Christopher Columbus was born in what is now Italy about 1451. His father was a weaver. Columbus had three brothers who would join him later in travels.

As an adult, Columbus was a businessman who traded in goods from other countries. At that time, Europeans placed a high value on products from Asia, such as spices and silks. All the trade routes went east, since at the time no one believed that ships could reach Asia by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean. They thought it was too far across open water. No one in Europe knew about North America and South America.

Columbus thought differently. He convinced King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain to pay him to sail west to Asia. He began his voyage with three ships: the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria.

On October 12, 1492, after sailing for months, the sailors saw land. They thought it was Asia, but it was in fact The Bahamas in the Caribbean Sea of North America. He met the Native Americans who lived on the islands. He made several stops among the islands and then returned to Spain in 1493.

The Spanish king and queen were happy with the results of Columbus’ journey. They named him viceroy and governor of the Indies, which is what they called the new lands. Columbus would make three more trips to the New World to explore other areas of the Caribbean. He helped build permanent settlements there for Spain.

In 1506, Columbus died in Spain. The Western Hemisphere has honored Columbus in many ways. The country of Colombia in South America is named for him, as is Columbus, Ohio, the District of Columbia and the Columbia River. In October, many countries in the Western Hemisphere celebrate Columbus’ arrival in the New World as a holiday.

**Biography: Christopher Columbus**

**Christopher Columbus**

Fill in the blank with the correct answer.

What ocean did Columbus cross to reach the New World?

__________________________________________

Where was Columbus born?

__________________________________________

Who paid for Columbus’ trip to the New World?

__________________________________________

What year did Columbus arrive in the New World?

__________________________________________

**Double Scramble**

Unscramble each word and write the letters in the blocks. Use the letters in the circled blocks to make a word related to Christopher Columbus.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Word</th>
<th>Unscrambled</th>
<th>Circled letters</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ANIN</td>
<td>[ ] [ ] [ ]</td>
<td>__ __ __ __ __</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIS</td>
<td>[ ] [ ] [ ]</td>
<td>[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>COEA</td>
<td>[ ] [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]</td>
<td>__ __ __ __ __</td>
</tr>
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Unscrambled: __ __ __ __ __
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**Quiz Time**

Fill in the blank with the correct answer.

What ocean did Columbus cross to reach the New World?

---

**the Atlantic Ocean**

Where was Columbus born?

---

**Italy**

Who paid for Columbus’ trip to the New World?

---

**the King and Queen of Spain**

What year did Columbus arrive in the New World?

---

**1492**

**Double Scramble**

Unscramble each word and write the letters in the blocks. Use the letters in the circled blocks to make a word related to Christopher Columbus.

ANIN  N I N A

HISP   S H I P

CONEA  O C E A N

Circled letters:  I N S P A

Unscrambled:  S P A I N