

**Christopher Columbus was born in Italy in 1451. He was the first European since the Vikings to sail across the Atlantic Ocean to America. Columbus was sure that he could sail west to find a new route to the spice ports of the „Indies“(Asia). King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain paid him to make his voyage.**



**In 1492, Columbus set sail with three sailing ships. After 36 days the crew sighted land, in the Bahamas. The local people were amazed to see the strangers. Columbus called the local people Indians, for he believed he had reached the Indies. In fact, he had discovered a new world – America.**

**amaze:** étonner  
**believe:** croire  
**crew:** équipage, équipe  
**discover:** découvrir  
**in fact:** en fait

**reach:** atteindre  
**sail:** naviguer (à voile)  
**set sail:** hisser la voile  
**sight:** vue  
**spice:** épice

**stranger:** inconnu  
**sure:** sûr, certain  
**voyage:** voyage (en mer)  
 (journey: voyage sur les terres)  
 (trip: voyage court, excursion)

### Answer the questions:

1. When was Columbus born? *In 1451* .....
2. What nationality was he? .....
3. Was he a Viking?.....
4. Why did he want to sail west? .....
5. Who gave him the money?.....
6. How many ships were there under his command? .....
7. When did he leave Spain?.....
8. How old was he when he left Spain? .....
9. How long did the crossing of the Ocean take? .....
10. What was the first land they saw? .....
11. How did Columbus name the local people? .....
12. Was the new land named after Columbus? .....

### Translate:

1. Colomb est né en Italie .....
2. Il voulait trouver une nouvelle route pour les Indes. ....
3. Il avait trois petits bateaux à voile. ....
4. Les gens étaient étonnés de voir les inconnus. ....
5. Il les appela les Indiens.....
6. Il avait découvert un nouveau monde.....