South America.
colony: A group of people who settle in a distant land but stay under the rule of their native land.
Cuba: The largest island in the Caribbean Sea.
da Gama, Vasco, 1469-1524: The Portuguese explorer who sailed around Africa and reached India in 1498. Vasco da Gama discovered the first sea route from Europe to the eastern parts of Asia. Because of Vasco da Gama, Portugal, not Spain, began to control the trade between Asia and Europe.
Far East: The eastern parts of Asia.
Genoa: The city in Italy where Columbus was born.
Granada: The Muslim kingdom that was defeated by Spain in 1492.
Hispaniola: The island where Columbus founded the first Spanish colony in the New World. Today Hispaniola contains two countries—Haiti and the Dominican Republic. Hispaniola means the “Spanish Island.”
Indies: The Spice Islands, which lie off the coast of Asia.
Indians: Columbus named the native people he found “Indians” because he thought he was in the Indies.
lateen sails: Triangular sails. Each of Columbus’s ships had at least one lateen sail.
missionary: A person sent by a church to preach or teach religion in a foreign country.
Native American: The native people of North and South America.
navigation: The science of finding out where a ship is at sea.
navigational instruments: The instruments that sailors use to find out where their ships are at sea; navigational instruments help sailors from getting lost.
New World: A term first used by Amerigo Vespucci to describe the continent of South America, which he believed was a new, undiscovered continent. Later the term “New World” meant North and South America and their islands.
porcelain: Very fine, thin pottery made in China.
Roman Catholicism: The largest, and one of the oldest, Christian faiths which is headed by the pope in Rome. The Spanish missionaries were Roman Catholics.
San Salvador: The name given to the island by Columbus on which he landed on October 12, 1492. San Salvador means “Holy Savior” in English. Today the island is called “Watling Island” and is part of a group of islands called the “Bahamas.”
settlers: People who leave their home country to start new lives in another land.
silk: Fine cloth made of silkworm cocoon fibers produced in eastern Asia.
spices: Plant products, such as leaves, seeds, and bark, that are used to flavor foods. Pepper, cinnamon, and cloves are spices.
traders: People whose business it is to trade one thing for another as a way of making a living.
Vespucci, Amerigo, 1451-1512: The Italian navigator after whom North and South America were named.
voyage: A long trip, especially at sea.
West Indies: The islands in the Caribbean Sea.

Vocabulary List Activities:
Directions: Choose the correct answers from the above vocabulary list. Write your answers on the back of this sheet.
1. From the vocabulary list, find the names of three different explorers.
2. From the vocabulary list, find the names of three different islands visited by Christopher Columbus.
3. From the vocabulary list, find the names of three different things that made European traders want to get to the eastern parts of Asia.
Christopher Columbus and the New World
Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Columbus asked Queen __________ for the ships and the crew of men he needed to carry out his plan to sail west across the Atlantic Ocean.

2. The Queen and her husband, the King, ruled the country called ________________.

3. Five hundred years ago, the continents of North and South America were called the “_____ World.”

4. A man named ________da Gama got to India in 1498.

5. When Columbus was a young man the country of ______________ had the best ships and navigational instruments.

DOWN
1. The Santa Maria got wrecked off the island called ____________________, which means the “Spanish Island.”

2. Columbus wanted to sail west across the Atlantic Ocean because he thought it would be the fastest way to get to the eastern parts of the continent called ________

3. Columbus was the first European to found a _____________ on the western side of the Atlantic Ocean.

4. The husband of the Queen of Spain was named______________.

5. In 1492, Columbus was given three ships, the Niña, the_________, and the Santa Maria.

6. The island that Columbus named San Salvador is now one of a group of islands called the “___________,” which are located off the coast of Florida.

If you have trouble with this puzzle, you can look for answers in your textbooks or the vocabulary list.
12,000 B.C.- The first humans live in North America.

1000 A.D.- Vikings settle on Newfoundland off the coast of North America.

1492-93 A.D.- Columbus’s first voyage. He arrives on October 12 at an island in the Bahamas he names “San Salvador.” He goes on to explore along the northern coast of Cuba searching for Beijing. He is shipwrecked off Hispaniola. Later, he leaves forty men behind at “Fort Navidad,” while he returns to Spain.

