

Name _____

The First Voyage of Columbus

In 1492, Columbus left Spain with three ships: the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa María. He believed the Earth was round and thought he could sail west to reach Asia. After over two months at sea, his crew saw land. They had reached an island in what is now called the Bahamas. Columbus called the people there “Indians” because he thought he had arrived in India. He returned to Spain with news of his discovery, and many people became interested in exploring the world.

Multiple Choice:

1. What were the names of Columbus's three ships?
a) Mayflower, Pinta, Liberty b) Niña, Pinta, Santa María
c) Nina, Vinta, Santa Monica d) Explorer, Freedom, Santa Clara
2. Why did Columbus call the people “Indians”?
a) He knew they were from India
b) He couldn't understand them
c) He thought he had landed in India
d) They told him that was their name
3. Where did Columbus actually land on his first voyage?
a) India b) Bahamas
c) China d) North America



Short Answer:

4. What happened when Columbus returned to Spain?
5. What does this passage suggest about how Columbus's trip affected other Europeans?
6. How long did it take Columbus and his crew to find land?
7. What mistake did Columbus make about the people he met?
8. Why do you think people were excited after hearing about Columbus's trip?