

## COLUMBUS EASY READING

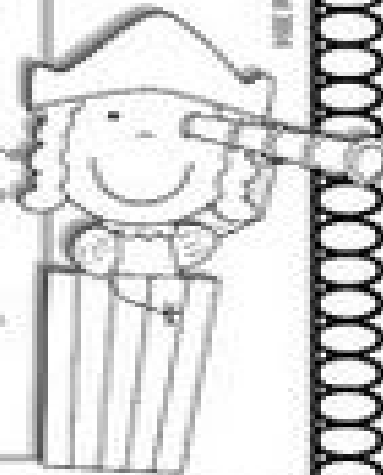
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# Columbus' First Voyage

After receiving significant funding from the Spanish monarchs, Columbus set sail on August 3, 1492 with three ships, the Pinta, Niña, and Santa Maria, and 104 men. After short stop at the Canary Islands to resupply and make minor repairs, the ships set out across the Atlantic. The voyage took five weeks - much longer than Columbus expected, as he thought the world was smaller than it is. During the time, many of the crew members contracted diseases and died, or died from hunger and thirst.

Finally, at 2 a.m. on October 12, 1492, Rodrigo de Triana, sighted land in area of the present-day Bahamas. When Columbus reached the land, he believed it was an Asian island and named it San Salvador. Because he did not find riches, Columbus decided to continue sailing in search of China. Instead, he ended up visiting Cuba and Hispaniola.

On November 21, 1492, the Pinta and its crew left to explore on its own. Then on Christmas Day, Columbus' Santa Maria wrecked off the coast of Hispaniola. Because there was limited space on the lone Niña, Columbus had to leave about 40 men behind at a fort they named Navidad. Soon after, Columbus set sail for Spain, where he arrived on March 5, 1493, completing his first voyage west.



1492, November 12