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## Christopher Columbus

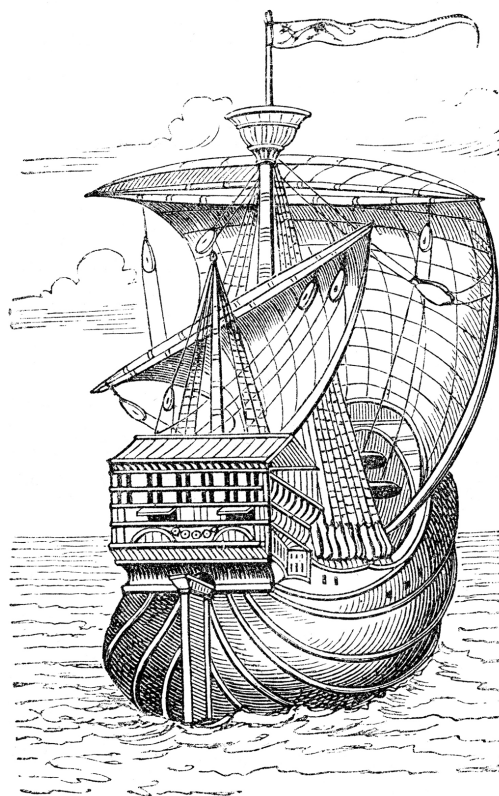
In the late 1400's, millions of American Indians lived in North and South America. However, most Europeans living across the Atlantic Ocean did not even know that the Americas existed. Due to the efforts of Christopher Columbus, they soon would find out about a whole "New World." Columbus made a daring voyage that changed history. In time, it resulted in important exchanges between the Eastern and Western hemispheres.

First, go to **www.worldbookonline.com**

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Use the "Search" tool to find the answers to the questions below. Since this activity is about Christopher Columbus, start by searching the key words "Christopher Columbus." Write the answers below the questions.



1. How did Christopher Columbus achieve fame? (Circle one.)
  - a. By sailing all the way around the world
  - b. By inventing many new tools for navigation
  - c. By sailing across the Atlantic Ocean from Europe
  - d. By writing a play about Queen Isabella of Spain
2. Was Columbus the first European to reach the Western Hemisphere?
3. In the 1400's, why were Europeans seeking a sea route to Asia, instead of using a land route?
4. Where was Christopher Columbus born?
5. *True or false?* When Christopher Columbus was a young man, his father pushed him to work on fishing boats.

6. When did Columbus make his first documented sea voyage?

- a. 1492
- b. The mid-1470's
- c. The early 1480's
- d. 1500

7. In 1476, Columbus settled in a Genoese colony in \_\_\_\_\_.  
(Fill in the blank.)

### **Columbus's first voyage to find Asia**

8. In the late 1400's, what did the Portuguese want to get from the Indies (now India, China, southeastern Asia, and Japan)?

9. Portuguese sailors were trying to reach the Indies by sailing around Africa. Columbus proposed reaching the Indies by \_\_\_\_\_.

10. *True or false?* Columbus believed the world consisted mostly of land, based on a map by the Greek geographer Strabo.

11. Why did King John II of Portugal refuse to fund Columbus's first attempt to get to Asia?

12. Why were the Spanish monarchs open to Columbus's plan?

13. *True or false?* Columbus's first expedition westward set out from Spain on Oct. 12, 1492.

