

WORLD HISTORY READERS

Level 3-0

Christopher Columbus

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Seed
Learning



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For Review Only

The World in the Year 1451

This is the story of a famous explorer named Christopher Columbus.

He was born in the year 1451. In those days, people who lived in the known world did not know that the continents of North and South America existed. They were a long way away—across a great ocean.

Many native people lived in the Americas at that time. But they did not know about the rest of the world because they could not cross the ocean either.



Map of the known world made in 1482



Spices from the Far East were used for cooking.

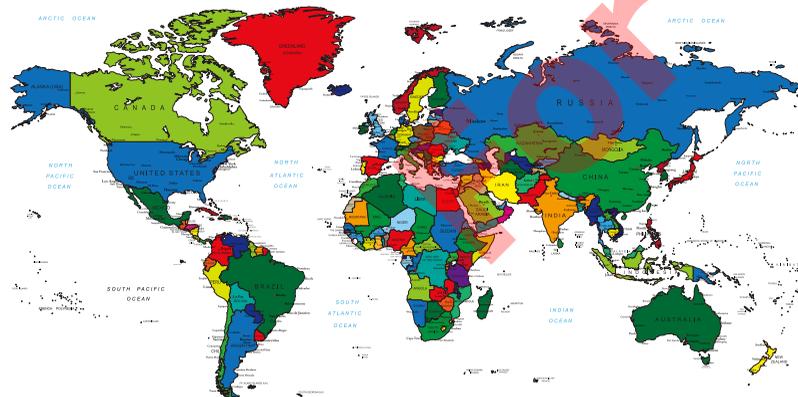
People in Europe left to explore the world. They wanted to trade with other countries who had goods to sell that they could not get at home.

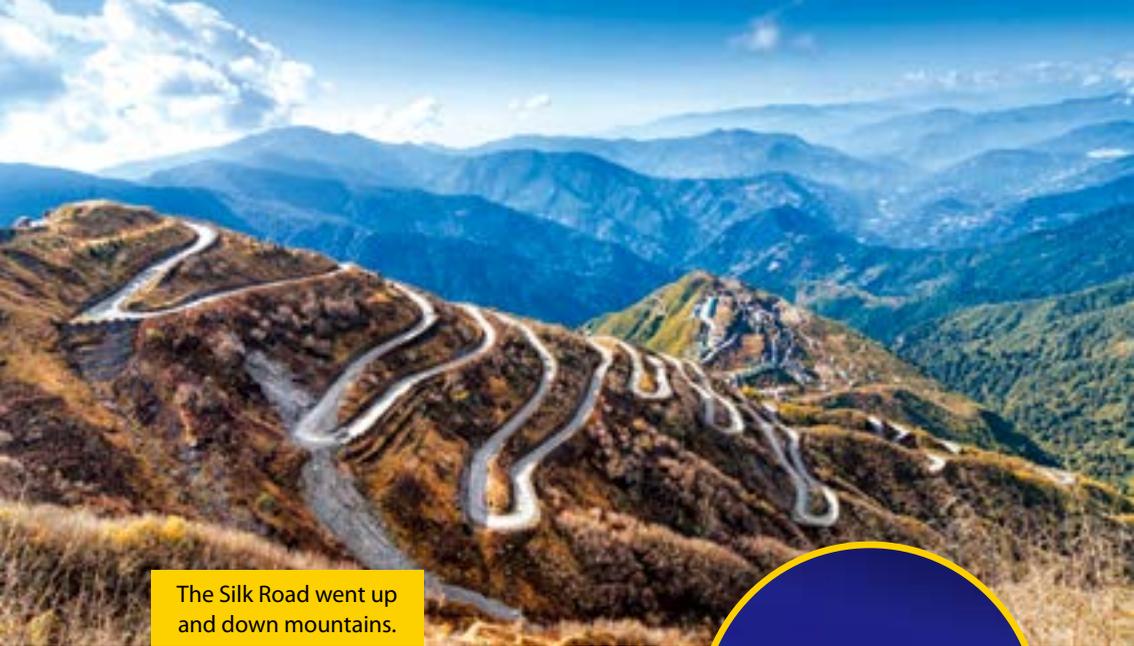
They especially wanted to trade with Asian countries to the East, like India, China, and the East Indies. These countries had silk, spices, and other goods to sell.



