
Christopher Columbus

Christopher Columbus dreamed of sailing across the ocean. He read the stories of Marco Polo. He too wanted to visit Asia. He hoped to find gold, spices, and other treasures.

In 1492, Columbus's dream came true. He sailed from Spain with 90 men and three ships. The names of his ships were the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.

Columbus and his men left Spain on August 3, 1492. Columbus thought he would reach Asia in five weeks. But the men sailed for more than two months and did not see land. Many wanted to give up and go home.

Then, on October 12, 1492, a sailor saw something. "Land! Land!" he cried.

Columbus and his men landed on an island. They named the island San Salvador.

The people of the island were the Taino. They were very friendly. They shared their food. They fed the sailors mangoes, yams, bread, and fish. They also gave the men parrots and gold pieces. Columbus thought he had reached India. So he called these people "Indians."

Columbus was wrong. He was not in India or any other part of Asia. Instead, he had found a New World.

Questions

1. What was Columbus's dream? _____

2. What did he hope to find? _____

3. What did the Taino give Columbus and his men?

4. What gifts would you give a visitor to your country?

