

National Curriculum Objectives:

English Year 2: Develop pleasure in reading, motivation to read, vocabulary and understanding by being introduced to non-fiction books that are structured in different ways. [More resources with this objective.](#)

English Year 3 & Year 4: Develop positive attitudes to reading, and an understanding of what they read, by reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes. [More resources with this objective.](#)

English Year 5 & Year 6: Maintain positive attitudes to reading and an understanding of what they read by reading books that are structured in different ways and reading for a range of purposes. [More resources with this objective.](#)

Differentiation:

Beginner 7 questions. Text aimed at: Year 1 Mastery/Year 2 Developing/Year 3 Emerging; level 2c readers; Purple Book Band; Reading age 7 – 7 1/2; PM Benchmark 19 & 20; Reading Recovery Level 19 & 20

Easy 9 questions. Text aimed: at Year 2 Mastery/Year 3 Developing/Year 4 Emerging; level 2a readers; White/Silver Book Band; Reading age 8 – 8 1/2; PM Benchmark 23 & 24; Reading Recovery Level 23 & 24

Tricky 13 questions. Text aimed: at Year 3 Mastery/Year 4 Developing/Year 5 Emerging; level 3b readers; Ruby Book Band; Reading age 9 – 9 1/2; PM Benchmark 25 & 26; Reading Recovery Level 27 & 28

Expert 15 questions. Text aimed: at Year 4 Mastery/Year 5 Developing/Year 6 Emerging; level 4c readers; Sapphire Book Band; Reading age 9 1/2 – 10; PM Benchmark 29 & 30; Reading Recovery Level 29 & 30

Brainbox 18 questions. Text aimed: at Year 5 Mastery/Year 6 Developing; level 4a readers; Black Book Band; Reading age 11+; PM Benchmark Free Reading; Reading Recovery Level Free Reading

Genius 19 questions. Text aimed: at Year 6 Mastery; level 6 readers; Black Book Band; Reading age 11+; PM Benchmark Free Reading; Reading Recovery Level Free Reading

All questions are linked to the New National Curriculum and the codes for these can be found at the end of this resource.

Did you like this resource? Don't forget to review it [here](#).

Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer. He is famous for discovering the New World. This involved sailing across the Atlantic Ocean, from Europe to America. It was a journey into the unknown.

Columbus was born in 1451. He had three brothers and a sister. His father was a weaver. Columbus lived in the busy port of Genoa. This is in Italy. Boys in his town were often sent to sea to make money for the family.

Columbus wasn't much older than 10 when he first went to sea. He had to learn how to find his way by using a compass, the Sun and the stars. He also learnt about the wind and tides. Life at sea would have been exciting but dangerous. The sailors would have slept on deck. The men sang prayers often. They thought it would keep them safe. The wooden sailing boats were always letting in water. The sailors had to work hard to pump the water back out again.

In 1476, Columbus arrived in Portugal. It is said that he had to swim ashore because his boat had been attacked by pirates. Others say it was because he had been shipwrecked. Whilst he was in Portugal, he met and married his wife. Their marriage did not last long. She died shortly after the birth of their son.

The people of Europe wanted to buy and sell things with Asia. They wanted to be able to send ships to countries like India and China. Columbus thought that it was possible to reach China in just a few days. He wanted to sail west. Maps in those days made the oceans look smaller than they really were.

Columbus needed money to make this journey happen. At first, he asked the King of Portugal to help pay for the voyage. The King said no. He didn't think the small, wooden sailing boats could travel that far.

Many people laughed at Columbus. They said that the journey was impossible. Luckily, the King and Queen of Spain agreed to pay for the trip. In return, Columbus promised them spices, gold and new lands to rule.

On 3rd August 1492, Columbus set sail. Three ships set off on the voyage: the Niña, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. The ships were crewed by ninety sailors.

Food was kept in the hold. This included things like salted fish, cheese, wine, water and biscuits. The voyage took much longer than expected. There was no land to be seen. The food was beginning to run out. The men were worried. They wanted to turn the boats around and go home.

