

Christopher Columbus was born in Italy in 1451. He was the first European since the Vikings to sail across the Atlantic Ocean to America. Columbus was sure that he could sail west to find a new route to the spice ports of the „Indies“ (Asia). King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain paid him to make his voyage.



In 1492, Columbus set sail with three sailing ships. After 36 days the crew sighted land, in the Bahamas. The local people were amazed to see the strangers. Columbus called the local people Indians, for he believed he had reached the Indies. In fact, he had discovered a new world – America.

amaze: erstaunen
believe: glauben
crew: Mannschaft
discover: entdecken
in fact: in Wirklichkeit
port: Hafen

reach: erreichen
sail: segeln, Schiff fahren
set sail: Segel setzen
sight: sichten
spice: Gewürz
stranger: Fremder

sure: sicher, überzeugt
voyage: Seereise
(journey: Reise auf dem Land)
(trip: Reise, umgangssprachlich)

Answer the questions:

1. When was Columbus born?... *In 1451*
2. What nationality was he?
3. Was he a Viking?
4. Why did he want to sail west?
5. Who gave him the money?
6. How many ships were there under his command?
7. When did he leave Spain?
8. How old was he when he left Spain?
9. How long did the crossing of the Ocean take?
10. What was the first land they saw?
11. How did Columbus name the local people?
12. Was the new land named after Columbus?

Translate:

1. Kolumbus wurde in Italien geboren.
2. Er wollte eine neue Route nach Indien finden.
3. Er hatte drei kleine Segelschiffe.
4. Die Leute waren erstaunt, die Fremden zu sehen.
5. Er nannte sie Indianer
6. Er hatte eine neue Welt entdeckt