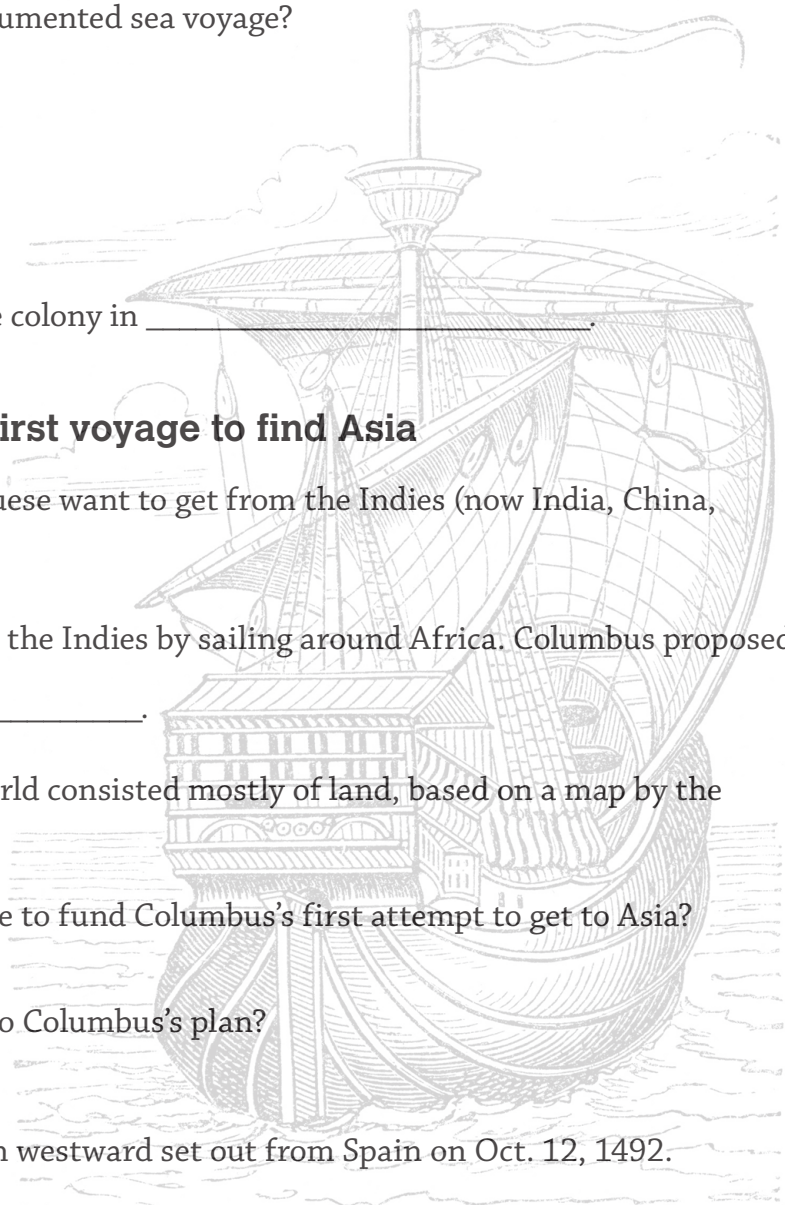
14. Columbus used a method of navigation known as \_\_\_\_\_.

15. About two months after setting out, where did Columbus's expedition first land?

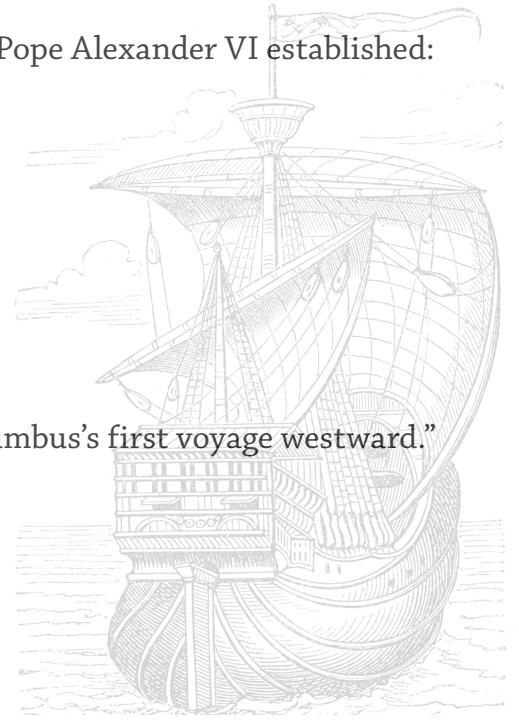
- a. Cuba
- b. Hispaniola
- c. Jamaica
- d. Historians are not sure where it landed

16. Why did Columbus call the island inhabitants he encountered *Indians*?

17. What kind of culture did the Taíno people have when Columbus encountered them?



18. One result of Columbus's first voyage to find Asia was that Pope Alexander VI established:
- a. the Mason Dixon Line
  - b. the Line of Demarcation
  - c. the International date line
  - d. the Curzon Line



## Map it!

In the "Christopher Columbus" article, there is a map titled "Columbus's first voyage westward." Find the map and answer the next three questions (19-21).

19. Which of Columbus's ships got wrecked on a reef?
20. From which Spanish city did Columbus begin his journey?
21. What happened to Columbus's ships in February of 1493?

