

336. Christopher Columbus and the discovery of America

Things to think about - KS2 - PDFs only

Set Two - Things to Think About - 59 (A4) sheets.

low quality samples only

Leif Erikson

There is a Viking saga about Leif Erikson, son of Eric the Red, who explored Greenland. He was said to have been blown off course on a voyage in AD 1000, and accidentally found Newfoundland, Labrador and Nova Scotia. He called the land, Vinland. Today it is called America.

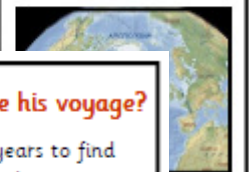


Leif Erikson



Icelandic Sailors

Vikings from Scandinavia were the first to settle in Iceland in 870. Between AD 1000 and 1492, sailors from Iceland may have visited the North American coast to get timber.



Portuguese Sailors

During their explorations, Portuguese ships stumbled upon America. Goncalo Fernandes is said to have landed on Hispaniola in 1462.



In Columbus' time, there was a rumour about a Portuguese ship that had struggled into the port of Madeira in 1477. It's dying navigator told of a great storm that had carried his ship across the Atlantic to new lands. When he died, all his charts fell into the hands of another mariner. That mariner was Christopher Columbus.

The NORTHMEN



How did Columbus finance his voyage?

Columbus tried for many years to find someone who would finance his voyage. Many of those who could have given him money didn't do so because they thought that the ocean was too large to cross. Some people simply thought his plans were wrong.

His ideas were rejected by the Portuguese King in 1488 and also by the Spanish, French and English kings. It seemed that everyone would reject his ideas.

Finally he was called before Queen Isabella of Spain. Soon after that, the King and Queen decided to finance his voyage. Queen Isabella wanted to spread Christianity and King Ferdinand wanted wealth and glory.

It was agreed that Columbus could govern any lands he found and could keep one tenth of any riches, the rest would belong to Spain.

