

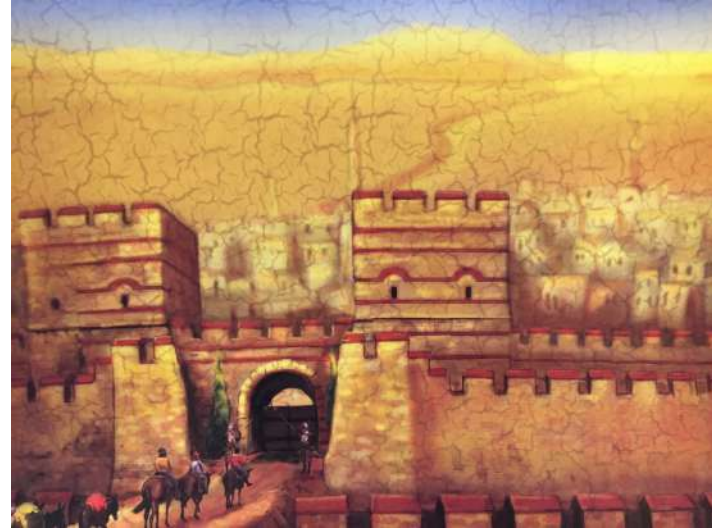
1492

Why did people from Europe want to travel to the Indies in Asia, 500 years ago? What kinds of things were people like the families of Giovanni and Sophia seeking?



1492

Europeans could not get to Asia by traveling east. Who remembers why they couldn't get to Asia by walking and by riding animals? Who can show us on the globe the land route.



# 1492

**To the tune of If You're Happy & You Know It:**

*Eastern Asia had a lot of gold and spice.  
Eastern Asia had a lot of gold and spice.  
But it was a distant land,  
Miles and miles across the sand.  
It was difficult to get the gold and spice.*





1492

Many European navigators suggested sailing by ship around Africa to get to the Indies. Who can point out the route around Africa and show us the continents of Europe, Africa and Asia?



1492

Columbus had a different idea than most navigators about getting to Asia. Instead of sailing east around Africa, what did he think would be the best route for traveling to the Indies?



1492

Can anyone use the globe and point out the route Columbus proposed? Be sure to identify the continent of Europe, and the area to the west. Remember that the continents that I have covered up had not yet been discovered by people from Europe in Columbus's time.





1492

*Columbus thought there was only ocean to the west. Columbus thought he could sail the ocean all around the globe to get to the Indies in Asia.*



1492

Traveling by ship 500 years ago was very difficult and very expensive.

Who were the richest people back then, the ones who had enough money to pay for the ships and sailors to sail the ships?





1492

Which king and queen, who at first refused to give Columbus the money to sail, finally agreed to help him?

Here is the second verse to the song we'll be learning sung to the tune of If You're Happy & You Know It.



1492

**Tune: If You're Happy & You Know It**

*Ferdinand and Isabella ruled in Spain.  
Ferdinand and Isabella ruled in Spain.  
Told Columbus he should wait,  
Then they said his plan was great.  
Ferdinand and Isabella ruled in Spain.*



1492

Eastern Asia had a lot of gold and spice.  
Eastern Asia had a lot of gold and spice.  
But it was a distant land,  
Miles and miles across the sand.  
It was difficult to get the gold and spice.

Ferdinand and Isabella ruled in Spain.  
Ferdinand and Isabella ruled in Spain.  
Told Columbus he should wait,  
Then they said his plan was great.  
Ferdinand and Isabella ruled in Spain.





# 1492

Even though Columbus now had the support of King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, his idea was very difficult for anybody to believe. It would be like us today trying to believe that daytime is dark and nighttime is bright and sunny. It just doesn't make any sense. Listen carefully to find out how the journey into the unknown turned out.



# 1492

The year was 1492, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella, as the rulers of Spain, provided Christopher Columbus with three ships. Rulers are kings and queens. Who were the rulers of Spain? Here the word ruler refers to the king or queen. A ruler is also the thing you use to measure how long something is.





# 1492

They gave him money to pay for crews or the men in the boat to sail them, plus food and water for the long voyage. Columbus was to sail his fleet westward to the Indies. There he would trade European goods for rare spices, gold, and other treasures that the king and queen desired.





