

# Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus is famous for being an explorer. He was also a navigator. He was born in 1451, in Italy.

## Christopher Columbus' life

Christopher Columbus learned to sail in a wooden ship with sails and his biggest ship was less than 23m long. He learnt to find his way at sea by using the stars, the sun and a compass. Christopher Columbus' dream was to go to China and he needed money in order to do this. The king and queen of Spain gave him the money he needed to buy ships.

## His famous adventures

He set sail from Europe on 3rd August, 1492, along with his sailors. They did not know where they would land.

The journey took them a really long time. He sailed to Cuba and discovered new lands. They called it 'The New World'.

They arrived in America in 1492. Christopher Columbus did not discover America, as the Vikings from Europe had already landed in America 500 years before, but he did not know this. He started regular contact between Europe and America though and introduced tomatoes and potatoes into Europe.

On Christmas night in 1492, one of his ships was damaged and he had to leave it there with 40 men on board. When he came back for them, they were dead. He sailed again in 1502 and ended up in Central America. He was very ill when he got home and died in 1506, in Spain.

## Interesting facts!

- His first trip at sea was when he was 13 years old.
- Christopher Columbus sailed to America four times.
- The sailors ate stew made from salt, meat and bones.
- The sailors had to sleep on the deck of the ships.



# Christopher Columbus Questions

1. What is Christopher Columbus famous for?

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2. When was Christopher Columbus born?

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3. What country did he always want to visit?

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4. Who gave him money to buy ships?

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5. What did the sailors eat?

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6. What happened to one of his ships on his first trip?

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7. What did he find when he got back to America to collect some of his men?

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8. What did he bring back to Europe?

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9. Who discovered America?

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