

Christopher Columbus Reading Passage

Name:

Date:

Christopher Columbus was a brave explorer who lived a long time ago. He was born in Italy in 1451. His dream was to find a new way to get to Asia by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean. At that time, people usually traveled to Asia by going east. They didn't know that there were huge continents in the way!

Columbus had a hard time convincing people to support his idea. He went to many kings and queens, asking for ships and money. Finally, in 1492, Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain agreed to help him. They gave Columbus three ships: the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.



In August 1492, Columbus and his crew set sail from Spain. They sailed for many weeks without seeing any land. The sailors were scared and wanted to turn back. Columbus encouraged them to keep going. He believed they would find land soon.

On October 12, 1492, they finally saw land. Columbus thought he had reached Asia, but he was actually on an island in the Bahamas. He called the people he met there "Indians" because he thought he was in the Indies, a part of Asia.

Columbus made four trips to the New World, but he never realized he had discovered a new continent. He explored parts of the Caribbean, Central America, and South America. Columbus's voyages changed the world forever. They led to more exploration and the eventual settlement of the Americas by Europeans.

Although Columbus is celebrated for his discoveries, his voyages also had negative effects. The arrival of Europeans brought diseases that the native people had never encountered, and many died. The Europeans also took over the land and resources, often treating the native people harshly.



Today, we remember Columbus for his courage and determination. His voyages marked the beginning of a new era of exploration and contact between different parts of the world. However, it's also important to understand the impact his journeys had on the native populations.



Christopher Columbus

Comprehension Questions

Name:

Date:

Circle the correct answer.

I. What year did Columbus first set sail from Spain?





- c. 1502
- d. 1512



- 2. Which ships were given to Columbus by Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand?
 - a.Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria
 - b. Nina, Mayflower, and Pinta
 - c. Santa Maria, Titanic, and Nina
 - d. Pinta, Santa Maria, and Queen Elizabeth

What I learned:

What were some of the negative effects of Columbus's voyages on native people?



They brought disease that killed off many, they took over lands and resources and treated the naive people harshly

How did Columbus's voyages change the world?

They marked the beginning of a new era of exploration and contact between different parts of the world

Circle the correct answer.

- I. Columbus thought he had reached

 Asia when he landed in the Bahamas.
- 2. Columbus made only one trip to the New World.

a.True

b.) False

a. True

b. False



Christopher Columbus

Comprehension Questions

Name:

Date:

Circle the correct answer.

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 - Ь. 1492
 - c. 1502
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- 2. Which ships were given to Columbus by Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand?
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 - b. Nina, Mayflower, and Pinta
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- I. Columbus thought he had reached
 Asia when he landed in the Bahamas.
 - a. True
 - b. False

- 2. Columbus made only one trip to the New World.
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