1492

So Columbus and his crew, the sailors who sailed the three ships would take some supplies made in Europe to trade for the spices and gold they were seeking.



1492

Columbus's three ships had names: the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. Repeat the names after me: The Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. Can you find the smallest ship in the picture? That is the Nina.



1492

The middle sized one, the Pinta, was the fastest of the three. Columbus chose to sail on the largest ship, the 120 foot long Santa Maria, or Saint Mary. Proud of all three vessels, and wanting his voyage to succeed, he was determined to choose the best sailors that he could find in all of Spain.





1492

*This palace is what Columbus imagined he and his crew would see when they arrived in the Indies. Columbus was confident that he could attract the men he needed and convince them to go on the voyage.*



1492

You learned the word convinced in our last read aloud. What does the word convinced mean? True, he had to paint word pictures of warm, beautiful lands where gold and rare spices were so common that a person could hardly avoid tripping over them.





1492

He suggested, without actually promising, that his crew would return to Spain so rich that they could all live in grand homes and wear fine clothes. Another thing he told them was quite true: Queen Isabella had offered a huge cash reward, or a lot of money to the first person who sighted the Indies.





1492

Perhaps it was this offer that was most convincing of all to the sailors. One by one, Columbus found his men, and they agreed to join his expedition. An expedition is a group of people on a journey for a special reason. What convinced the sailors to go on the expedition?



# 1492

Notice how the crew takes little boats to get to the ships. At last everyone, and everything was ready. On August 3, 1492, the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria sailed out of their Spanish harbor bound for a possible fortune in the Indies. The sailors were proud and excited.





1492

*But when they passed the last familiar lands, the Canary Islands, and found themselves in open sea, out of sight of any land, their excitement began to turn to uncertainty, and then to fear. Columbus tried to calm their fears.*





1492

Both Columbus and the crew were feeling less safe the longer they sailed in the open sea. As days passed, and then weeks, Columbus's reassurance was no longer enough to keep the crew from becoming seriously frightened.



1492

What do you think they're afraid of? Remember that Columbus made his trip long, long ago. The sailors had no way to communicate or talk with anyone other than the other sailors on the ships.



1492

Days and days and long nights passed. The Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria had been sailing westward out at sea for weeks now. They had entered a part of the ocean in which long, thick seaweed covered the surface in every direction for as far as the eye could see.





1492

Has anyone ever seen seaweed at the beach? Seaweed is a plant that grows in the ocean.



1492

"This is a good sign," Columbus thought. Why do you think Columbus thinks that seaweed is a good sign? "It may mean we are nearing land."



1492

But then the winds died down to nearly nothing, and the sails hung lifelessly from the masts. The three ships crept forward, and sometimes stopped moving altogether. Each day was like the one before, and Columbus and the sailors wondered, "Will we ever get out of this seaweed?"





1492

Will the wind ever change and come back to us?" Why do the sailors want the wind to come back? Don't forget, there are no motors or engines on the ships to make them move. They can only move if the wind fills the sails of the ships.



1492

At last, after days and days, the wind picked up again and they sailed free of the clinging seaweed and back into the open sea. Still, the sailors worried, and they no longer bothered to hide their doubts from Columbus. "When will we find the lands you promised us?" they asked.



1492

*“Soon,” he told them, trying to look confident. “Soon we will get there.” But as he said this, Columbus too had his own doubts.*





1492

But the sailors were tired of sailing and were losing hope. They came to Columbus one day and begged him to turn the ships around. "Give me three more days," he said. "If we have not seen land by then, we will turn around."



1492

*But the days passed with no sign of progress.*

*Then on the third day, a sailor called out, "There is something floating in the water up ahead."*



1492

“Fish it up out of the water,  
Columbus ordered. Some sailors  
tossed a net over the side and drew  
up the object. “It is a stick!” cried  
one of the sailors. “It looks as if  
someone has carved its sides with a  
knife.”





1492

*"That must mean there's land ahead, and someone is living there," the others said excitedly. Why is a stick a sign of land?*



1492

The next day, several sailors saw branches with green leaves floating on the surface of the water. What's the third sign that they are getting close to land? Then the crews of all three ships saw a large flock of land birds flying overhead. "We must be getting close to land!" the men cried with great excitement.



