

Name : _____ Date : _____

A Long Journey Across the Sea

More than 500 years ago, Christopher Columbus dreamed of finding a new way to travel to Asia. At that time, many people traveled by land or around Africa, but Columbus believed sailing west would be faster.

King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain agreed to help him. They gave Columbus three ships for his journey. The sailors spent many weeks crossing the Atlantic Ocean. Some became tired and worried because they could only see water every day.

One morning, a sailor shouted, "Land!" Everyone was excited. Columbus and his crew went ashore and explored the islands in the Caribbean. Columbus thought he had reached Asia, but he was mistaken.

Today, Columbus's voyage is an important part of history. People also learn about the Native peoples who had already lived in the Americas for thousands of years before Columbus arrived.

QUESTIONS:

- What was Columbus hoping to find? _____
- Who helped pay for Columbus's voyage? _____
- How did the sailors feel after many weeks at sea? _____
- What did the sailor shout one morning? _____
- Where did Columbus and his crew explore? _____
- Did Columbus know where he really was? _____
- Who had already lived in the Americas before Columbus arrived? _____
- What do people learn about today? _____