Finally, land was spotted. On 12th October 1492, the men went ashore. They needed to find fresh water and food. Columbus called the land San Salvador. They sailed on to Cuba and Hispaniola (now called the Dominican Republic and Haiti). As this land was new to them, they called it the New World. People were already living there. Columbus called them Indians. He thought he had landed in the West Indies. Columbus claimed the land for Spain.

In 1493, Columbus arrived back in Spain. He had left forty men behind. He had wanted them to set up a base. Columbus was treated like a hero. He had brought back new food and some of the Indians.

Columbus returned to the New World three more times. On his third journey, he discovered South America. After his discoveries, many people from Europe travelled over to America to start a new life. They treated the native people very badly. They wanted them to become Christians. These native people were made to work as slaves. Many died from illnesses brought over by the Europeans.

On his fourth and final trip in 1502, Columbus still hoped to find China. Instead, he spent time exploring Central America. During this journey, he needed to be rescued as his ships were leaking. Columbus returned to Spain as a sick man. He died in 1506.

Columbus was once thought to be the first person to discover these new lands. It is now thought that Vikings made the journey hundreds of years before him in 1000 A.D.

Christopher Columbus

1. Who was Christopher Columbus?

- ☐ an actor
- ☐ an artist
- ☐ an explorer

2. Where was he born?

- ☐ in England
- ☐ in Italy
- ☐ in Spain

3. Put these events in the right order.

| | |
|---|--|
| Columbus died in 1506. | |
| On 3 rd August 1492, Columbus set sail. | |
| Columbus called the land San Salvador. | |
| The King and Queen of Spain agreed to pay for the trip. | |
| On his third journey, he discovered South America. | |

4. What did the sailors take to drink?

- ☐ tea
- ☐ squash
- ☐ wine

5. Why wouldn't the King of Portugal pay for the trip?

- ☐ He didn't think the small, wooden sailing boats could travel that far.
- ☐ He didn't have enough money to pay for it.
- ☐ He wasn't interested in discovering new lands.

6. Match the words below to their meaning.

- | <u>word</u> | <u>meaning</u> |
|-------------|--|
| 1. explorer | a. a person who weaves fabric |
| 2. port | b. a long journey by sea |
| 3. weaver | c. an instrument that shows the direction of north |
| 4. compass | d. a person who visits new places |
| 5. native | e. a town or city with a harbour |
| 6. voyage | f. a person born in a particular place |

7. Identify whether these statements are true or false.

| Statement | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| Columbus had no brothers or sisters. | | |
| Columbus thought he could reach China in a few days. | | |
| Columbus completed six journeys to the New World. | | |
| The native people were treated like slaves. | | |

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Columbus was born in 1451. He had three brothers and a sister. His father was a weaver. Columbus lived in the busy port of Genoa (in Italy). Boys in his town were often sent to sea to make money for the family.

Columbus wasn't much older than 10 when he first went to sea. He had to learn how to find his way by using a compass, the Sun and the stars. He also learnt about the wind and tides. Life at sea would have been exciting but dangerous. The sailors would have slept on deck no matter what the weather was like. The captain and officers would have slept in a cabin. The men sang prayers often. They thought it would keep them safe. The wooden sailing boats were always letting in water. The sailors had to work hard to pump the water back out again.

In 1476, Columbus arrived in Portugal. It is said that he had to swim ashore because his boat had been attacked by pirates. Others say it was because he had been shipwrecked. Whilst he was in Portugal, he met and married his wife. Their marriage did not last long. She died shortly after the birth of their son.

The people of Europe wanted to buy and sell things with Asia. They wanted to be able to send ships to countries like India and China. Columbus thought that it was possible to reach China in just a few days by sailing west. Maps in those days made the oceans look smaller than they really were.

Columbus needed money to make this journey happen. At first, he asked the King of Portugal to help pay for the voyage. The King said no. He didn't think the small, wooden sailing boats could travel that far.