1492

What's the fourth sign that they are getting close to land? The birds circled above as if examining the three ships, then turned back in the direction from which they had come. "Follow them," Columbus ordered. "The birds will lead us to land."





1492

Soon the salty sea breezes began to carry a new scent their way. "Could we be smelling the spices of Asia up ahead?" The sailors asked one another, growing more and more excited. But still they saw no land.



1492

On the evening of Thursday, October 11, Columbus ordered the ships to drop anchor, something they had not done on the entire voyage. An anchor is a heavy metal object thrown overboard to keep the ship from moving.



1492

*"If we really are close to land," he thought, "we might be carried by the current up against the shore in the darkness and never know until it's too late."*





1492

That night, walking the deck of the Santa Maria, he saw a light in the distance. "It is too far away to be coming from the Pinta," he thought, knowing that the ship was anchored farther ahead of his own. "And the light is too low in the sky to be a star. It must be a fire set by some human being on a shore up ahead!"



1492

The shore is the land at the edge of a body of water. How do you think Columbus will feel when he sees the shore? What's the fifth sign that they are getting close to land?





# 1492

A few hours later, in the early morning hours of October 12, 1492, Columbus heard the sound of a cannon. "It is coming from the Pinta," he thought. "They must have sighted land!" A cannon is a weapon that fires large metal balls at enemies and makes a loud noise when it's fired. Why do you think the Pinta fired its cannon? So which of the three ships saw land first?





# 1492

Waiting impatiently as the early light of dawn increased, he stared ahead until he saw what the sailors on board the Pinta had seen: a long, low shore on which the ocean waves were smoothly breaking. The men of the Pinta were cheering, and a moment later, cheering broke out aboard the Nina and the Santa Maria, too. So what finally happened on October 12, 1492?



# 1492

Dressing formally or nicely for the occasion, and carrying a long flag pole bearing the flag of Spain, Columbus and some of his men rowed over the waves in a small boat to the shore of this new land. Stepping out into the water, Columbus and the sailors stepped ashore. By his calculations, Columbus believed he had landed on the continent of Asia, in the Indies.





1492

*Then, he plunged the flagpole into the sandy shore and said, "On behalf of their majesties, I, Christopher Columbus, claim this land and all that is in it for Spain."*





1492

Comprehension Questions:

**Literal**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

In what year did Christopher Columbus sail  
on his first voyage?

1492

Comprehension Questions:

**Literal**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

The rulers of Spain--King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella--provided Columbus with three ships. What were their names?

1492

Comprehension Questions:

**Literal**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

On which ship did Columbus travel?



1492

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

After the men had been sailing for weeks, Columbus's ships slowed down. Why?



1492

Comprehension Questions:

**Literal**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

What five signs did they see that made them think they were getting close to land?

**Seaweed, carved stick, branches with leaves, land birds, light in distance**

1492

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

When Columbus knew they were approaching land, why did he command the ships to drop anchor?



1492

Comprehension Questions:

**Literal**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

On which continent and in which place did  
Columbus think he had landed?

1492

Comprehension Questions:

**Evaluative**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

When Columbus landed and thought he was in the Indies, he put the Spanish flag in the sand and said that the land would not belong to Spain. Why did he do that? What did Columbus hope to find in the Indies to bring back to Spain?

1492

Comprehension Questions:

**Inferential**

PLEASE answer in  
COMPLETE sentences.

Why is the title of the read aloud “1492”?  
Is that a long time ago, or not so long ago?



# **Word Work**

*Explicit Vocabulary Instruction*

1492

In the read aloud you heard, "It must be a fire set by some human being on the **shore** up ahead."

Say the word **shore** with me.

Whisper shore to the ceiling.

Whisper shore to your neighbor.

Let's clap it out.

1492

A **shore** is the land along the edge of a body of water.

If you are swimming in the ocean and you want to get out of the water onto the sand, you should swim toward the shore.



1492

Tell me about a time you saw a shore in real life  
or in a book. Use the word shore when you tell  
about it.

1492

What's the word we have been talking about?

Let's clap it out.

1492

*I am going to name an activity you might do. If it is an activity you would do at a shore, thumbs up.*



1492

*Make sand castles on the beach*

1492

*Use fingerpaints and paper to make a picture*

1492

*Stand on the sand throwing pebbles or shells into the water*



1492

*Run away from the waves back to land*

1492

*Build a snowman*

