



# Columbus's Trip

**OBJECTIVE:** Read to learn how Columbus and his crew reached land after a long trip.

**STANDARDS:** Social Studies (NCSS): Time, continuity, and change; People, places, and environments; Science, technology, and society

**“There were no refrigerators back then to keep food fresh!”**

## BEFORE READING

### Build Background

**Give children basic facts about Columbus.**

Invite children to share anything they may have heard about Christopher Columbus, his famous ocean trip, or Columbus Day. Then provide information to help children better understand the mini book: “Columbus was an explorer who lived a very long time ago. He traveled around the world on a ship looking for new places. Today, we will learn about his most-famous trip.”

## DURING READING

### Infer

**Use the story clues on page 5 to help children make inferences.**

After reading the text on page 5, point to the illustration of the branch. Ask, “Where can we find branches?” (*on trees*) “Where do you usually see trees: in the water or on the ground?” (*on the ground*) “Why did the branch mean land might be near?” (*It came from a tree, and trees grow on land.*) You can help children make another inference on page 6: A light in the darkness can be a sign that people are nearby—and people usually live on land!

## AFTER READING

### Identify Genre

**Introduce the features of biography.**

Turn back to page 1 and point out the *My Mini Biography* logo. Ask, “What is a biography?” Explain that a biography tells the story of a real person’s life. Ask, “If this mini book is a biography, who is it about?” (*Christopher Columbus*) Then explain that *mini* is another word for *little*. So, what makes this a mini biography? It tells only part of one event! (It’s also small in size.)

## READ-ALoud BACKGROUND

### Columbus's Big Trip

- Columbus and the other sailors started their trip on August 3, 1492. They reached land on October 12. The trip lasted 70 days! You can imagine why the sailors were getting tired of being on the ship.
- Altogether, there were 90 sailors on three ships: the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*. Columbus himself was on the *Santa Maria*.
- The trip was hard for the sailors. They had a lot of work to do. They had to clean the ship, make sure it was going the right way, and keep looking out for land.
- The sailors couldn’t bring much food on the trip. There were no refrigerators back then to keep food fresh! Columbus could bring only dried-out or salted foods that would not go bad on a long trip.
- So why did Columbus want to go to San Salvador? He didn’t want to go there! He landed there by mistake. Columbus was trying to get to Asia. He thought he would find gold there. But America was in Columbus’s way!
- Getting to America was a surprise for Columbus. People from his part of the world did not know it was there. When they found out, they called it the “New World.”
- It was not new to everyone, though. When Columbus landed on the island, people were already living on it. These people were called the **Taino** (tah-ee-no).

### About Columbus Day

- Columbus Day is always on the second Monday of October.
- Some people take a day off from work to celebrate Columbus Day, and some children get the day off from school. Many towns have parades with marching bands and floats.