Many people laughed at Columbus. They said that the journey was impossible. Luckily, the King and Queen of Spain agreed to pay for the trip. In return, Columbus promised them spices, gold and new lands to rule.

On 3rd August 1492, Columbus set sail. Three ships set off on the voyage: the Niña, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. The ships were crewed by ninety sailors.

Food was kept in the hold. This included things like salted fish, cheese, wine, water, biscuits, dried beans and lentils. The voyage took much longer than expected. There was no land to be seen and the food was beginning to run out. The men were worried. They wanted to turn the boats around and go home.

Finally, land was spotted. On 12th October 1492, the men went ashore. They needed to find fresh water and food. Columbus called the land San Salvador. They sailed on to Cuba and Hispaniola (now called the Dominican Republic and Haiti). As this land was new to them, they called it the New World. People were already living there. Columbus called them Indians. He thought he had landed in the West Indies. Columbus claimed the land for Spain.

In 1493, Columbus arrived back in Spain. Only two ships returned. The Santa Maria had been wrecked on a reef on Christmas night in 1492. He had also left forty men behind because he wanted them to set up a camp. Columbus was treated like a hero. He had brought back new food and some of the Indians.

Columbus returned to the New World again in 1493. This time he returned with seventeen ships. He discovered that the men he had left behind were all dead. People from Europe were beginning to travel over to America to start a new life. They treated the native people very badly. They wanted them to become Christians. These native people were made to work as slaves. Many died from illnesses brought over by the Europeans.

On his third journey, Columbus discovered South America, and on his fourth and final trip in 1502, Columbus spent time exploring Central America. He never did make it to China. Sadly, Columbus needed to be rescued during his final trip. His ships were leaking badly. Columbus returned to Spain as a sick man. He died in 1506.

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4. What did the sailors take to drink?

- ☐ tea
- ☐ squash
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5. Why wouldn't the King of Portugal pay for the trip?

- ☐ He didn't think the small, wooden sailing boats could travel that far.
- ☐ He didn't have enough money to pay for it.
- ☐ He wasn't interested in discovering new lands.

6. Which word means the same as 'wrecked'?

| | | | | | | | |
|------|--|-------|--|---------|--|----------|--|
| good | | clean | | smashed | | repaired | |
|------|--|-------|--|---------|--|----------|--|

7. Match the words below to their meaning.

word

meaning

1. explorer

a. a person who weaves fabric

2. port

b. a long journey by sea

3. weaver

c. an instrument that shows the direction of north

4. compass

d. a person who visits new places

5. native

e. a town or city with a harbour

6. voyage

f. a person born in a particular place

8. Identify whether these statements are true or false.

| <u>Statement</u> | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| Columbus had no brothers or sisters. | | |
| Columbus thought he could reach China in a few days. | | |
| Columbus completed six journeys to the New World. | | |
| The native people were treated like slaves. | | |

9. Complete the information in this chart.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Columbus was born. |
| 3 rd August 1492 | |
| | His fourth and final trip. |

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Christopher Columbus

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Columbus wasn't much older than 10 when he first went to sea. He had to learn how to find his way by using a compass, the Sun and the stars. He also learnt about the wind and tides. Life at sea would have been exciting but dangerous. The sailors would have slept on deck no matter what the weather was like. The captain and officers would have slept in a cabin. The men sang prayers often as they thought it would keep them safe. The wooden sailing boats were always letting in water so the sailors had to work hard to pump the water back out again.

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In 1493, Columbus arrived back in Spain. Only two ships returned. The Santa Maria had been wrecked on a reef on Christmas night the previous year. He had also left forty men behind because he wanted them to set up a camp. Columbus was treated like a hero. He had brought back new food and had also captured some of the native people.

Columbus returned to the New World again in 1493. This time he returned with seventeen ships. He discovered that the men he had left behind were all dead and the camp had been destroyed. People from Europe were beginning to travel over to America to start a new life. They treated the native people very badly. They wanted them to become Christians. These native people were made to work as slaves. Many died from illnesses brought over by the Europeans.

