

Christopher Columbus

Mini-Book

Directions:

1. Cut along the dotted lines.
Do **not** cut off the gray tabs.
2. Draw detailed pictures to show what happens on each page.
3. Color your pictures.
4. Stack your pages in the correct order and staple along the gray tab.
5. Use information from the mini-book to answer the questions on the question sheet.

The Story of Christopher Columbus



Name: _____

①

②

In 1451, Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy. He had many brothers and sisters. His family did not have a lot of money.

When Columbus was a young man, he worked on ships. He sailed around the Mediterranean Sea. Once he tried to sail to England, but he got shipwrecked in Portugal.

③

In 1486, Columbus met Queen Isabella of Spain. He told her that he wanted to sail west across the Atlantic to find the East Indies in Asia.

There were lots of expensive spices and gold in Asia. Columbus promised to bring them back for the queen if she would help pay for his ships and crew. He also promised to claim new lands for Spain.

④

Queen Isabella purchased three ships for Columbus. He named them the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa María*. Columbus hired about 90 sailors to help with the voyage.

The *Santa María* was larger than the other two ships. This is the one Columbus chose to sail himself.

⑤

Columbus and his crew sailed across the Atlantic Ocean. The voyage was long and frightening for the sailors. They were at sea for 70 days.

⑥

On October 12, 1492, Columbus and his crew saw land! They had landed on an island and met friendly Native Americans. Columbus believed he had sailed around the world to the East Indies. He did not know that he had discovered a whole new part of the world.

7

While exploring the islands of the New World, the *Santa María* struck a reef and was badly damaged. It could no longer be sailed. There wasn't enough space in the two small ships for all 90 sailors to return to Spain.

The crew took the *Santa María* apart and used the lumber to build a fort. The fort provided the crew a safe place to live in the New World.

8

Some of the sailors stayed in the New World and formed a new community. Columbus and the rest of the crew sailed the *Niña* and the *Pinta* back to Spain.

Columbus was excited to tell Queen Isabella about the land and the people he had found.

9

When he returned to Spain, Columbus did not have gold or spices to give the queen. Instead, he brought back things from the New World that people in Europe had never seen before.

He presented the queen with pineapples, turkeys, tobacco, and hammocks. He even brought back some Native American people.

10

Columbus made three more trips to the New World before he died in 1506.

Today, people in the United States remember Columbus with a national holiday. Columbus Day is celebrated each year on the second Monday in October.

Name: _____

The Story of
Christopher Columbus
Mini-Book Questions



1. Where was Christopher Columbus born?

2. Why did Queen Isabella agree to help pay for Columbus' voyage?

- a. She wanted to see new places.
- b. She wanted to get rid of Columbus.
- c. She wanted gold and spices.
- d. She wanted Columbus to explore America.

3. How long was Columbus and his crew at sea before they spotted land?

4. Why did some sailors stay in the New World?

- a. They wanted to live with the Native Americans.
- b. They did not want to live in Spain any longer.
- c. The Santa Maria could not sail back because it was damaged.
- d. Columbus was angry at them and left them.

5. What did Columbus bring back from the New World to show Queen Isabella?

6. Why do you think Americans celebrate Columbus Day in October?

- a. Columbus' birthday was in October.
- b. Columbus first came to America in October.
- c. Columbus died in October.
- d. Columbus' favorite holiday was Halloween.

ANSWER KEY

The Story of **Christopher Columbus** Mini-Book Questions



1. Where was Christopher Columbus born?

Genoa, Italy

2. Why did Queen Isabella agree to help pay for Columbus' voyage? **c**

- a. She wanted to see new places.
- b. She wanted to get rid of Columbus.
- c. She wanted gold and spices.
- d. She wanted Columbus to explore America.

3. How long was Columbus and his crew at sea before they spotted land?

70 Days

4. Why did some sailors stay in the New World? **c**

- a. They wanted to live with the Native Americans.
- b. They did not want to live in Spain any longer.
- c. The Santa Maria could not sail back because it was damaged.
- d. Columbus was angry at them and left them.

5. What did Columbus bring back from the New World to show Queen Isabella?

pineapples, turkeys, tobacco, hammocks, and Native Americans

6. Why do you think Americans celebrate Columbus Day in October? **b**

- a. Columbus' birthday was in October.
- b. Columbus first came to America in October.
- c. Columbus died in October.
- d. Columbus' favorite holiday was Halloween.