

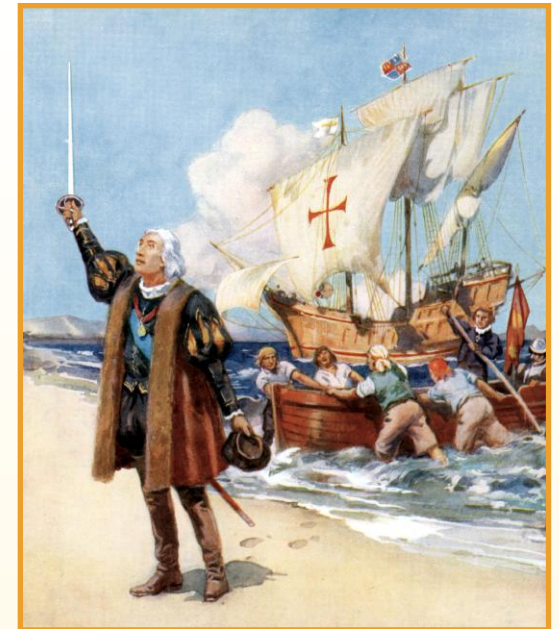
Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus made four trips across the Atlantic, in 1492, 1493, 1498 and 1502. On his first trip he only took three ships and on the second he took seventeen!



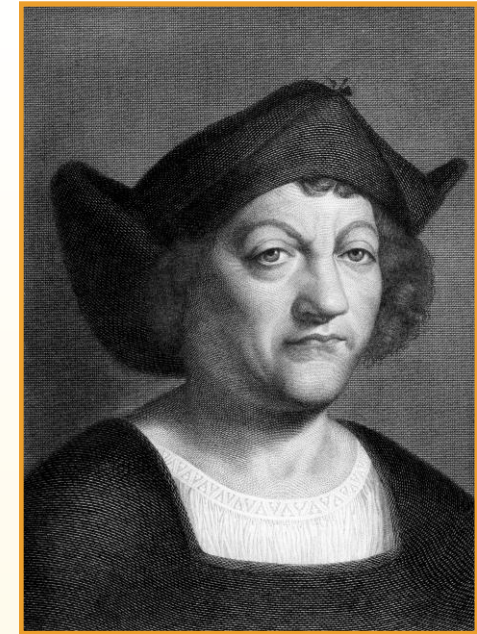
Christopher Columbus

Columbus was trying to find a direct route via water from Europe to Asia, but his calculations were wrong. He did not know that the Americas were in the way.



Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy, in around 1451. His father was a wool merchant. As a teenager, he went to sea on a merchant ship.



Christopher Columbus

In 1476 the ship he was sailing on was attacked by French privateers and set on fire. He saved himself by swimming to the coast of Portugal.



Christopher Columbus

Columbus studied mathematics and astronomy while living in Lisbon, Portugal, with his brother Bartholomew. They ran a mapmaking business together.



Christopher Columbus

It took Columbus eight years to find a country willing to finance him. Eventually in 1491 the Spanish monarchs, Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castille, agreed to fund his first voyage.



Christopher Columbus

Columbus had to be rescued from his fourth voyage when he was stranded on the island of Cuba following a storm.



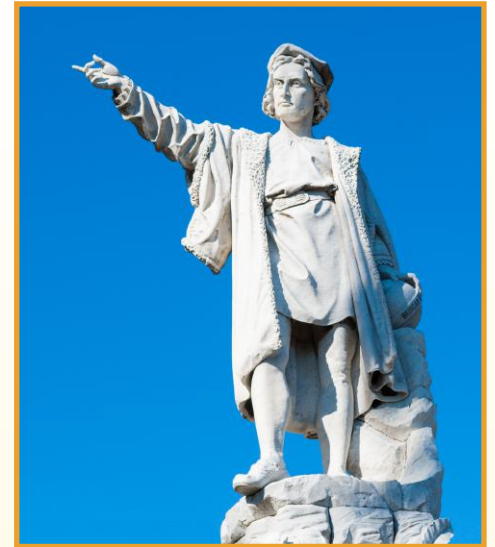
Christopher Columbus

In 1498 Columbus was arrested for poor management of the settlement he had established at Hispaniola (now Haiti and the Dominican Republic) and taken back to Spain to face charges.