On his third journey, Columbus discovered South America. However, in 1500, he was sent home in chains after it was believed he had ruled Hispaniola to make himself rich. He was later released by the King of Spain.

On his fourth and final trip in 1502, Columbus spent time exploring Central America. He never did make it to China. Sadly, Columbus needed to be rescued during his final trip as his ships were leaking badly letting water in. Columbus returned to Spain as a sick man. He died in 1506.

Columbus was once thought to be the first person to discover these new lands. It has been estimated that 100 million native people were already living there. It is now thought that Vikings made the journey before him in 1000 A.D.

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1. Who was Christopher Columbus?

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- ☐ an artist
- ☐ an explorer

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| On his third journey, he discovered South America. | |

4. Identify TWO things the sailors used to drink?

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

5. Why wouldn't the King of Portugal pay for the trip?

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

6. Which word means the same as 'wrecked'?

| | | | | | | | |
|------|--|-------|--|---------|--|----------|--|
| good | | clean | | smashed | | repaired | |
|------|--|-------|--|---------|--|----------|--|

7. Match the words below to their meaning.

- word

1. explorer

2. port

3. weaver

4. compass

5. native

6. voyage

meaning

a. a person who weaves fabric

b. a long journey by sea

c. an instrument that shows the direction of north

d. a person who visits new places

e. a town or city with a harbour

f. a person born in a particular place

8. Identify whether these statements are true or false.

| <u>Statement</u> | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| Columbus had no brothers or sisters. | | |
| Columbus thought he could reach China in a few days. | | |
| Columbus completed six journeys to the New World. | | |
| The native people were treated like slaves. | | |

9. Complete the information in this chart.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| | Columbus was born. |
| 3 rd August 1492 | |
| | His fourth and final trip. |

10. Identify **THREE** things a sailor could use to find his way at sea.

11. Would you like to have been a sailor in those times? Explain your answer with reference to the text.

12. What was unusual about the way Columbus arrived in Portugal in 1476?

13. Why did Columbus get sent home in chains in 1500?

Christopher Columbus

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4. Identify TWO things the sailors used to drink?

Wine and water

5. Why wouldn't the King of Portugal pay for the trip?

He didn't think the small, wooden sailing boats could travel that far.

6. Which word means the same as 'wrecked'?

| | | | | | | | |
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9. Complete the information in this chart.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1451 | Columbus was born. |
| 3 rd August 1492 | Columbus set sail. |
| 1502 | His fourth and final trip. |

10. Identify THREE things a sailor could use to find his way at sea.

A compass, the stars and the Sun.

11. Would you like to have been a sailor in those times? Explain your answer with reference to the text.

Various responses with reference to evidence in the text.

12. What was unusual about the way Columbus arrived in Portugal in 1476?

It is said that he had to swim ashore because his boat had either been shipwrecked or attacked by pirates.

13. Why did Columbus get sent home in chains in 1500?

It was believed he had ruled Hispaniola to make himself rich. He was later released by the King of Spain.

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Columbus wasn't much older than 10 when he first went to sea. He had to learn how to navigate by using a compass, the Sun and the stars. He also learnt about the winds and tides. Life at sea would have been exciting but dangerous. The sailors would have slept on deck no matter what the weather was like. The captain and officers were luckier; they slept in cabins. The men sang prayers often as they thought it would keep them safe. The wooden sailing boats were constantly letting in water so the sailors had to work hard to pump the water back out again.

In 1476, Columbus arrived in Portugal. It is said that he had to swim ashore because his boat had been attacked by pirates. Others say it was because he had been shipwrecked. Whilst he was in Portugal, he worked as a cartographer (map maker) with his brother, Bartholomew. He also met and married his wife although their marriage did not last long. Tragically, she died shortly after the birth of their son.

