

Columbus: Admiral of the Ocean Name: _____ Prd: ____ Score: ____ /15

Directions: **Destaque a resposta no texto na esquerda.**

By 1460, **Prince Henry's** seamen had sailed more than 1/3rd of the way across the Atlantic Ocean. They had traveled south more than 1,500 miles, but it was not until 28 years *after* Henry's death that a Portuguese captain made the most important trip. In 1488, **Bartholomew Diaz** reaching the southern tip of Africa ~ *thus proving that there was an all-water route to East Asia.*

His discovery was a triumph for the Portuguese, but disappointed a 37-year-old Genoese sailor named **Christopher Columbus**. He had come to Portugal in 1488 with a different plan.

Christopher Columbus had first explained his idea to the Portuguese in 1484. He called his plan the "**Enterprise of the Indies.**" The plan was simple but startling at the same time.

Columbus believed, as did most educated Europeans, that the world was round. If so, he argued, there was no need to sail south around the tip of Africa to reach East Asia. *All one had to do was sail west ~ across the Atlantic.*

Columbus did not simply argue that such a voyage was possible; he actually thought it would be shorter than the trip around the southern edge of Africa. He estimated the distance between the Canary Islands & the coast of China to be about 3,550 nautical miles. That was several hundred miles less than the distance between the Cape Verde Islands & Africa's southern tip.

Columbus had, of course, made 2 huge errors. First, the *actual* distance between the Canary Islands & the Chinese coast is about 11,700 miles, nearly three times as far as Columbus calculated. Second, the trip can not be made in a direct line by sea. Two vast continents stand in the way ~ North & South America. Columbus *never* dreamed they existed!

Prince Henry the Navigator



Diaz's expedition



T or F: Most educated people of the 15th century believed that the world was flat.

Columbus argued that **East Asia** would be **(longer than / shorter than / the same as** (circle 1 ↑) **the trip around Africa's southern coast.**



Christopher Columbus ↑

What 2 calculated errors did Columbus make?

1) _____

2) _____

What was so startling about Columbus' plan? It was neither his arithmetic nor his logic. His suggestion that ships could reach the East by sailing west wasn't surprising, either. The Greek **Aristotle** had probably suggested that idea 1,800 years earlier. Even some Europeans had discussed it much more recently than that.

What *was* startling about Columbus' plan was his determination to make such a voyage himself. Columbus was a devout Christian, & he believed that God had selected him for the task. It did not matter to Columbus that he had never commanded a ship at sea. He had plenty of seafaring experience to guide him.

But first, he needed backing & financing. He needed ships, equipment & a crew. He tried to get such backing from the Portuguese. Then he asked for backing from **Spain's Queen Isabella**. But in 1488, the Diaz voyage gave Portugal an all-water route to the riches of the East. The Portuguese did not need nor want another one. So, Columbus went back to Isabella once more. She had listened to his plan seriously, & now she was his greatest hope.

Isabella had at least two reasons for backing Columbus. First, she envied Portugal's success at sea & wanted similar success for Spain. Second, she was a devout Christian & saw in Columbus' plan a way of competing with the spread of Islam by getting new territory. *Yet* she had already committed most of her money & energy to driving the Moors from Spain.

So, Columbus waited. He followed Isabella & her court on many of their travels. All along, he hoped that the queen would see him again. Then, early in 1492, he learned that the queen had finally turned down his idea. Furious, he left the Spanish court & headed for France.

Just then, one of the queen's attendants argued Columbus' case to her. The courtier predicted that the plan would bring Isabella great gains *for very little risk*.



Applying past knowledge: **Aristotle** was one of **Greece's great** _____. (Remember Alexander's teacher?)

- a. mathematicians c. astronomers
b. sailors d. philosophers

Why did Columbus feel so determined to make this voyage? _____

Hail to the Queen!
Oh! That's me!



Why would Queen Isabella ↑ want to finance Columbus' expedition?

- 1) _____
- _____
- 2) _____
- _____

Applying past knowledge: **Who** also failed to drive the Moors from Spain?

- a. Charlemagne c. Lorenzo Medici
b. King Arthur d. Pope Julius II



He also said that he could raise some of the money for the trip himself. This time, the queen agreed, & Columbus returned to her court. He was to be granted the titles he wanted: "Viceroy of the Indies" & "Admiral of the Ocean Sea." At this time, much of the Atlantic was known as the Ocean Sea.