Christopher Columbus

Columbus died on May 20th 1506 in Valladolid, Spain. His remains were first taken to Seville, then to Santo Domingo (now the Dominican Republic), before being moved to Cuba and finally returned to Spain in 1898.



Christopher Columbus

Columbus married Felipa Perestrello 1479 in Lisbon; they had one child, Diego. Felipa died a few years later. In 1488 he had a second son, Fernando, with Beatriz Enriquez de Arana.



Christopher Columbus

Columbus believed that he had landed in Japan, when in fact Hispaniola (now Haiti and the Dominican Republic) is in the Caribbean.



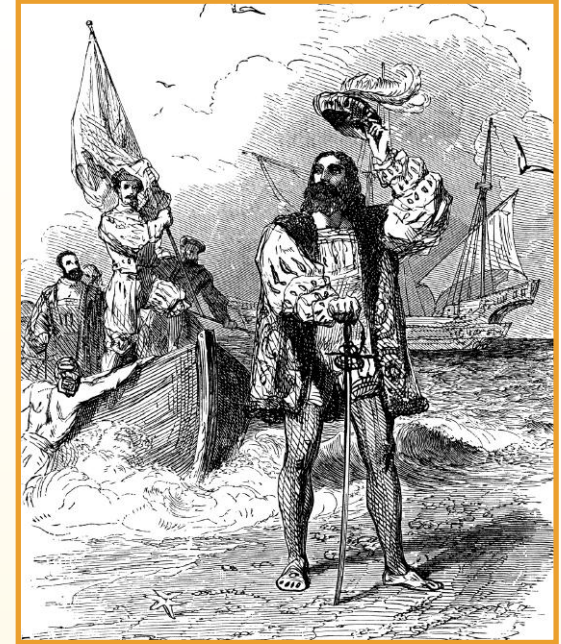
Christopher Columbus

One of his ships, Santa Maria, was wrecked on a reef in 1492 and the salvaged wood was used to build a settlement on Hispaniola, called Villa de la Navidad (Christmas village).



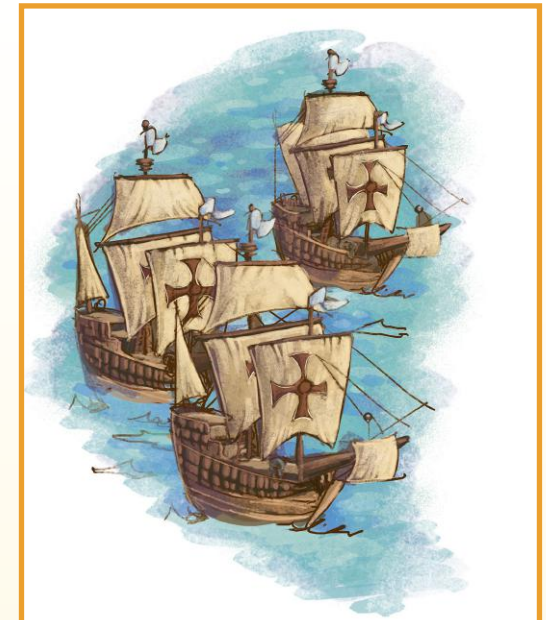
Christopher Columbus

Columbus didn't reach the South American mainland until his third voyage in 1498, when he landed in what is now Venezuela.



Christopher Columbus

On his death, Columbus believed he had found a shorter route to Asia. He never realised that he had in fact found a completely different continent!



Christopher Columbus

Before he was successful in getting support from Spain, Columbus tried to gain funding from the governments of Portugal, Genoa and Venice.



