

The Life Of Christopher Columbus

1451

1453

Christopher's Youth...

1473

Columbus wanted to become a sailor. He spent his time around the docks listening to stories told by the sailors. He read books about adventurers such as Marco Polo. He studied maps and learned how to make them.

Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy.

Overland trade routes to the East are closed.

Columbus was born to Susanna and Domenico Colombo. His father was a master weaver, but Columbus didn't want to follow this trade. He loved the sea.

After capturing Constantinople, the Turks closed the overland trade routes to the Eastern Countries. Explorers began trying to find water routes to the East.

Columbus became a sailor.

Columbus repeatedly asked the monarchs of Spain and Portugal to finance his expedition.

1476

While in Portugal...

He married Felipa Perestrello, the daughter of a well-to-do family. They had a son who they named Diego.

Columbus ran a store where he sold maps. He worked on ships developing his skills as a sailor and navigator. He also sailed with the Portuguese trading fleet, going as far as Ireland And Iceland.

At this time, people were looking for a fast ocean route to the East Indies, where silks, spices, and other items to trade could be found. Columbus believed that sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean would be the shortest route. He began to form a plan for making such a trip.

Columbus arrived in Portugal.

1484

1485

1486

1488

Columbus tried to convince King John of Portugal to pay for his voyage. The king said, "NO."

Columbus went to Spain to ask Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand to finance his adventure.

After waiting for a year, Columbus finally met with the King and Queen. They refused to help him

Columbus' second request for money from King John of Portugal was refused.

1490

1491

1492

1493

Columbus returned to Father Perez, a Spanish monk, encouraged the Spanish monarchs to reconsider Columbus' plan. He was fearful that Columbus would gain support from France and Spain would be the loser.

The First Voyage of Columbus
 Early in the year, the war with the Moors ended. Finally King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella agreed to finance the voyage.

August 3
 Columbus' three ships, the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria, loaded with food, water, weapons, and trinkets to trade, sailed west into the open sea. Columbus was sure he would soon prove that there was a direct western route from Europe to the East Indies.

October 12
 Columbus and his three ships finally reached land. Columbus named the land San Salvador and called the natives Indians. He thought he had reached the East Indies. They sailed from island to island, finding many interesting sights, but no gold. He sailed to Cuba and Hispaniola (Haiti). On Hispaniola, he found natives with gold. Columbus was very excited.

In January, Columbus sailed back to Spain with the Nina and the Pinta. The Santa Maria had sunk running onto a coral reef. He left 39 men behind to build a fort.

Second Voyage of Columbus
 In June, Columbus left Spain with many ships and thousands of men. Finding the men he had left in Hispaniola were dead, he sailed east to find a site for a new colony.

1495

1498

1500

1502

1503

1504

1506

Columbus explores the West Indies.

Third Voyage of Columbus

Columbus was arrested and returned to Spain.

Fourth Voyage of Columbus

Columbus faced misfortune.

Columbus returned to Spain.

Christopher Columbus died in Valladolid, Spain.

Columbus sailed to Puerto Rico, Dominica, and Jamaica. Finding no gold, Columbus again returned to Spain.

Columbus sailed to Trinidad along the northern coast of South America. When he reached Hispaniola, he found the Spaniards ready to revolt. Columbus tried unsuccessfully to govern the settlement.

A representative from Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand arrived, arrested Columbus, and returned him to Spain. Columbus was freed when he reached Spain.

King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella gave Columbus one last chance. He sailed to Central and South America.

Due to illness and the poor condition of his ships, they only made it to Jamaica.

After a year in Jamaica, a ship from Spain finally arrived. Columbus returned to Spain ill and exhausted. Back in Spain, Columbus learned of Queen Isabella's death.

He was still hoping to make another trip when he died on May 20.