The people of Europe wanted to improve trade links with Asia. They wanted to be able to send ships to countries like India and China to trade goods such as spices and silk. To sail east would have meant travelling around the continent of Africa. This was taking too long. The land route had also been blocked. Columbus thought that it was possible to reach China in just a few days by sailing west. Maps in those days made the oceans look smaller than they really were, leading Columbus to underestimate how far away Asia actually was.

Columbus needed money to make this journey happen. At first, he asked the King of Portugal to help pay for the voyage. The King said no. He didn't think the small, wooden sailing boats could travel that far. Many people laughed at Columbus. They said that the journey was impossible. Luckily, the King and Queen of Spain agreed to pay for the trip. In return, Columbus promised them spices, gold and new lands to rule.

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Food was kept in the hold. This included things like salted fish, cheese, wine, water, biscuits, dried beans and lentils. The voyage took much longer than expected. There was no land to be seen and the food was beginning to run out. The men were worried that they would be attacked by sea monsters or starve to death. They wanted to turn the boats around and go home. To help keep the men calm and focused, Columbus offered a reward to the first crew member to spot land. The prize was claimed by a lookout on board the Pinta, who finally spotted the land we now know as the Bahamas.

On 12th October 1492, the men went ashore. They needed to find fresh water and food. Columbus called the land San Salvador. They sailed on to Cuba and Hispaniola (now called the Dominican Republic and Haiti). As this land was new to them, they called it the New World. People were already living there. Columbus called them Indians because he thought he had landed in the West Indies. Columbus claimed this 'new' land for Spain.

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On his third journey, Columbus discovered South America. However, in 1500, he was sent home in chains after it was believed he had governed Hispaniola to make himself rich. He was later pardoned and released by the King of Spain.

On his fourth and final trip in 1502, Columbus spent time exploring Central America. He never did make it to China. Sadly, Columbus needed to be rescued during his final trip as his ships were leaking badly. Columbus returned to Spain as a sick man and later died in 1506.

Columbus was once thought to be the first person to discover these new lands. It has been estimated that 100 million people were already living there. It is now thought that Vikings made the journey hundreds of years before him in 1000 A.D. It took a man named Amerigo Vespucci to understand that the New World was actually a continent. America was eventually named after Vespucci, rather than Columbus.

Christopher Columbus

1. Who was Christopher Columbus?

| |
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| |
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2. Where was he born?

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3. Put these events in the right order.

| | |
|---|--|
| Columbus died in 1506. | |
| On 3 rd August 1492, Columbus set sail. | |
| Columbus called the land San Salvador. | |
| The King and Queen of Spain agreed to pay for the trip. | |
| On his third journey, he discovered South America. | |

4. Identify TWO things the sailors used to drink?

| |
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| |
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5. Why wouldn't the King of Portugal pay for the trip?

| |
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|--|

6. Which word means the same as 'wrecked'?

| | | | | | | | |
|------|--|-------|--|---------|--|----------|--|
| good | | clean | | smashed | | repaired | |
|------|--|-------|--|---------|--|----------|--|

7. Write the meaning of these words.

| | |
|----------|--|
| explorer | |
| port | |
| weaver | |
| compass | |
| native | |
| voyage | |

8. Identify whether these statements are true or false.

| Statement | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| Columbus had no brothers or sisters. | | |
| Columbus thought he could reach China in a few days. | | |
| Columbus completed six journeys to the New World. | | |
| The indigenous people were treated like slaves. | | |
| America was named after Columbus. | | |

9. Complete the information in this chart.

| Date | Event |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| | Columbus was born. |
| 3 rd August 1492 | |
| | He was returned home in chains. |
| | His fourth and final trip. |

10. Identify THREE things a sailor could use to find his way at sea.

11. Would you like to have been a sailor in those times? Explain your answer with reference to the text.

12. What was unusual about the way Columbus arrived in Portugal in 1476?

13. Why did Columbus get sent home in chains in 1500?

14. FIND and COPY a word or phrase which tells us that Columbus’s first trip had been a success.

15. What is the main purpose of this text?

| | Tick one |
|---|-------------|
| to persuade you | |
| to retell past events | |
| to tell you how something is made or done | |
| to describe how something works | |