## Columbus's later voyages

22. Columbus's second expedition to America did not just include crew members. Who else traveled on the expedition?
23. In the spring of 1494, Columbus left Hispaniola to explore Cuba. What claim did he make about Cuba after he explored the island?
24. List four reasons why settlers from Columbus's second expedition became discontented.
- 1.
  - 2.
  - 3.
  - 4.
25. What did Ferdinand and Isabella want Columbus to investigate on this third voyage westward?

26. Why was America not named after Christopher Columbus?

27. *True or false?* On his fourth journey to America, Columbus became the first European to see the Pacific Ocean.

28. Where was Columbus's fourth expedition marooned for more than a year?

- a. Venezuela
- b. Honduras
- c. Jamaica
- d. Trinidad

29. Where did Columbus die?

30. Describe three important exchanges that occurred between the Eastern and Western hemispheres as a result of Columbus's voyages. (For detailed information on this topic, see the World Book article titled "Columbian Exchange.")

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

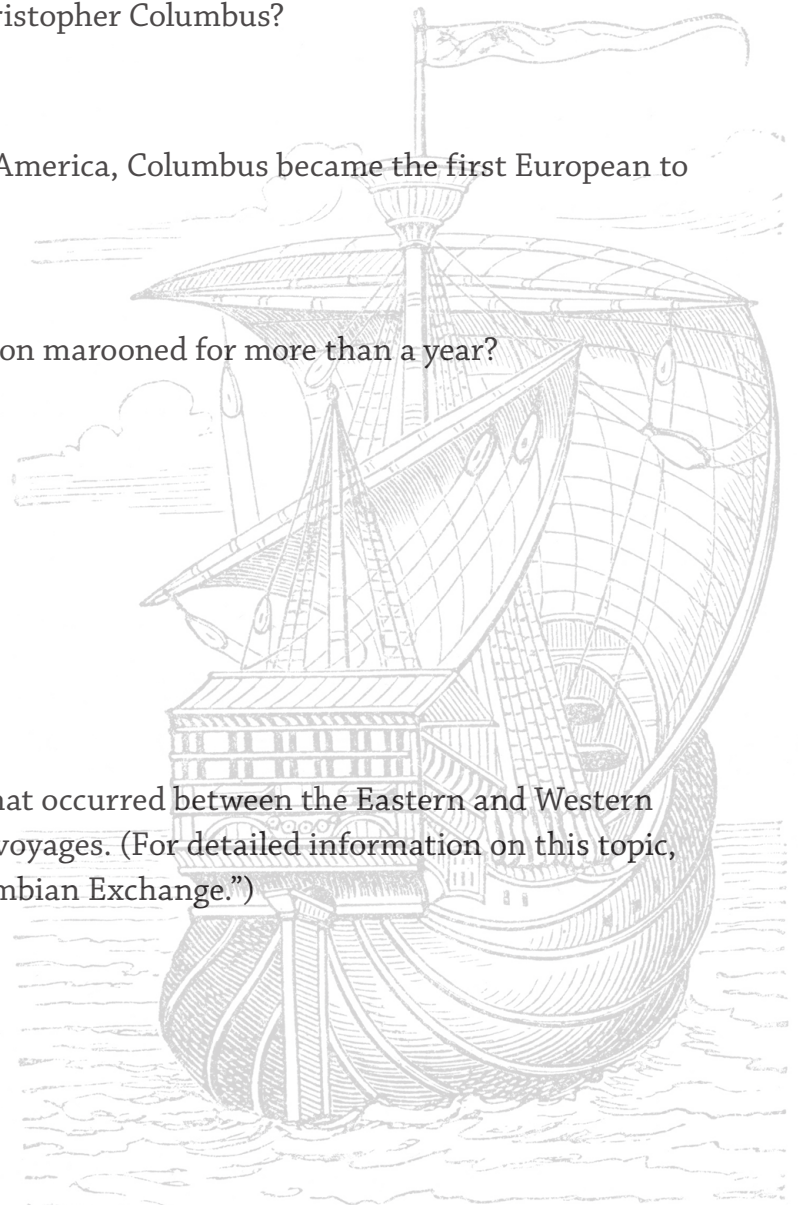
### Map it!

In the "Christopher Columbus" article, there is a map titled "Columbus's voyages." Find the map and answer the next three questions (31-33).

