

Christopher Columbus Fact File

Early Life

His father was a wool merchant. He was born into a time period called the Renaissance. Lots of people were building new ships to explore different parts of the world. Columbus's first trip on the sea was when he was 13 years old. He learnt how to sail on a wooden boat with sails.

Why is Columbus Significant?

Christopher Columbus is significant because he was a famous explorer. He sailed from Europe to America in 1492 along with his sailors across the Atlantic Ocean, not knowing where they would land. This was a voyage into the unknown.

He had a dream to travel west and go to China. To follow his dream, he needed money, so the King and Queen of Spain gave him money to buy ships. He set sail on 3rd August 1492 with three ships.

Columbus used a compass to help him find his way. After 36 days, one man spotted an island, it was in the Bahamas. They sailed onto Cuba and discovered new lands. They called it The New World.

Born

Before 31 October 1451
Genoa, Italy

Died

20th May 1506 (aged 54)
Valladolid, Spain

Interesting Fact

Christopher Columbus did not discover America, the Vikings from Europe had already landed in America 500 years before.

