

## THE SPANISH Sea Explorers from Spain

By 1492, Spanish forces had captured Granada, the last stronghold of the Muslims in Spain. Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand had secured their power and were eager to start trade with Asia to increase their wealth. An Italian explorer from Genoa, Italy named Christopher Columbus had a plan to reach Asia by sailing west. This was a 'crazy' idea because people still believed that the world was \_\_\_\_\_.



### CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS:

- born in Genoa, Italy in 1451
- his family were sailors and he travelled a lot as a young child
- he read a lot of books especially, those from Marco Polo
- he studied Ptolemy's Geography of the world and he was convinced that the world was a globe, NOT flat and he wanted to prove this

### THE GLOBE SHAPE:



- people did not believe him
- Columbus calculated that according to Ptolemy's views, the earth was approximately 30,000 kilometres in circumference.
- He was only off by 8500 km!
- They did not know about North and South America

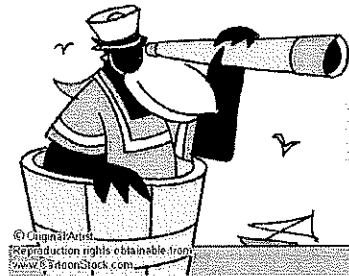
Columbus had been asking the King of Portugal to help finance his trip across the Atlantic for years, but he was only interested in Dias and Da Gama. So, Columbus looked to others to sponsor him: England turned him down, but the Spanish Royal family decided to give him a chance.

In 1492, Ferdinand and Isabella gave Columbus permission and three ships to cross the Atlantic in search of Asia. Columbus would get 10% of any profits found.

## COLUMBUS'S VOYAGE:

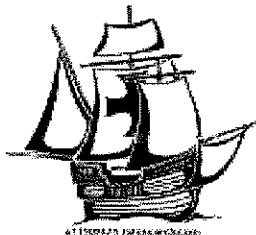
Columbus first sailed to the Canary Islands and then travelled west along the twenty-eighth parallel across the Atlantic in to 'no man's land'. It took him about a month and on several occasions, he had to beg his crew and the other captain's to keep going. They were nervous and wanted to turn back...

Finally, Columbus promised that if no land was found in three more days, they would turn around and head home. On the third day, just as they were about to turn home, the lookout spotted land- the island of San Salvador in the Caribbean!



## ARRIVAL IN THE NEW WORLD:

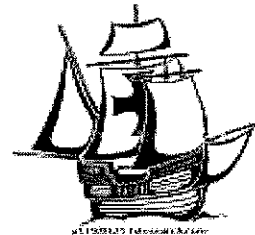
When they arrived on the island, they were shocked to see people living there. The inhabitants of the island were also in shock to see these new strangers arrive in a never before seen sea craft. They made contact and traded goods before Columbus moved on sailing westward. He actually ran his boat into a coral reef and ruined it and the locals helped him and treated Columbus well.



*Nina*



*Pinta*



*Santa Maria*

Columbus returned home in 1493. He had **kidnapped** 12 people from the Island to take home, but all 12 died on the voyage back. He made several more trips to the new lands he had discovered but had not found the **gold and treasure** he was expecting.

Instead, Columbus became a **slave trader** sending out his men to hunt and capture the people who had originally helped and welcomed him. He also set up a colony in the New World and was a very bad ruler. He was **brutal and ruthless** and killed anyone who didn't agree with him. Eventually his own people arrested him, put him in chains, and returned him to Spain. He died bitter and poor in 1506.

*Crossing of Christopher Columbus*

**Atlantic Ocean Map**