31. On which voyage did Columbus explore the coast of Central America?

32. Did any of Columbus's expeditions visit Florida?

33. Which continent did Columbus encounter on his third voyage?



## What's the word?

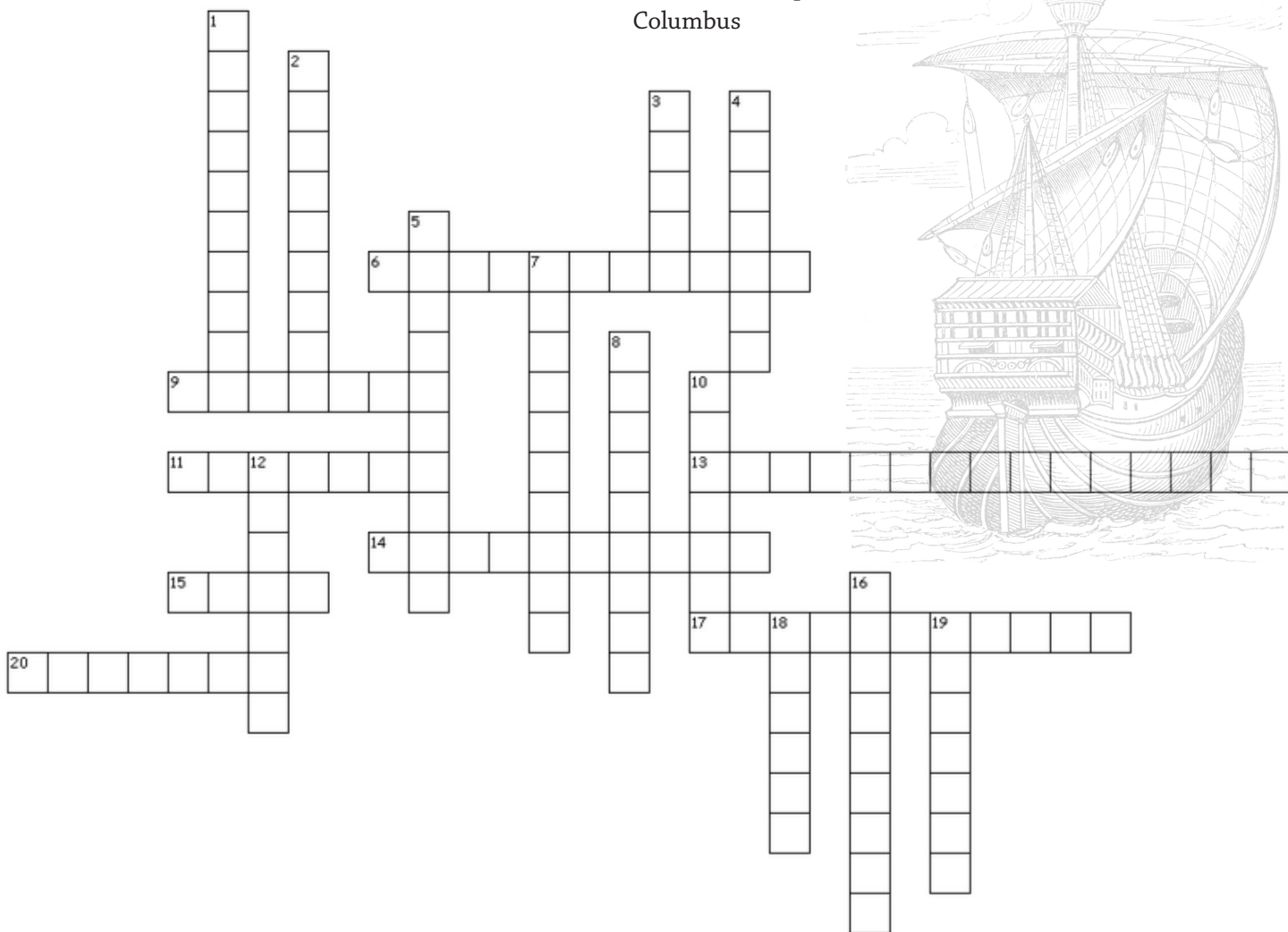
Use the clues below to fill in the puzzle. All of the answers appear in the World Book article "Christopher Columbus."