Christopher Columbus

1. Who was Christopher Columbus?

An explorer

2. Where was he born?

Italy

3. Put these events in the right order.

| | |
|---|---|
| Columbus died in 1506. | 5 |
| On 3 rd August 1492, Columbus set sail. | 2 |
| Columbus called the land San Salvador. | 3 |
| The King and Queen of Spain agreed to pay for the trip. | 1 |
| On his third journey, he discovered South America. | 4 |

4. Identify TWO things the sailors used to drink?

Wine and water

5. Why wouldn't the King of Portugal pay for the trip?

He didn't think the small, wooden sailing boats could travel that far.

6. Which word means the same as 'wrecked'?

| | | | | | | | |
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| good | | clean | | smashed | ✓ | repaired | |
|------|--|-------|--|---------|---|----------|--|

7. Write the meaning of these words.

| | |
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| explorer | a person who visits new places |
| port | a town or city with a harbour |
| weaver | a person who weaves fabric |
| compass | an instrument that shows the direction of north |
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| voyage | a long journey by sea |

8. Identify whether these statements are true or false.

| <u>Statement</u> | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| Columbus had no brothers or sisters. | | ✓ |
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| The indigenous people were treated like slaves. | ✓ | |
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9. Complete the information in this chart.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1451 | Columbus was born. |
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| 1502 | His fourth and final trip. |

10. Identify THREE things a sailor could use to find his way at sea.

A compass, the stars and the Sun.

11. Would you like to have been a sailor in those times? Explain your answer with reference to the text.

Various responses with reference to evidence in the text.

12. What was unusual about the way Columbus arrived in Portugal in 1476?

It is said that he had to swim ashore because his boat had either been shipwrecked or attacked by pirates.

13. Why did Columbus get sent home in chains in 1500?

It was believed he had ruled Hispaniola to make himself rich. He was later released by the King of Spain.

14. FIND and COPY a word or phrase which tells us that Columbus’s first trip had been a success.

Columbus was hailed a hero.

15. What is the main purpose of this text?

| | Tick one |
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| to persuade you | |
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Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer who was famous for discovering the New World. This involved sailing across the Atlantic Ocean, from Europe to America and at the time, it was a journey into the unknown.

Columbus was born in 1451, in the busy port of Genoa (Italy). He had three brothers and a sister. His father worked as a wool merchant and weaver. Not much is known about how well-educated Columbus was, but it was common place for young boys in Genoa to be sent to sea, in order to earn money for the family.

Columbus wasn't much older than 10 when he first went to sea. He learnt how to navigate by using a compass, the Sun and the stars and how to plot a course using a traverse board. He also learnt about the importance of the wind and tides. Life at sea would have been exciting but dangerous. The sailors would have slept on deck no matter what the weather was like. The captain and officers were luckier; they slept in cabins. The men sang prayers often as they thought it would keep them safe. So the men could keep track of time, a boy would be in charge of rotating the ship's glass (like a modern day hour glass or egg timer) every thirty minutes. The wooden sailing boats were constantly letting in water so consequently, the sailors had to work hard to pump it back out again.

In 1476, Columbus arrived in Portugal. It is said he had to swim ashore because his boat had been attacked by pirates. Others say it was because he had been shipwrecked. Whilst in Portugal, he worked as a cartographer (map maker) with his brother, Bartholomew. He also met and married his wife, although their marriage did not last long. Tragically, she died shortly after the birth of their son.

The people of Europe wanted to improve trade links with Asia. They wanted to be able to send ships to countries like India and China, to trade goods such as spices and silk. The land route – known as the Silk Road – had been closed by the Ottoman Empire, forcing the Europeans to find a sea route. To sail east would have meant travelling around the continent of Africa but the route was taking too long to discover. Columbus, on the other hand, thought it was possible to reach China in just a few days by sailing west. Maps in those days made the oceans look smaller than they really were, leading Columbus to underestimate how far away Asia actually was.

