













# Great Explorers: Who Was Christopher Columbus?

<p><b>Aim:</b> To develop an awareness of the lives of significant individuals in the past who have contributed to national and international achievements in the context of finding out about the life and experiences of Christopher Columbus.</p>	<p><b>Success Criteria:</b> I can write about the experiences of Christopher Columbus, in a poster or message in a bottle. I can answer questions correctly about Christopher Columbus.</p>	<p><b>Resources:</b> <a href="#">Lesson Pack</a></p>
<p>I can find out more about Christopher Columbus.</p>	<p><b>Key/New Words:</b> Christopher Columbus, America, Cuba, The Bahamas, Native Americans, ship, sailor, voyage, deck, the Indies, The New World.</p>	<p><b>Preparation:</b> <a href="#">Message in a Bottle Writing Frames</a>, <a href="#">Poster Design Template</a> or <a href="#">Christopher Columbus Comprehension Sheet</a> as required.</p>

**Prior Learning:** It would be helpful for children to have already had some experience in ordering events in history and use vocabulary associated with the passage of time and chronology. It will also help if children have had the opportunity to look at a map of the world, and begun to find out about different countries of the world.

## Learning Sequence

	<p><b>What differences can you see?</b> Ask children to think, using talk partners, what differences they can spot between Ibn Battuta and Christopher Columbus. What do you notice that is different?</p>	
	<p><b>When did Christopher Columbus live? When do you think Columbus lived?</b> Show the timeline on the <a href="#">Lesson Presentation</a> that the children will remember from the previous lesson. Where do you think Columbus fits on the timeline? Consolidate vocabulary regarding before /after; year, century, and some eras such as Tudors, Victorians.</p>	
	<p><b>What did Christopher Columbus do?</b> Use a map of the world to show where America is and where Asia is (<i>this is where Columbus was aiming to go!</i>) Read through the information about Columbus, checking the children's understanding using the questions on the <a href="#">Lesson Presentation</a>.</p>	
	<p><b>What experiences did Columbus and his sailors encounter?</b> How would you be feeling? What would you see on your journey? What were the conditions on the ship? Explain the significance of Columbus using a message in a bottle, imagining the conditions on deck (e.g. ship letting in water, fear of dying in the storm, what they had discovered). Children use the <a href="#">Message in a Bottle Writing Frames</a> to do this themselves.</p> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <div data-bbox="213 1256 767 1368">  <p>Children could create a poster celebrating Columbus's departure to find new lands; using the <a href="#">Poster Design Template</a>.</p> </div> <div data-bbox="815 1256 1358 1368">  <p>Children could move onto using the <a href="#">Christopher Columbus Comprehension Sheet</a>, using laptops to conduct further research where possible.</p> </div> </div>	
	<p><b>What have we found out about Christopher Columbus?</b> Ask children to share some of their work with each other and discuss any similarities and differences between what they have chosen to write about in their bottle messages. The children who have completed comprehension questions about Christopher Columbus could share their answers and as a class check if they are correct, looking back at the <a href="#">Lesson Presentation</a>.</p> <p>Look for children who show good understanding of the experiences of Christopher Columbus, through their writing, drawing and answers to questions.</p>	

**Taskit**

**Playit:** There are great educational games about Columbus in the links below that the children could play at school or home:  
[BBC Primary History Columbus Walk](#)

**Researchit:** Children could research what happened after Columbus sailed to the Americas, by finding out about future explorers from Europe that sailed there as a result of Columbus's voyage.