



History

Great Explorers



Who Was Christopher Columbus?





Aim

- I can find out more about Christopher Columbus.

Success Criteria

- I can write about the experiences of Christopher Columbus, in a poster or message in a bottle.
- I can answer questions correctly about Christopher Columbus.

What difference can you see?

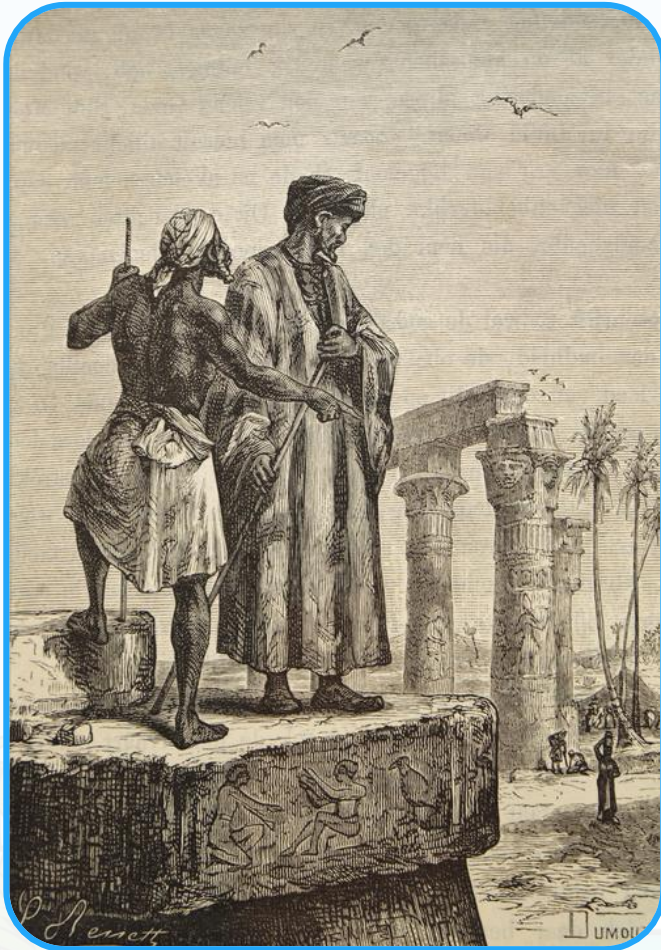


Photo courtesy of León Benett and Sebastiano del Piombo [Public domain], via Wikimedia Commons

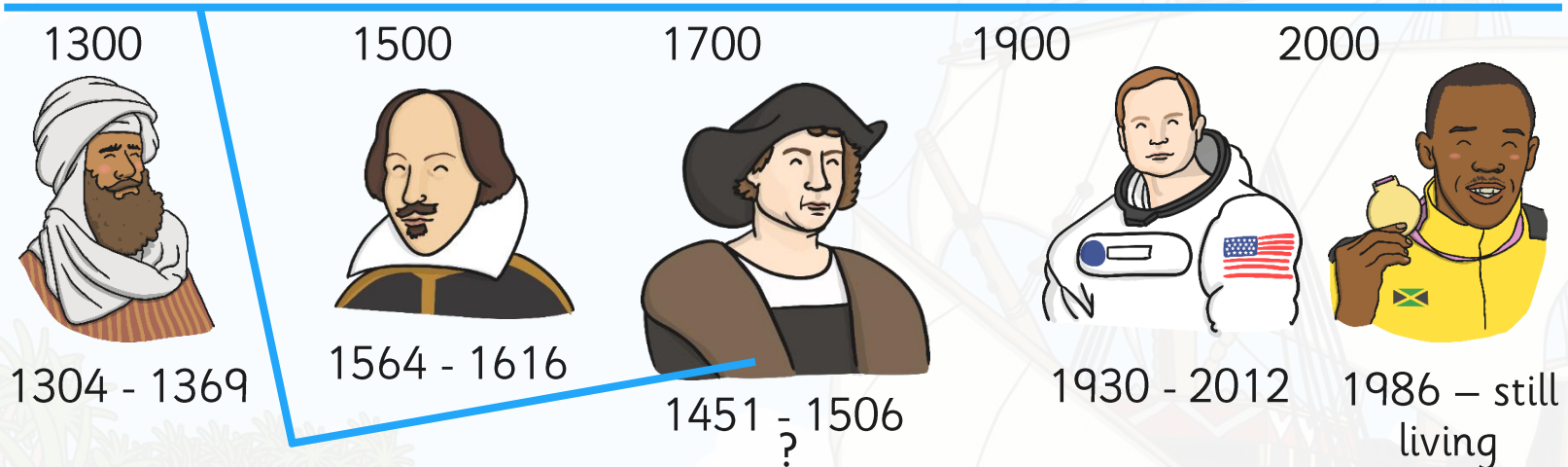
When did Christopher Columbus live?



