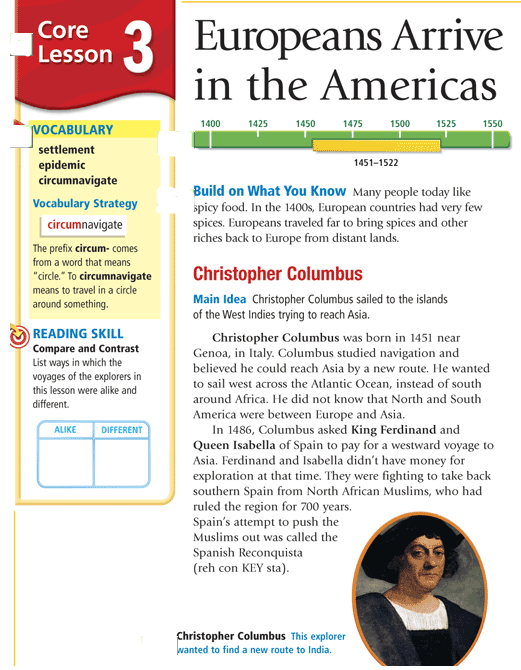
 

www.loc.gov

* Title: Landing of Columbus
* Date Created/Published: [between 1860 and 1880]
* Medium: 1 print : lithograph, hand-colored.
* Title: The triumph of Christopher Columbus
* Date Created/Published: [no date recorded on shelflist card]
* Medium: 1 print.



*Page 96 from Houghton Mifflin 4th Grade Social Studies Textbook*

* "**Christopher Columbus.**" *Britannica School.* Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 2013. Web. 30 Jul. 2013. <<http://school.eb.com.proxygsu-scob.galileo.usg.edu/levels/middle/article/352985>>.

"Christopher Columbus." Britannica School. Encyclopædia Britannica, Inc., 2013. Web. 30 Jul. 2013. <http://school.eb.com.proxygsu-scob.galileo.usg.edu/levels/middle/article/352985>.

Christopher Columbus opened the world of the Americas to his fellow Europeans. Europeans called Vikings had reached the [Americas](http://school.eb.com.proxygsu-scob.galileo.usg.edu/levels/middle/article/352742) hundreds of years before Columbus first arrived there in 1492. However, the Vikings did not establish long-lasting settlements. Columbus explored the area and brought back more Europeans with him on later trips. Columbus’ voyages therefore had many more lasting effects.

Columbus began an unstoppable wave of European settlement in the Americas. This settlement brought European culture to the Western Hemisphere. It also brought great hardship to the [Native Americans](http://school.eb.com.proxygsu-scob.galileo.usg.edu/levels/middle/article/353288) there. They suffered from diseases brought by the Europeans. They were also enslaved and forced to mine gold for the Europeans.

# Early Life

Cristoforo Colombo was born in Genoa, Italy, in 1451. He is known as Christopher Columbus to English-speaking people. He was the son of a weaver and had little schooling.

In about 1476 Columbus settled in Portugal. In the 1480s he started planning a voyage to discover a sea route to Asia. Europeans were eager for Asian goods. However, these goods were costly because they had to be brought to Europe over a dangerous land route. Columbus knew that Earth was round. He thought that Asia must lie to the west, across the Atlantic Ocean.

The Portuguese king refused to pay for Columbus’ voyage. Columbus then turned to [King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella](http://school.eb.com.proxygsu-scob.galileo.usg.edu/levels/middle/article/353119) of the Spanish kingdoms of Aragon and Castile. In January 1492 they agreed to support the expedition. They provided three ships: the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the *Santa María*.

# First Voyage

On August 3, 1492, the ships set sail. On October 12, Columbus reached the Bahamas, an island group east of Florida. He thought he had reached the East Indies in Asia. Columbus therefore called the islanders Indians.

