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Christopher Columbus

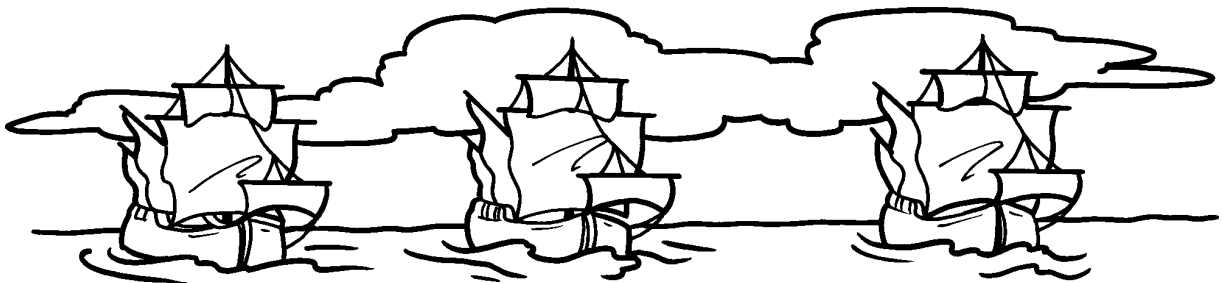
Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy, in 1451. Genoa was an important seaport at the time and Columbus' father encouraged him to enter the trading business. Columbus sailed on trading ships and later drew and sold maps with his brother. Europeans of the time sought gold, gems, silk, and spices, including nutmeg, cloves, and mace that came from the East. These riches had previously been brought to Europe by costly overland caravans. Many adventurers sought newer, faster routes to the East. Columbus reasoned that if he kept sailing west from Spain or Portugal, he would eventually reach Asia by boat.

Late in the fifteenth century, Christopher Columbus approached King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain with his plan to reach India without having to sail around Africa. He was determined to find a new trade route. It took Ferdinand and Isabella five years to agree to finance the search for a new sea route to Asia. They promised Columbus honors and a percentage of the trade resulting from this route.

Columbus set sail in 1492 with three ships, 90 crewmembers, and a bold plan. Columbus used the North Star as his guide and a compass to plot his course. After a little over two months at sea, Columbus landed in North America. Thinking it was India, he named the native people Indians. He and his crews explored many harbors in the Caribbean Sea but did not find the riches they had sought. The *Niña* and the *Pinta* returned to Spain in 1493. The *Santa Maria* had crashed into a rock in the Caribbean and some of its crew remained on the island at the fort they had constructed. Columbus was financed for more voyages despite the lack of trade items he returned with after the first journey.

Columbus was credited with discovering America for hundreds of years. We now know that other Europeans such as Leif Ericson arrived in 1000 A.D., well before Columbus. Although he never found the route he was looking for, Columbus' persistence did open the New World to further European exploration and eventual settlement.

