



Columbus's Trip

OBJECTIVE: Read to learn how Columbus and his crew reached San Salvador after the long voyage from Spain.

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

“They couldn’t bring much food. 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

Identify the features of biography.

Turn back to page 1 and point out the *My Mini Biography* logo. Ask, “What is a biography?” (*the true story of someone’s life*) Ask, “If this mini book is a biography, who is it about?” (*Christopher Columbus*) Remind children that a biography usually tells the most important events of the person’s life. Then ask, “How can you tell this mini book is a biography?” (*It’s a true story from someone’s life.*)

READ-ALoud BACKGROUND

Columbus & Crew in 1492

- Columbus and his sailors began their trip on August 3, 1492. They finally reached San Salvador on October 12. The trip lasted 70 days!
- Columbus brought along 90 sailors, and they traveled on three ships: the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa Maria*. Columbus himself sailed on the *Santa Maria*.
- The voyage was tough on the sailors, because they didn’t have much food and they had a lot of work to do. They had to clean the ship, steer it in the right direction, and stay on the lookout for land.
- They 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? Actually, he didn’t! He landed there by accident. Columbus was trying to find a quicker way to Asia to get gold and spices. But he ran into America on the way!
- America was a surprise for Columbus. The people from his part of the world didn’t know it existed. They called Columbus’s discovery the “New World.” It wasn’t new to everyone, though. When Columbus landed on the island, people called the **Taino** (tah-ee-no) were already living there.

Celebrating Columbus Day

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