Silk was a material that was only made in China.

Modern-day map of the world





The Silk Road went up and down mountains.

One way to get to Asia was to travel overland along a route called the Silk Road. It was a long and difficult journey. It went up and down mountains. It crossed deserts and rivers. It was dangerous.



It crossed deserts.

Some people tried to get to Asia by sea. They went east by ship. But to do that, they had to sail all the way around the bottom of Africa, which took many months.



Europeans wanted to find a better way to get to Asia.

Columbus and His Big Plan

Columbus was born in a city called Genoa in Italy. He went to sea when he was a teenager and learned all about sailing and navigating a ship. It was a dangerous life, and he had all sorts of adventures.

Columbus dreamed that one day he would be the one to find a better way to get to Asia. He also dreamed of the riches this would bring him. He thought to himself, "Why don't I go west across the Atlantic Ocean?"



Christopher Columbus



This is the room where Columbus planned his journey.



Columbus asked the king and queen of Spain for money for the trip.

Knowing that the earth was round, Columbus thought of sailing west instead of east. He thought that he could sail all the way around the world to Asia. He did not know that there was a big continent in the way. Nobody had discovered the Americas yet.

Some people laughed and said it could not be done. They thought the earth was too big—the ocean was too big.

Columbus planned his journey carefully. But he did not have enough money for the journey. He had to find financial help.

Twice, he asked the king of Portugal to give him the money, but he was denied both times.

It took years for Columbus to find financial help. In 1492, the king and queen of Spain agreed to give him the money. They thought that if he found a better way to Asia, it would bring them great wealth from the trade that it would bring to their country.

Comprehension Questions

- Europeans wanted to go to Asia ...
 - to go on holiday.
 - to trade for goods.
 - to discover new places.
 - to fight a war.
- The Silk Road was ...
 - a dangerous journey.
 - a quick route to Asia.
 - a road made of silk.
 - a route across the ocean.
- Columbus planned to sail west to find ...
 - Spain.
 - Africa.
 - America.
 - Asia.
- A ship's log is a ...
 - record of its journey.
 - a piece of wood.
 - a part of a ship.
 - a nice thing to eat.
- Columbus thought he had landed in ...
 - the Bahamas.
 - North America.
 - South America.
 - the East Indies.
- Columbus's math was wrong because he thought the earth ...
 - was flat.
 - was smaller than it is.
 - went the wrong way.
 - was very large.
- Columbus called the people he found Indians because he thought ...
 - he was in India.
 - he was in Indiana.
 - it was a good name.
 - he was in the East Indies.
- He got money to buy ships from the ...
 - king of England.
 - king of Portugal.
 - king and queen of Spain.
 - emperor of China.
- Where did Columbus NOT set foot?
 - South America
 - Islands in the Bahamas
 - North America
 - Cuba
- Which is true about Columbus?
 - He saw monsters in the sea.
 - He crossed the Atlantic Ocean more than once.
 - He became very rich.
 - He sailed with 5 ships.

Glossary

- **captain** the leader of a ship
- **continent** one of the seven main areas of land on the earth, such as Asia, Africa, or North America
- **deny** to not allow someone to have or do something
- **discover** to find something new
- **financial** relating to money
- **set foot on** to enter; to go into; to walk on
- **ship's log** a daily record of the events on a ship while traveling
- **monster** an imaginary creature that is scary
- **native** being from that place originally
- **navigate** to find the right direction to travel by using maps or other devices
- **overland** (to travel) by land, not sea
- **spice** something made from a plant that is added to food to change the taste
- **succeed** to be able to do what you wanted to do
- **trade** to buy and sell goods
- **voyage** a long journey, often by ship