

# Christopher Columbus



On 30th May, 1492, Christopher Columbus set sail from Spain to find a new way to the Indies islands by sea. Travellers had always crossed to the islands by land before this, searching for the spices and other precious things to be found there, but the fierce Turks were making the journey by land too dangerous.

Columbus believed the world was round, although many still said it was flat and if you sailed too far from land you would fall off the edge. He sailed with 3 ships, the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria.

The Santa Maria was the biggest ship and it was the flag ship. It was 60 feet long. Can you draw it?

Columbus was the first European to discover the islands of the Caribbean and America, although he thought it was the Indies and he called the people he found there 'Indians'.

He made 3 more journeys to the area between 1492 and 1503. If you learn this little rhyme it will help you to remember the year of his first voyage.

"In 14 hundred and 92, Columbus sailed the ocean blue!"

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