1493-96- Columbus’s second voyage. He returns from Spain with 1500 people (all men) in 17 ships to found a Spanish colony on Hispaniola. When he gets back to Fort Navidad, he finds that all the men he left behind had been killed. He founds the new colony called “Isabela” in a different location on Hispaniola. He explores the southern coasts of Cuba, Jamaica, Hispaniola, and Puerto Rico.

1497- An explorer from England named John Cabot reaches the coastline of North America.

1497-1499- The Portuguese explorer Vasco da Gama reaches India in 1498 by sailing around Africa. He becomes the first person to find a sea route from Europe to the eastern parts of Asia. Because of this, Portugal, not Spain, came to control the rich trade in spices, silks, jewels, and porcelains of Asia.

1498-1500- Columbus’s third voyage. He lands on present-day Venezuela. He begins to think it might be part of a new continent, but still thinks Cuba might be part of Asia.

1499-1500- Amerigo Vespucci explores the coast of South America and believes that it is an undiscovered continent; he names it the “New World.”

1502-1504- Columbus’s last voyage. He sails south of Cuba hoping to find a way to the Indian Ocean and Asia. He explores along the coast of Central America. He has a shipwreck and stays lost for a year.

1506- Columbus dies a poor man in Spain.
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS AND THE NEW WORLD Quiz

Directions: Fill in the blanks with the correct answer:

1. The first people to cross the Atlantic Ocean were the _____________________, who around the year 1000, sailed from Scandinavia to Iceland to Greenland to Newfoundland and to the coast of North America.

2. Columbus thought he could get to Asia by sailing west from Europe. The reason he wanted to get to Asia was to get things he could sell in Europe for a lot of money. Two of the things he hoped to get in Asia were_______ and__________.

3. When Columbus sailed from Spain across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492, he had three ships: the________, the __________, and the______________ ____________.

4. The Spanish rulers who paid for Columbus’s ships and crew were named King _______________ and Queen_________________.

5. On Christmas Day in the year 1492, Columbus was in a shipwreck off the coast of an island named ______________ or the “Spanish Island.”

Number the following events in the order in which they occurred.

a. Columbus discovers the island he names San Salvador.

b. Columbus dies.

c. Vasco da Gama reaches India.

d. Columbus is born.

e. The first Europeans reach North America.

f. Columbus asks the king of Portugal for ships and men for a crew.

g. Columbus sails to Ireland and Iceland.

h. Columbus crosses the Atlantic with 17 ships and 1500 men to found a colony.

i. People land on the moon for the first time.

j. Columbus asks the King and Queen of Spain for ships and men for a crew.
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS AND THE NEW WORLD

Video Quiz

Directions: Answer the following questions as directed by your teacher.

1. TRUE OR FALSE? When Columbus was a young man, European people had never heard of North and South America. _____

2. TRUE OR FALSE? Columbus sailed back and forth across the Atlantic Ocean more than once. _____

3. TRUE OR FALSE? The king of Portugal paid for the ships Columbus used to cross the Atlantic Ocean. _____

4. TRUE OR FALSE? After crossing the Atlantic Ocean in 1492, Columbus thought he was near the mainland of Asia. ______

5. TRUE OR FALSE? North and South America were named in honor of Christopher Columbus. ______
1. No one knows for sure what Columbus’s ships looked like, but one expert believes they look like the pictures found on Blackline Master 8. We do know they were all a type of ship called a “caravel.” Caravels were light and fast. They had two or three decks and had at least one triangular sail called a “lateen” sail.

People think that the Niña and Pinta were each about 70 feet, or 25 meters, long and that the Santa Maria was 80 feet, or about 28 meters, long. Modern ships can be 1000 feet, or about 330 meters, long. Mark the sizes of Columbus’s ships on the school playground to get a better idea of how long they were.

Math Skills (Optional)

2. Columbus brought along a year’s supply of food and water for himself and his crew.

The Santa Maria had a crew of 40 and the Niña had a crew of 24, while the Pinta had 26 crew members.

Besides carrying sailors, Columbus’s ships also had to carry food and water. If every person needed just two pounds of food (900 g) and two quarts (two liters) of water each day, how many total pounds (kg) of food and gallons of water would be needed for one year for all three ships? Remember, except for leap years, a year has 365 day and there are four quarts in every gallon of water.

Write the answers to each of the questions below:

Total number of crew members = 

Food needed per day =  

Water needed per day =  

Food needed per year =  

Water needed per year =  


Measuring and Using Math To Learn About Columbus