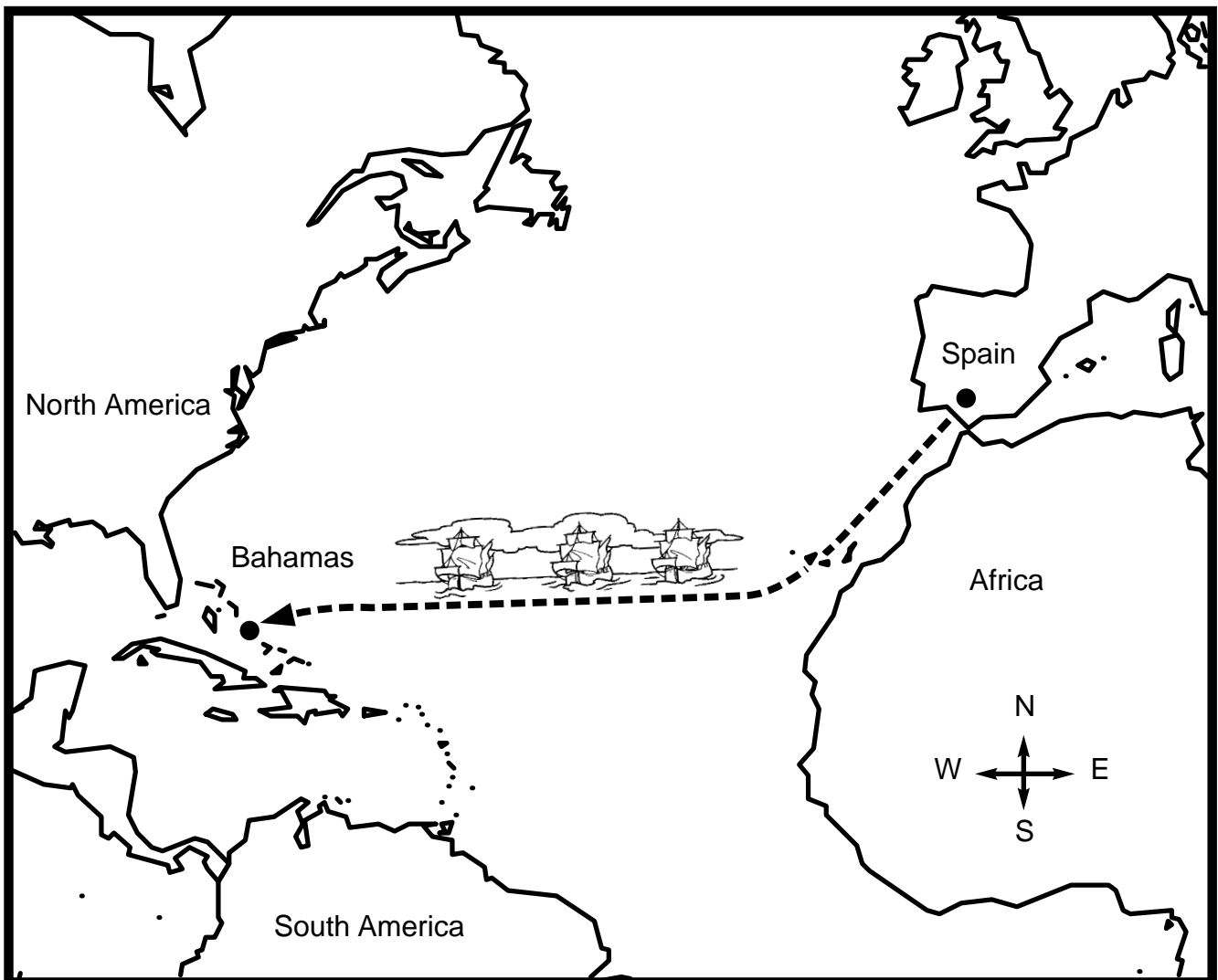
The second Monday of October is recognized as Columbus Day. Citizens of the United States acknowledge Christopher Columbus's incredible voyage on three small ships named the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*.



Christopher Columbus

Map Study

Columbus's first journey to America.



Putting Together *Christopher Columbus*

Materials

- One sheet, 6½" x 9", each of light blue, dark blue, green, white, and brown construction paper
- copy of each template (pages 96, 97, 98)
- copy of the text page (page 98)
- stapler
- red felt pen or crayon

Pre-assembly Preparation

Choose one option.

- Run copies of each page on white paper for the students and have them color each part with the colors suggested below.
- Create templates on cardboard or tagboard for students to use to trace the shapes on colored paper. Make the small rectangle and the waves on dark blue, the boat on brown, and the island on green.
- Copy the templates onto the correct color construction paper.

Assembly Directions for the *Christopher Columbus Layered Book*

1. Cut out the templates, sails, and text stripes.
2. Glue the dark blue rectangle to the bottom end of the light blue rectangle, matching the bottom corners.
3. Glue the green island to the center of the dark blue rectangle.
4. Center and staple the sail to the light blue sky, making the edges even. Staple the dark blue waves across the bottom of the dark blue part of the rectangle.
5. Fold the waves down. Position the boat so that it can be stapled at the left side of the rectangle and will not be inhibited by the waves.
6. Attach the text as follows: Fold the waves down and glue page 1 to the back of them. Fold back the boat and glue page 2 to the back of it. Lift the sails and glue page 3 to the back of the sails.
7. Color the cross on the sail red.

