

336. Christopher Columbus and the discovery of America

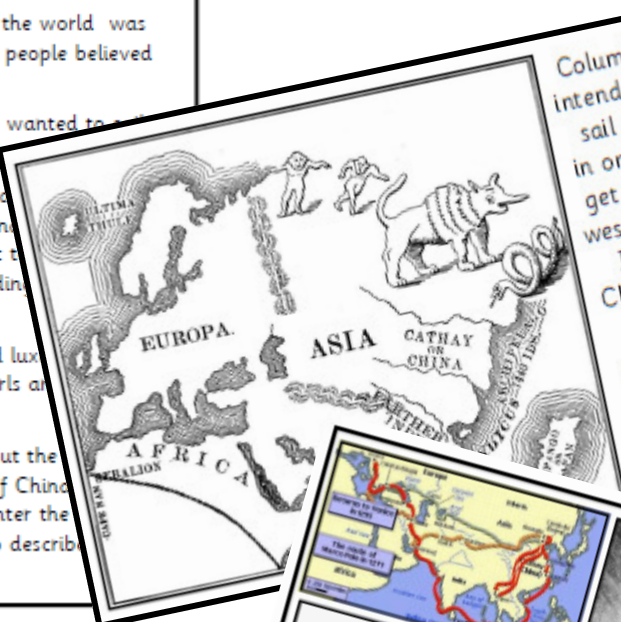
Things to think about - KS2 - PDFs only

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

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Why did Columbus make his voyage?

- Columbus believed that the world was round, not flat as many people believed at that time.
- It is said that Columbus wanted to reach the Indies in order to reach the spices and luxuries, including Japan and Cipangu (China).



Columbus intended to sail east in order to get to the west where India, China and Japan promised untold riches.

Why did Columbus make his voyage?
There was rivalry between Spain and Portugal.

Portugal had been given permission by the Pope to explore all lands south of the Canary Islands. To the Portuguese, this meant looking for a route to the Indies via the coast of Africa. The navigator Bartholomew Dias reached what he thought was the southern-most point of Africa in 1488 and, in 1498, Vasco da Gama reached India via Dias' route.



The Voyage of Bartholomew Dias 1487—1488



The Voyage of Vasco da Gama 1497—1499

Why did Columbus make his voyage?
Columbus had personal reasons. Columbus came from ordinary, humble origins. He wanted to better himself.

In January 1492, after Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain finally agreed to help him, Columbus demanded that in return for his voyage, he would be knighted and appointed Grand Admiral and Viceroy. He also demanded that these titles should remain in his family forever.

Columbus also demanded to receive one tenth of all the riches that resulted from the new routes or lands he found.



The Voyages of Marco Polo in the 13th century, inspired Columbus and many others.



Columbus explaining his plans to the King and Queen of Spain.



Columbus with the King and Queen at the start of his voyage.