Columbus needed money to make this journey happen. At first, he asked the King of Portugal to help pay for the voyage. The King said no. He didn't think the small, wooden sailing boats could travel that far. Many people laughed at Columbus. They said that the journey was impossible. Luckily, the King and Queen of Spain agreed to pay for the trip and in return, Columbus promised them spices, gold and new lands to rule.

On 3rd August 1492, Columbus set sail. Three ships set off on the voyage: the Niña (Spanish for girl due to her small size), the Pinta and the Santa Maria. The ships were crewed by ninety sailors. They stopped briefly in the Canary Islands before setting off across the Atlantic Ocean.

Food was kept in the hold. This included things like salted fish, cheese, wine, water, biscuits, dried beans and lentils. The voyage took much longer than expected. There was no land to be seen and the food was beginning to run out. The men were worried that they would be attacked by sea monsters or starve to death. They wanted to turn the boats around and go home. To help keep the men calm and focused, Columbus offered a reward to the first crew member to spot land. The prize was claimed by a lookout on board the Pinta, who finally spotted the land we now know as the Bahamas.

On 12th October 1492, the men climbed ashore of the land Columbus named San Salvador. They needed to find fresh water and food. They sailed on to Cuba and Hispaniola (now called the Dominican Republic and Haiti). As this land was new to them, they called it the New World. They discovered that people were already inhabiting the islands. Columbus called them Indians as he thought he had landed in the West Indies. Columbus claimed the land for the King and Queen of Spain.

In 1493, Columbus arrived back in Spain. Only two ships returned; the Santa Maria had been wrecked on a reef on Christmas night the previous year. He had also left forty men behind in the hope that they would establish a camp. On his return, Columbus was hailed a hero. He had captured some of the indigenous people to bring home along with new foods.

Columbus returned to the New World again in 1493. This time he returned with seventeen ships. He discovered that the men he had left behind were all dead and the camp had been destroyed. People from Europe were beginning to travel over to America to start a new life. They treated the indigenous people badly; they thought they could convert them to Christianity and they were made to work as slaves. Many of the natives died from illnesses brought over by the Europeans.

On his third journey, Columbus discovered South America. However, in 1500, he was returned home in chains after it was believed he had governed Hispaniola to make himself rich. He was later pardoned and released by the King of Spain.

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| |
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6. Which word is closest in meaning to 'underestimate'?

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|----------|--|----------|--|---------|--|
| approximate | | estimate | | misjudge | | correct | |
|-------------|--|----------|--|----------|--|---------|--|

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15. How does this compare with how he was viewed at the time of his death?

16. What is the main purpose of this text?

| | Tick one |
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17. Give TWO reasons why Columbus thought ‘mutiny was imminent’.

18. How did Columbus keep the men calm and focused during this time of worry?
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On his third journey, Columbus discovered South America. However, in 1500, he was banished home in chains after it was believed he had governed Hispaniola to make himself rich. He was later pardoned and released by the King of Spain.

On his fourth and final trip in 1502, Columbus spent time exploring Central America. This was a mission of discovery only – after his disastrous attempt to govern Hispaniola. He never did make it to China. Sadly, Columbus needed to be rescued during his final trip as his ships were badly damaged and leaking water. Columbus returned to Spain as a sick man. At that time he had been deemed a failure, due to his earlier arrest and inability to find a route to Asia. He later died in 1506.

Columbus was once thought to be the first person to discover these new lands, however, it has been estimated that 100 million people were already living there. It is now thought that Vikings made the journey hundreds of years before him in 1000 A.D. It took a man named Amerigo Vespucci to understand that the New World was actually a continent. America was eventually named after Vespucci, rather than Columbus. Columbus has received recognition for his deeds though, as the second Monday of October is recognised as a national holiday in America, to celebrate the anniversary of Christopher Columbus's arrival in the New World. There have since been many countries, cities and rivers named after the intrepid explorer.

