

# Christopher Columbus

By: Mrs. Francek

Hi, my name is Christopher Columbus. I was an explorer for the country of Spain. It was very difficult for me to get a country to agree to finance an expedition. First I asked the King of Portugal. I explained that I wanted to travel west across the Atlantic to find a quick route to the Indies. He did not like the idea and turned me down. Then I presented my idea to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. They didn't agree right away, but after 6 years they said that they would give me 3 ships, a crew, and supplies to give my theory a try. I don't think they believed I would be successful, but I would show them!

I set sail on our adventure on August 3, 1492. The crew was very worried. We sailed for a very long time with not a sight of land. The crew almost mutinied! They wanted to turn the ships around, but I convinced them that they should just give it a few more days. Fortunately for me, land was spotted on October 12, 1492. We had done it! We made it to the Indies (or so I thought). When we saw the people, they were definitely different. We gave them some trinkets and they gave us some food and spears. I was really excited when I saw that they had gold jewelry. Unfortunately we never really found enough gold to take back to Spain. To prove that we had made our discovery, we took some of the Indians back to Spain instead. I was going to give them to the king and queen for use as slaves.

When we arrived back in Spain, the king and queen were very surprised. They were pretty excited about my discoveries, and decided a second voyage would be necessary. I went again, this time with 17 ships. Also, other countries like France and England wanted to send out expeditions because they were afraid Spain was going to become too rich and powerful. After my expedition, there were all sorts of explorers exploring. They even found out that what I had thought was the Indies was, in fact, a New World! Now everyone wanted to get their explorers out there to claim land.

I guess I am a pretty famous guy in history. I have heard there is even a holiday in the United States called Columbus Day!