**Christopher Columbus
(1451-1506)**

By Leo Rowell

Today we know what the World looks like and know about the many countries. But, thousands of years ago, people didn’t know all about the rest of the World. It was only when Explorer’s travelled to discover new places.

One of the most famous explorer’s was Christopher Columbus. Columbus was born over 500 years ago in Italy. At the age of just 13, he sailed on his first wooden sailing ship and learnt how to find the way at sea by using the tides, wind, sun and stars.

Years later, people from Europe wanted to buy and sell goods from the rich countries in the East, places like China and India.

The Indies were on the East side of the World and people thought the quickest way to sail there was by sailing East. However, Columbus knew the World was round and had brilliant map reading skills, and he thought it would be quicker if he sailed West. People thought he was wrong.

It would cost a lot of money to make this trip West. Columbus asked the King and Queen of Spain for money for the voyage. They gave him 3 ships to take on his voyage which each held 30 men. Christopher Columbus set sail on 3rd August 1492. They three ships were called: The Nina, The Pinta and the Santa Maria.

Using a compass, Columbus sailed West. After 36 days of sailing, they reached an Island that Columbus thought was the Indies, but he was wrong. He had found a part of the World new to the Europeans. Columbus named the Island “San Salvador”.

There were already people living on these islands. Spain sent soldiers to take over these new lands and they took people’s treasures from them, like Gold. The Native’s who lived on the America’s were treated cruelly and some taken as salves.

Columbus went back to The America’s four more times, trying to reach China, instead he ended up in South America.

Finding the continent of America was a huge discovery for European’s and that was all down to Christopher Columbus. Columbus became famous as the Explorer who found new lands called “The Americas”.