In the spring of 1492, Columbus' "Enterprise of the Indies" got under way. Columbus located 3 ships. They were the flagship, the *Santa Maria*, & two smaller vessels, the *Pinta* & the *Niña*. By midsummer he had gathered a crew of 90 men & stocked the ships with food. Shortly before dawn on August 3rd, 1492, the small fleet sailed from Palos, Spain. It stopped briefly at the Canary Islands off the coast of Africa. Then, on September 9th, the voyage began...*it was a voyage that would change the world!*

Crossing the Atlantic took 33 days. The three small ships had clear sailing all the way, but as the crew traveled farther into uncharted waters, they became more restless. Twice, sailors thought they spotted land...both times their sightings turned out to be false. Near the end of the crossing, there were open threats of mutiny on the ships!

Then, on October 11th, sticks, branches & land plants appeared in the water. At 10 o'clock that evening Columbus thought he saw a distant light. Four hours later a lookout on the *Pinta* spotted a sand cliff ~ or something like it. The cry went up in Spanish, "Tierra!" (or land.) The *Niña*, *Pinta*, & *Santa Maria* had arrived in the New World!

The land they were approaching was one of the Bahama Islands ~ probably the one called Wailing Island today. But Columbus thought he had reached the Indies ~ the islands to the south of Asia. He went ashore on October 12th & claimed the island in the name of **Ferdinand & Isabella**. He named the island **San Salvador** & called the people he met there **Indians**.



I. _____ 'Enterprise of the Indies

A. began organizing voyage spring of _____

1. 3 ships

a. _____

b. _____

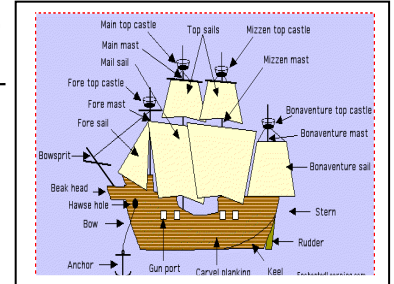
c. _____

2. crew of _____ (#) men

3. stocked ship with food

B. set sail on _____

(what date?)



What is a mutiny? _____

(Don't know? LOOK it up in the dictionary!!!)

Drawing conclusions: What did signs of sticks, branches & plants in the water suggest to sailors at sea?

a. pollution

c. land

b. Atlantis

d. flora

In Spanish, the word tierra means _____!

BONUS: October 12th is now *honored* each year as _____.

Drawing conclusions: Why would Columbus claim the island in the name of Ferdinand & Isabella instead of himself? _____

Having reached what he *thought* were the Indies, Columbus assumed that Japan could not be far away. From Japan, it would be only a short distance to China. Columbus now set out in search of both places by sailing around the Caribbean Sea. Instead of Japan or China, however, he found two large islands. They were Cuba & Hispaniola (now occupied by Haiti & the Dominican Republic.)

At Hispaniola, the Santa Maria ran aground. Columbus abandoned the ship, but left a colony of 38 crew members on the island & set sail for home. With him he took 6 Indian captives to be baptized in the Christian faith. He also took the hope that the lands he had "discovered" might yield gold.

On March 15th, 1493, the Nina sailed triumphantly into Palos harbor in Spain. From there, Columbus traveled to Barcelona to be welcomed by Ferdinand & Isabella. They celebrated his achievement with a mass in the royal chapel. Columbus had reached the high point of his career...

But, his career was far from over. Columbus returned to the Americas three more times. On his third voyage, he reached the mouth of the Orinoco River at the eastern edge of South America. He decided that the Orinoco must be a great river of Asia. Then he returned to Hispaniola, failing to explore the area.

Columbus died at the age of 54, still thinking that he had found a way to East Asia. It *never* occurred to him that land stood in the way. Partly for this reason, history played a cruel trick on him. The Americas were *not* named after Columbus, but after an Italian seaman, **Amerigo Vespucci**.

Instead of finding East Asia, Columbus found _____ & _____ ~
2 islands in the Atlantic Ocean.



Making inferences: Besides discovering new sea routes, **what else** was Columbus also **intending to do?**

- find gold
- spread Christianity
- both a & b
- neither a or b; he *only* wanted spices in the Indies

Columbus before Queen Isabella & King Ferdinand ↓



Ironically, America was actually named after

_____ ↓
not Christopher Columbus.

