



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Overview

Christopher Columbus (c.1451-1506) was an Italian explorer who is famous for his voyages across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas.

He was the first European to set foot on the South American mainland.

Many people mistakenly think that Columbus discovered America. An estimated **100 million indigenous people** lived there already.

Also, the Viking explorer **Leif Ericson** had already visited Newfoundland around 1000CE.

Many people at the time believed that the world was flat. Columbus aimed to prove that **Earth was round.**

A portrait of Christopher Columbus from 1519



Times in His Life

Early Life



-Columbus was known to have been born before 1451, in Genoa (now Italy).

-Around his birth, Constantinople fell, a major event in Europe,

-Columbus went to sea at a young age, and travelled widely, from Iceland (possibly) in the north, to Ghana in the south.

Personal Life

-Around 1479, Columbus married Filipa Moniz. They had one son, called Diego Columbus.

-She may have died in 1485.

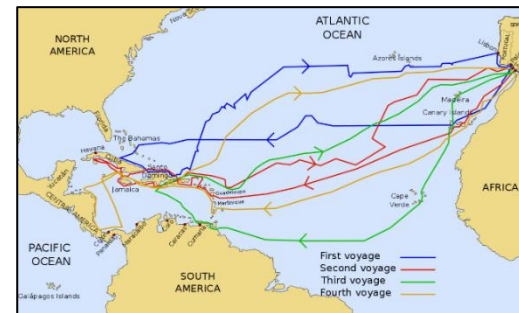
-After this, he had another son with a mistress.



First and Second Voyages

-On his first voyage, he had 104 men. He was looking for Asia, which he thought he found when they reached land. He had reached the present day Bahamas. On the same trip, he also found Cuba and Hispaniola.

-On the second voyage, Columbus took around 1200 men. He discovered Dominica, Guadeloupe and Jamaica. He set sail back for Spain, and reached Cadiz after 5 months.



Third and Fourth Voyages



- On his third trip, he reached the island of Trinidad, and finally the South American mainland.

-His final voyage took him as far as Central America. He reached Panama, and he is believed to have found a small amount of gold there. However, the local people forced him out of the area. He sailed back to Spain in 1504.

Answers to Important Questions and Key Vocabulary

What did Columbus want to discover?



-In the 15th and 16th centuries, European people wanted to find new trade routes to India, China, Japan and the 'Spice Islands.'
-If someone could find a quicker way to get there, it could make them a lot of money!
-Columbus knew that the world was round, and believed that if he sailed West long enough that he would eventually get to Asia. In a way, he was right, but he underestimated the size of the Earth!

How did he fund his trips?



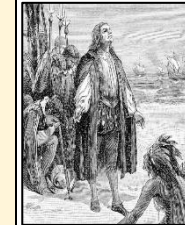
-Columbus moved from his home in Genoa to Spain and Portugal, where he was able to persuade King Philip and Queen Isabella of Spain to finance his trip.

What disasters did Columbus encounter?



-Columbus encountered many problems throughout his voyages.
- In the most famous example, one of his ships (the *Santa Maria*) hit a rock and was destroyed. Columbus was able to transfer to another ship and find a way home, but he left 39 members of his crew behind on the island of Hispaniola.

How did Columbus treat indigenous peoples?



-Columbus has received a lot of criticism from many historians, as he is not thought to have treated the indigenous people that he encountered with respect.
-Believing that he had reached Asia, he called them 'Indians.' He and his crew also used violence and slavery, and made the people convert to Christianity.

Key Vocabulary

Explorer

America

Asia

Europe

Sail

Sea-faring

Christianity

Catholicism

Slavery

Caribbean

Atlantic

Voyage

Top 10 Facts!

1. Columbus believed that he had been chosen by God to achieve extraordinary things.
2. Columbus never set foot on the North American mainland.
3. He knew that the earth was round, but he thought that it was much smaller than it is.
4. His first sea voyage may have been as early as 1465.
5. Columbus tried to convert every population that he reached to Christianity.
6. As a young man, Columbus made a living by selling maps and charts to people.
7. The only portraits of Columbus are from after his death – no paintings exist from his lifetime.
8. Around half of his voyages ended in disaster. In 1492, the *Santa Maria* ran aground. He left 39 men behind. They are believed to have died.
9. He sometimes struggled to find a crew, as some people still believed the world was flat.
10. They thought that he would eventually fall from a waterfall off the end of the world!

Christopher Columbus Timeline

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| 1451: Columbus is born in Genoa, (now Italy). | 1453: The Fall of Constantinople by Ottoman Empire. | 1476: Columbus visits the UK, Ireland, and possibly Iceland. | 1479: He marries Filipa Moniz. They have a son together. | 1492: First voyage – he sets foot on the Caribbean Islands inc. Cuba. | 1493-96: Second voyage – reaches more Caribbean Islands. | 1498-1500: 3 rd voyage reaches South American mainland. | 1502-1504: Columbus makes his final voyage, exploring much of Central America. | 1506: Columbus dies in Valladolid, in Spain. |
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