### Across

6. One of Columbus's brothers
9. A food from America that became popular throughout the world
11. A river Columbus came across on the northern coast of South America
13. The Italian navigator for whom America was named
14. A Caribbean island where members of Columbus's second expedition settled
15. Where Columbus was trying to go
17. The name Columbus gave the Caribbean island where he first landed
20. A powerful empire that took control of Constantinople in 1453

### Down

1. One of Columbus's ships
2. A treaty signed by Spain and Portugal in 1479
3. An Arawak Indian subgroup that lived on San Salvador
4. An ancient astronomer and geographer in Alexandria, Egypt
5. Where Columbus spent his final years
7. What Columbus called his fourth and final voyage
8. The Spanish commissioner who arrested Columbus and his brothers
10. A disease that Europeans carried to America
12. What Columbus called the Native Americans he encountered
16. The sea where Columbus carried out many of his explorations
18. A desirable spice from the Indies
19. Northern Europeans who visited North America before Columbus





# Teacher Page

## Answers:

1. Christopher Columbus achieved fame by sailing across the Atlantic Ocean from Europe.
2. Columbus was not the first European to reach the Western Hemisphere. The Vikings reached North America about A.D. 1000.
3. In the 1400's, Europeans were seeking a sea route to Asia because the Ottomans had taken over Constantinople and threatened European's land access to Asia.
4. Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy.
5. *False*. Columbus's father did not push him to work on fishing boats. He pushed him into a business career.
6. Columbus made his first documented sea voyage in the mid-1470's.
7. In 1476, Columbus settled in a Genoese colony in Lisbon, Portugal.
8. In the late 1400's, the Portuguese wanted to obtain gold, silk, gems, and spices from the Indies.
9. Columbus proposed reaching the Indies by sailing due west.
10. *False*. Columbus based his belief that the world was mostly land on a map by Ptolemy, not Strabo.
11. King John II refused to fund Columbus's first journey because a royal council believed Columbus had greatly underestimated the length of the journey.
12. The Spanish monarchs were open to Columbus's plan because it could give them an advantage over Portugal in the race to Asia. Columbus also told the intensely religious monarchs that he would use the proceeds from his trip to further Christian enterprises against the Muslims.
13. *False*. Columbus's first voyage westward set out from Spain on Aug. 3, 1492, not Oct. 12, 1492.
14. Columbus used a method of navigation known as dead reckoning.
15. Historians are not sure where Columbus's expedition first landed.
16. Columbus called the island inhabitants he encountered *Indians* because he believed he had reached the East Indies.
17. The Taíno people were skilled farmers who made cotton cloth, grouped their dwellings into villages, and had well developed social and governmental systems.
18. As a result of Columbus's first voyage to America, Pope Alexander VI established the Line of Demarcation.
19. The *Santa María* was wrecked on a reef.
20. Columbus began his journey from Palos, Spain.
21. In February of 1493, Columbus's ships were separated by a storm.

22. Columbus's second expedition included colonists, investors, and friars who were missionaries.
23. Columbus declared that Cuba was the Asian mainland.
24. The settlers from Columbus's second expedition became discontented because they saw that the riches promised by Columbus would not materialize. They also resented taking orders from Columbus, a Genoan, rather than a Spaniard. Later, many settlers disapproved of Columbus appointing his brother Bartholomew as provincial governor of Hispaniola. In addition, some settlers complained about the food that was available. The priests criticized the maltreatment of the Taíno, and the colonists charged Columbus with misgovernment in the colony.
25. Ferdinand and Isabella wanted Columbus to investigate the possibility that the Asian mainland lay south or southwest of the lands he already had explored.
26. America was not named after Columbus, because he failed to acknowledge that he had landed on a new continent. It was named after Amerigo Vespucci, who called America a "New World."
27. *False.* Columbus did not become the first European to see the Pacific Ocean.
28. Columbus's fourth expedition was marooned on Jamaica for more than a year.
29. Columbus died in Valladolid, Spain.
30. Three important exchanges that occurred between the Eastern and Western hemispheres included the exchange of plants, animals, and diseases.
31. Columbus explored the coast of Central America on his fourth voyage.
32. No, none of Columbus's expeditions visited Florida.
33. Columbus encountered South America on this third voyage.

### Crossword puzzle answers:

#### Across

6. Bartholomew
9. Cassava
11. Orinoco
13. Amerigo Vespucci
14. Hispaniola
15. Asia
17. San Salvador
20. Ottoman

#### Down

1. *Santa María*
2. Alcaçovas
3. Taíno
4. Ptolemy
5. Valladolid
7. High Voyage
8. Bobadilla
10. Measles
12. Indians
16. Caribbean
18. Nutmeg
19. Vikings