Columbus reached Cuba on October 29. On December 6 he reached the island of Hispaniola. He built a fort on the island and left some men there. In January he returned to Spain. He took with him parrots, plants, gold, cloth, and several Native Americans.  
  
**Later Voyages**

Ferdinand and Isabella were pleased with Columbus and his discoveries. They soon sent him back for a second trip. On his second voyage, from 1493 to 1496, Columbus had 17 ships and about 1,300 men. He found that the men he had left behind on Hispaniola had been killed. He then started a new colony and [explored](http://school.eb.com.proxygsu-scob.galileo.usg.edu/levels/middle/article/390587) island coasts. He left his brothers in charge of the new colony when he returned to Spain.

On the third voyage, from 1498 to 1500, Columbus explored the Caribbean coast of South America. During this time, many people in the Hispaniola colony became angry with the rule of Columbus and his brothers. They complained to Spanish authorities. Columbus was eventually arrested and sent back to Spain in chains.

Upon his return, however, he was freed. He convinced Ferdinand and Isabella that he would find them treasures if he was allowed to return to the Americas. Columbus’ last trip started in 1502. He explored the Central American coast but lost all four of his ships. He had to be rescued.  
  
**Last Years**

Columbus returned to Spain in November 1504. He died on May 20, 1506. Until his death he remained convinced that he had reached Asia.

**Excerpt from a letter written by Christopher Columbus to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, 1493**

Available at <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/documents/documents_p2.cfm?doc=193>

....The people of this island [Hispaniola] and of all the other islands which I have found and seen, … all go naked, men and women…. They have no iron or steel or weapons, nor are they capable of using them, although they are well-built people of handsome stature, because they are wondrous timid. They have no other arms than the arms of canes, …and they dare not make use of these, for oftentimes it has happened that I have sent ashore two or three men to some town to have speech, and people without number have come out to them, as soon as they saw them coming, they fled; even a father would not stay for his son; and this was not because wrong had been done to anyone; on the contrary, at every point where I have been and have been able to have speech, I have given them of all that I had, such as cloth and many other things, without receiving anything for it; but they are like that, timid beyond cure. It is true that after they have been reassured and have lost this fear, they are so artless and so free with all they possess, that no one would believe it without having seen it. Of anything they have, if you ask them for it, they never say no; rather they invite the person to share it, and show as much love as if they were giving their hearts; and whether the thing be of value or of small price, at once they are content with whatever little thing of whatever kind may be given to them. I forbade that they should be given things so worthless as pieces of broken crockery and broken glass, and lace points, although when they were able to get them, they thought they had the best jewel in the world.... And they know neither sect nor idolatry, with the exception that all believe that the source of all power and goodness is in the sky, and in this belief they everywhere received me, after they had overcome their fear. And this does not result from their being ignorant (for they are of a very keen intelligence and men who navigate all those seas…), but because they have never seen people clothed or ships like ours.

**Excerpts from Columbus’ Journal, 1492**

Available at <http://www.digitalhistory.uh.edu/documents/documents_p2.cfm?doc=194>

Sunday, 14th of October

...these people are very simple as regards the use of arms, as your Highnesses will see from the seven that I caused to be taken, to bring home and learn our language and return; unless your Highnesses should order them all to be brought to Castile, or to be kept as captives on the same island; for with fifty men they can all be subjugated and made to do what is required of them....

Sunday, 16th of December

...your Highnesses may believe that this island (Hispaniola), and all the others, are as much yours as Castile. Here there is only wanting a settlement and the order to the people to do what is required. For I, with the force I have under me, which is not large, could march over all these islands without opposition. I have seen only three sailors land, without wishing to do harm, and a multitude of Indians fled before them. They have no arms, and are without warlike instincts; they all go naked, and are so timid that a thousand would not stand before three of our men. So that they are good to be ordered about, to work and sow, and do all that may be necessary, and to build towns, and they should be taught to go about clothed and to adopt our customs.