Christopher Columbus

1. Who was Christopher Columbus?

| |
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| |
|--|

2. Where and when was he born?

| |
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| |
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3. Put these events in the right order.

| | |
|---|--|
| Columbus died in 1506. | |
| On 3 rd August 1492, Columbus set sail. | |
| Columbus called the land San Salvador. | |
| The King and Queen of Spain agreed to pay for the trip. | |
| On his third journey, he discovered South America. | |

4. Identify TWO different items of food which were taken on the first trip? Why do you think this food was chosen?

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

5. Why wouldn't the King of Portugal pay for the trip?

| |
|--|
| |
|--|

6. Which word is closest in meaning to 'underestimate'?

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------|--|----------|--|----------|--|---------|--|
| approximate | | estimate | | misjudge | | correct | |
|-------------|--|----------|--|----------|--|---------|--|

7. Write the meaning of these words.

| | |
|--------------|--|
| cartographer | |
| mutiny | |
| imminent | |
| pardoned | |
| indigenous | |
| inhabiting | |

8. Identify whether these statements are true or false.

| <u>Statement</u> | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| Columbus would plot a course using a traverse board. | | |
| Columbus thought he could reach China in a few days. | | |
| Columbus was pardoned by the King of Portugal. | | |
| The indigenous people were treated like slaves. | | |
| America was named after Columbus. | | |

9. Complete the information in this chart.

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Event</u> |
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10. Identify THREE things a sailor could use to find his way at sea.

11. Do you think the life of a sailor was easy or difficult? Explain your answer with reference to the text.

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14. FIND and COPY a word or phrase which tells us that Columbus’s first trip had been a success.

15. How does this compare with how he was viewed at the time of his death?

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17. Give TWO reasons why Columbus thought ‘mutiny was imminent’.

18. How did Columbus keep the men calm and focused during this time of worry? Why do you think this helped?

19. Do you think Christopher Columbus was a success or a failure? Explain your answer with reference to the text.

Christopher Columbus

1. Who was Christopher Columbus?

An explorer

2. Where and when was he born?

Italy in 1451

3. Put these events in the right order.

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| Columbus died in 1506. | 5 |
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| On his third journey, he discovered South America. | 4 |

4. Identify TWO different items of food which were taken on the first trip? Why do you think this food was chosen?

Salted fish, cheese, biscuits, dried beans and lentils. This food takes longer to go off as they are either dry or contain high levels of salt.

5. Why wouldn't the King of Portugal pay for the trip?

He didn't think the small, wooden sailing boats could travel that far.

6. Which word is closest in meaning to 'underestimate'?

| | | | | | | | |
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| approximate | | estimate | | misjudge | ✓ | correct | |
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7. Write the meaning of these words.

| | |
|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| cartographer | a person who draws maps |
| mutiny | a rebellion against authority |
| imminent | about to happen |
| pardoned | to be forgiven or excused |
| indigenous | originating in a particular place |
| inhabiting | to live in or occupy a place |

8. Identify whether these statements are true or false.

| Statement | True | False |
|--|------|-------|
| Columbus would plot a course using a traverse board. | ✓ | |
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| The indigenous people were treated like slaves. | ✓ | |
| America was named after Columbus. | | ✓ |

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At the time of his death he was deemed a failure, due to his earlier arrest and inability to find a route to Asia.

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17. Give TWO reasons why Columbus thought 'mutiny was imminent'.

Possible answers: lack of food so fear of starvation, no land in sight or fear of sea monsters.

18. How did Columbus keep the men calm and focused during this time of worry? Why do you think this helped?

Columbus offered a reward to the first crew member to spot land. It would have kept the men focused on winning the reward instead of thinking about possible dangers.

19. Do you think Christopher Columbus was a success or a failure? Explain your answer with reference to the text.

Various answers with reference to the text e.g. his success in gaining more land for Spain and for introducing new food to Europe, the treatment of indigenous people, the fact that Columbus never made it to China and the realisation that he wasn't the first person to discover the New World.