



TEACHING GUIDE

Columbus Day (October 13, 2025)

What? Columbus Day is a holiday celebrated in the United States to commemorate Christopher Columbus' voyage and the discovery of the American continent in 1492.

Who? Christopher Columbus, an Italian navigator in the service of Spain. He wanted to reach Asia from the west, but instead he reached the Caribbean islands... and America.

Where? Christopher Columbus landed in the Bahamas, then in Cuba and Hispaniola (now Haiti and the Dominican Republic).

When? His first voyage took place in 1492. Columbus Day is celebrated every second Monday in October—in 2025, it will be October 13.

Why is it important? Because this voyage marked the beginning of the Age of Exploration, but it also serves as a reminder of the consequences of colonization for indigenous peoples.

For this activity, your goal will be to learn more about Christopher Columbus and his discovery of America.



OBJECTIVES

- Connect mathematics to history.
- Compare different historical perspectives.
- Develop critical thinking and respect for cultures.
- Reflect on historical heritage in today's world



SUBJECTS

- **Mathematics.** Students use calculations of distance, speed, and duration.
- **History.** Students explore different historical perspectives to reflect on the consequences of the encounter.
- **Geography.** Students discover the link between a modern place and its historical past.



COMPETENCIES

- Reason using mathematical concepts.
- Interpret historical facts and perspectives.
- Make connections between the past and the present.
- Develop critical thinking and ethical judgment.



DURATION

- Around 45 minutes



GETTING STARTED

- Read a short illustrated text or watch a simple video clip introducing Christopher Columbus, his dream of finding a new route to Asia, and his crossing of the Atlantic in 1492.
- Ask students: "How do you think people reacted to his arrival?" "Do you think everyone saw this event in the same way?" "
- Allow for a few spontaneous responses.
- Show a map of the world at that time and a current map to compare the worldview before and after his voyages.



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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

STEP 1 – Calculations at sea. Mathematical calculations related to Christopher Columbus' voyage: (speed, average speed, proportionality, conversion, and estimation).

Answers

- **Q1** - Nearly 93 kilometers (68 miles) per day
- **Q2** - 300 kilometers (186 miles)
- **Q3** - 3,510 nautical miles
- **Q4** - 9.3 kilometers/hour (6.8 miles/hour)
- **Q5** - Between 10 and 11 days

STEP 2 – Two visions of America. Awareness of the consequences of exchanges between Europeans and Americans through a video and questions to answer.

Answers

- **Q6** - The Tainos, the Caribs, and also The Mayans, the Incas, the Aztecs (and many other peoples).
- **Q7** - The Vikings
- **Q8** - Yes! The populations of America were decimated by diseases transmitted by Europeans.
- **Q9** - Ferdinand of Aragon and Isabella of Castile.

STEP 3 – Cities and states. Explore the city of Columbus, Ohio using Google Maps.

Answers

- **Q10** – There are two flags around the dome.
- **Q11** – There are three doors at the museum entrance.
- **Q12** – St. Joseph's Cathedral is located at the corner of East Broad Street and North 5th Street.



TO WRAP UP

- Review the main discoveries: what we learned from Christopher Columbus' voyage.
- Ask the child to say in one sentence what surprised them most about these historical events.
- Remind them together why great explorations are not just a question of distance, but also of encounters between peoples and legacies that still mark our world today.



FURTHER EXPLORATIONS

-  *Christopher Columbus, Young Explorer.* Aladdin Editor.
-  “Christopher Columbus for Kids | Learn about his life and what actually happened on his adventures”. *Learn Bright*
(<https://youtu.be/AHA9zvogjc0?si=kCOkDHVPNKkeNZEx>)

