

Name: _____

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Interdisciplinary Unit

Columbus lands in 1492

Christopher Columbus was born in Italy. Columbus knew the earth was round, and he wanted to find a shorter sea route to India by going west. He needed ships, men and money to make the long voyage. The King and Queen of Spain agreed to help him. They hoped he would find lots of gold, which would make their country rich.

They gave him three ships. They were the Santa Maria, the Nina and the Pinta. On 12th October 1492, the three ships arrived at an island which the Lucayan people called Guanahani. Life changed this day for the Lucayans. They had never seen anything like it before. They hid in the bushes and watched. Men with white faces landed on their island. Their bodies were covered with strange clothes. The Lucayans did not understand the men's words. Columbus planted a long pole with a flag on the beach. Then, he renamed the island san Salvador.

Shortly after, the Lucayans were taken away from their homes and their land by the Spanish people. A few years later, other Spanish ships came. They killed many Lucayans and made others their slaves. Soon very few Lucayans were left.

There is a statue of Christopher Columbus on the Government House Grounds. Government House is the Official residence of the Governor General of The Bahamas.