When do you think Columbus lived? Where does he fit on the timeline?

The Tudors
(1485 – 1603)

The Victorians
(1837 – 1901)



When did Christopher Columbus live?



Christopher Columbus was born in **1451 in Italy**. His father was a wool merchant. He was born into a time period called the **Renaissance**. Lots of people were building new ships to explore different parts of the world. Columbus's first trip on the sea was when he was **13 years old**.



What did Christopher Columbus do?



Christopher Columbus lived at a time when people in Europe did not know that the continents of North or South America existed!

- Christopher Columbus learnt to sail in a wooden ship with sails.
- He learnt to find the way at sea by using the stars and the sun.
- He went to live in Portugal and sold maps with his brothers.
- He had a dream to travel west and go to China.



What did Christopher Columbus do?



To follow his dream, Christopher Columbus need money, so the King and Queen of Spain gave him money to buy ships. He set sail on 3rd August 1492 with three ships.

Life on the Ships

The men had no cabins to sleep in, so everyone had to sleep on deck. The ships let water in all the time, and the men had to work pumps to keep the ships afloat!

They were on a voyage into the unknown, they did not know where they would land.

How would you feel about this?



Setting Sail

- Christopher Columbus used a compass to help him find his way.
- The trip took them longer than expected and they got a bit scared.
- They could find no land, all they could see was ocean.
- They were running out of food and water.
- After 36 days, one man spotted an island, it was in the Bahamas.



Close your eyes and imagine; how would you feel at sea all day?
How would you feel when you finally saw land?

Christopher Columbus's Discoveries

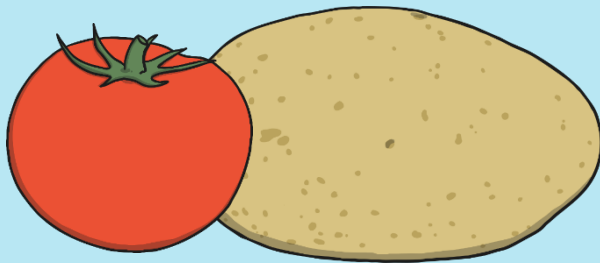


Christopher Columbus sailed onto Cuba and discovered new lands. They called it The New World.

Native Americans lived on the islands, but Christopher Columbus called them Indians because he thought he had landed in the 'Indies'.

Interesting Facts

- Christopher Columbus's biggest ship was less than 23m long.
- Before Christopher Columbus had been to America, no one in Europe had ever tried a tomato or potato before.
- The sailors ate stew made from salt, meat and bones.



Christopher Columbus's Big Problem!

On Christmas night of 1492, one of his ships hit a reef and it damaged the ship beyond repair. He took the other two ships home, leaving 40 men behind. He took some Native Americans home with him. He went back to collect his other men, but they were all dead when he got there.



What happened to Christopher Columbus?

- Christopher Columbus sailed to America in 1502 for the fourth time, still hoping he would get to China.
- Instead, he ended up in Central America.
- His ships had holes in them so he had to wait a whole year to sail home.
- When he got home he was very ill and he died in 1506.



What happened to Christopher Columbus?

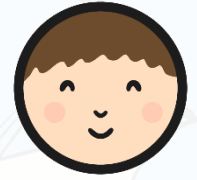
It is important to note that Christopher Columbus did not discover America, but he started regular contact between Europe and America.

The Vikings had landed in America 500 years before (Christopher Columbus did not know this).



Message in a Bottle

What experiences did Columbus and his sailors encounter?



Imagine you are Columbus returning from your first voyage.

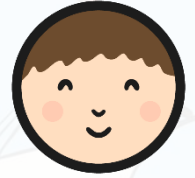
- How would you be feeling?
- What have you discovered?
- What were the conditions on the ship?

On his return to Spain following his first voyage to the New World, Columbus's ship entered a severe storm. He threw a report of what they had discovered as a message to the Queen of Spain in a sealed bottle that he threw into the sea. In fact, Columbus survived and the message was never found.

What do you think he wrote in that message?



Christopher Columbus



What have we found out about Christopher Columbus?

- What was Christopher Columbus famous for?
- What country did he want to visit?
- What countries did he actually find?
- Who gave Columbus the money to go on his voyage?
- What things did he bring back to Europe?



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