

HISTORY



HEROES!

EXPLORERS

# Christopher COLUMBUS



DAMIAN HARVEY

Illustrated by MIKE PHILLIPS

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# CHAPTER 1

## Young Columbus

Christopher Columbus was born in 1451 in the busy Italian port of Genoa. His father was a wool merchant but Christopher didn't want to spend his life weaving wool. He wanted a life of adventure and excitement.



*And he wanted to be rich and famous.*

As soon as he was old enough, Columbus went to sea. He learned to sail and how to navigate by looking at the stars.

He travelled to Iceland, Ireland and England. But the seas were a dangerous place to be. There were terrible storms and fierce pirates.



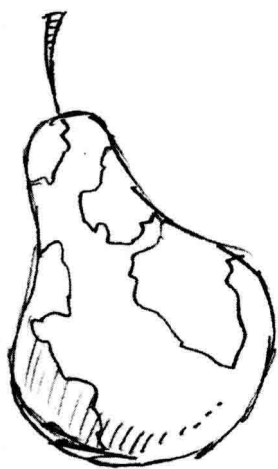




When he was 25, the ship Columbus was sailing on was sunk in battle. He held onto an oar and swam all the way back to shore.

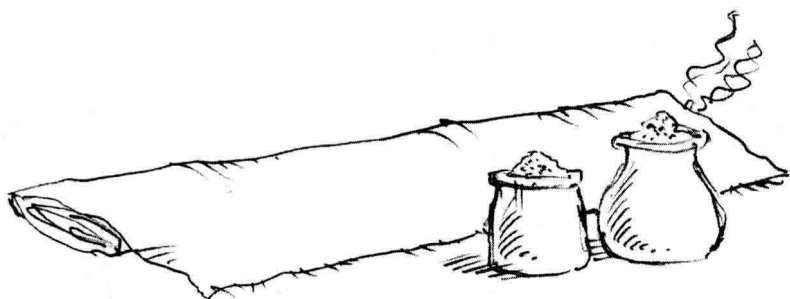
Columbus went to work in his brother's map shop and spent his time studying. He heard how some people thought the world was flat, like a pancake.



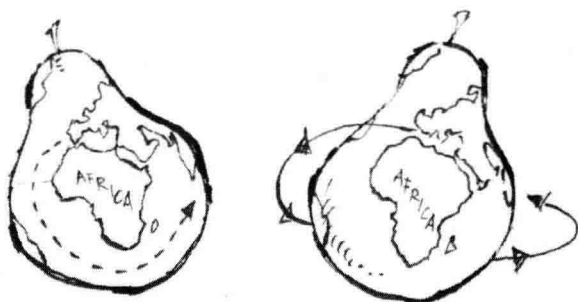


But Columbus knew this wasn't true. He was sure the world was shaped like a pear.

He also knew lots of money could be made by importing fine silk and rare spices from Eastern countries like India and China.



Columbus felt certain it would be quicker to sail West to India. Everyone else sailed East around the bottom of Africa, which was long and dangerous!



THERE MUST BE  
A QUICKER WAY TO  
GET TO INDIA?



“To prove it, I will need lots of money for ships and a crew.”



Columbus married a rich Portuguese noblewoman and they had a son called Diego.



Things didn't always go well for Columbus. He went to ask King John II of Portugal for money for his expedition.

“You must be mad,” said the King.



Then, not long after Diego was born, Columbus's wife died.



But he still didn't give up on his dreams of discovery...



He told King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain about his plans. "I will make you rich, and Spain will be even more powerful than before," he promised.





Ferdinand and Isabella were interested in Columbus's idea but they were busy fighting a religious war.



Columbus *still* didn't give up...

"I will bring you gold and jewels, if you make me Admiral of all the Oceans and the Governor of all the New Lands," he declared.