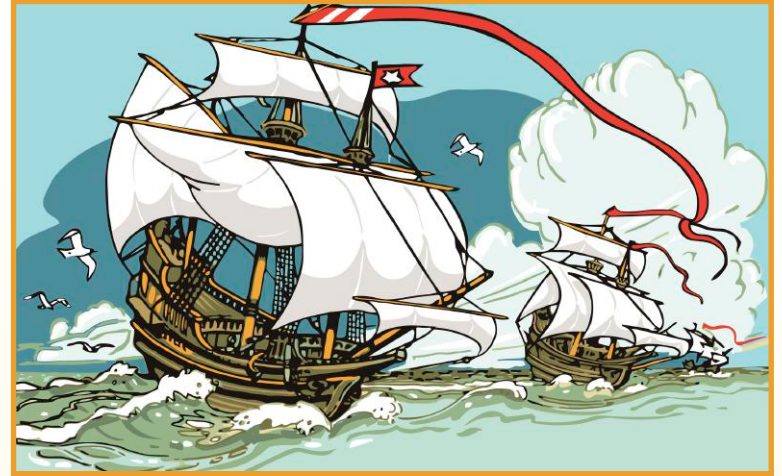
Christopher Columbus

Columbus was not the first person from Europe to reach the Americas. Leif Ericsson had already sailed to North America from Iceland in the 1st century BCE. He did however start the exploration and colonisation of the continent.



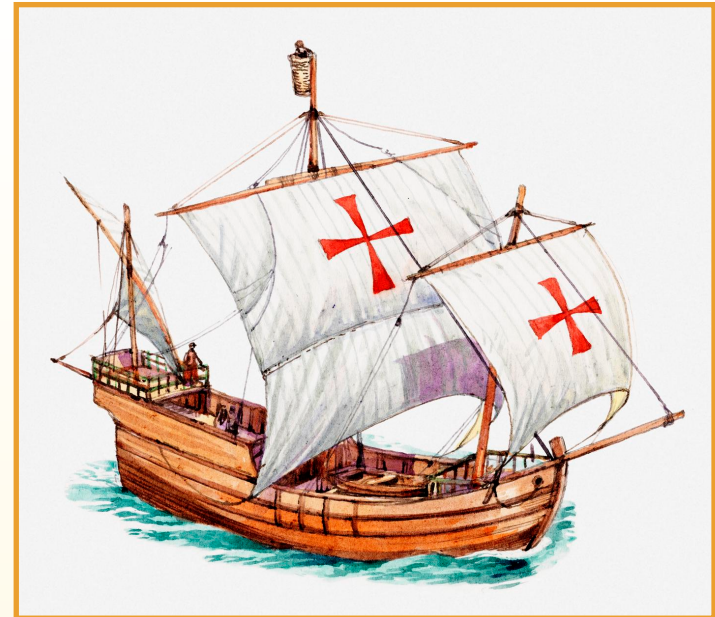
Christopher Columbus

On his second voyage, Columbus took sheep, horses and cattle, as well as settlers. The settlers were very unhappy as they had been told that there were great riches, which was not true.



Christopher Columbus

On the first voyage there were no cabins on the ships and the men had to sleep on the deck.



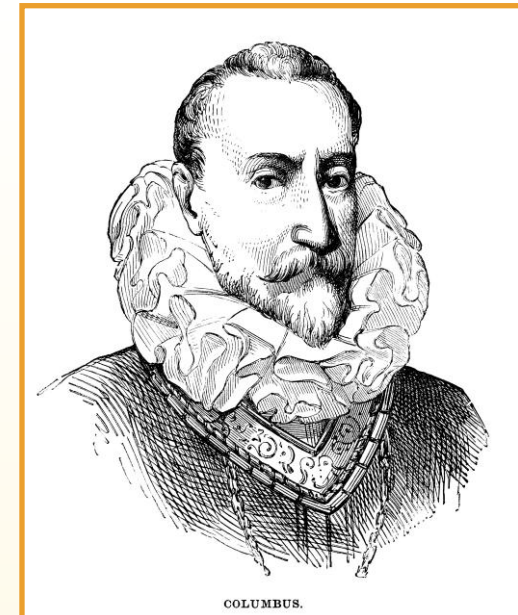
Christopher Columbus

Columbus called the indigenous people of America 'Indians' because he thought he was in India.



Christopher Columbus

We know him as Christopher Columbus, but during his lifetime he was known as Cristoforo Colombo and, in later life, as Cristóbal Colón.



Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus