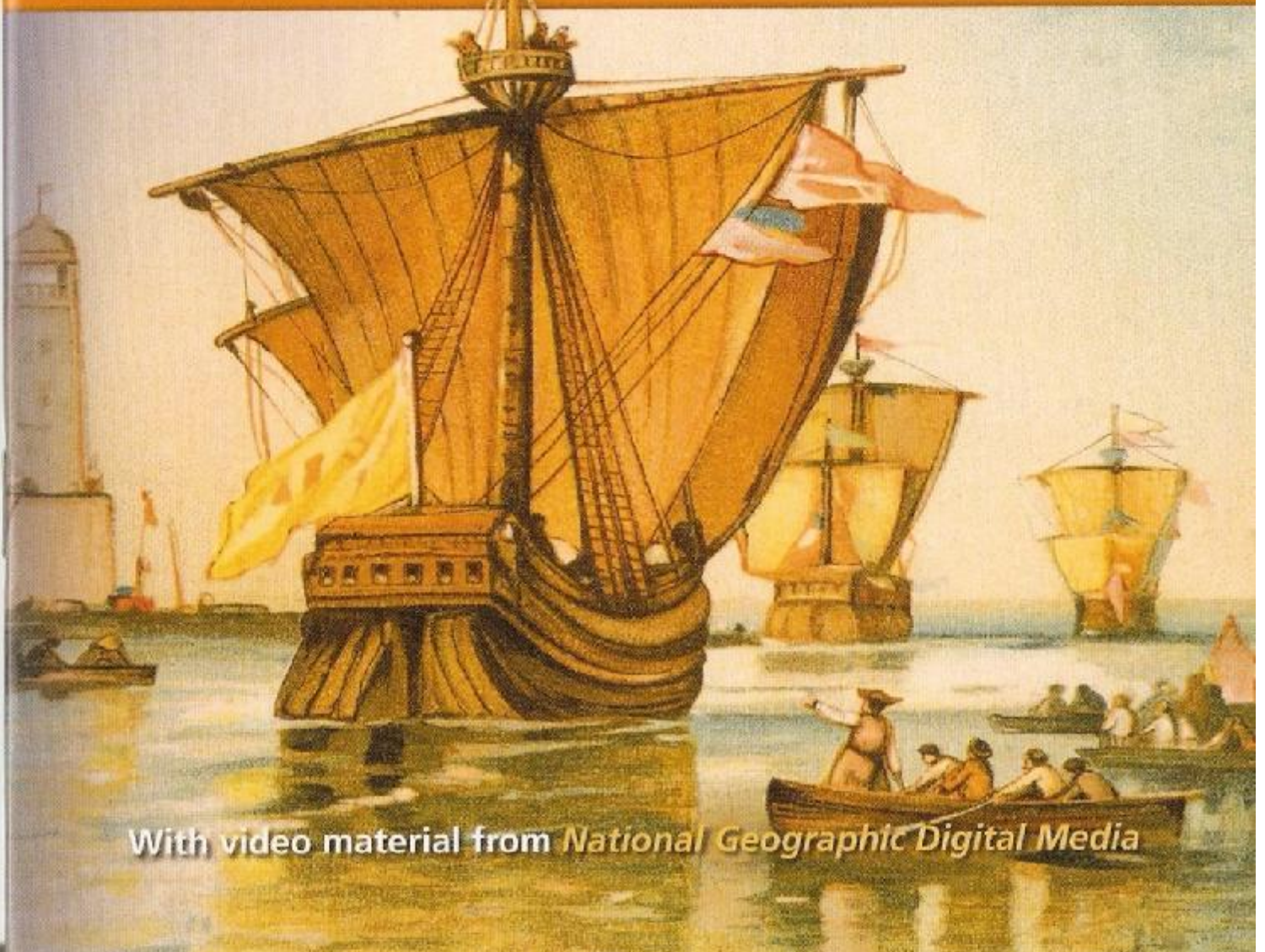




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Columbus and the

New World



With video material from *National Geographic Digital Media*

Words to Know

This story happens long ago. It starts in Europe, in the countries of Spain and Italy. It then goes across the Atlantic Ocean to a 'new world.'



B Old World Meets New World. Label the map with the correct countries.

the Bahamas	East Indies	Italy
China	India	Spain

A The Life of Columbus. Read the paragraph. Then match each word with the correct definition.

Christopher Columbus was a great sailor. He wanted to find a new route between Europe and Asia. At the time, some people knew that the earth was round. Columbus wanted to sail from Europe to Asia. So, he made a long voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. When he landed on a small island, Columbus thought he was in Asia. However, he was actually near a completely different continent. He was near North America. Some Europeans called this continent the 'New World' as compared to the 'Old World' of Europe.

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| 1. the earth _____ | a. a person who sails ships as their job |
| 2. sail _____ | b. an area of land that has water all around it |
| 3. continent _____ | c. one of the main areas of land in the world |
| 4. route _____ | d. the world on which we live |
| 5. sailor _____ | e. a long trip at sea |
| 6. voyage _____ | f. travel using cloth and the wind |
| 7. island _____ | g. the way that a person goes from one place to another |



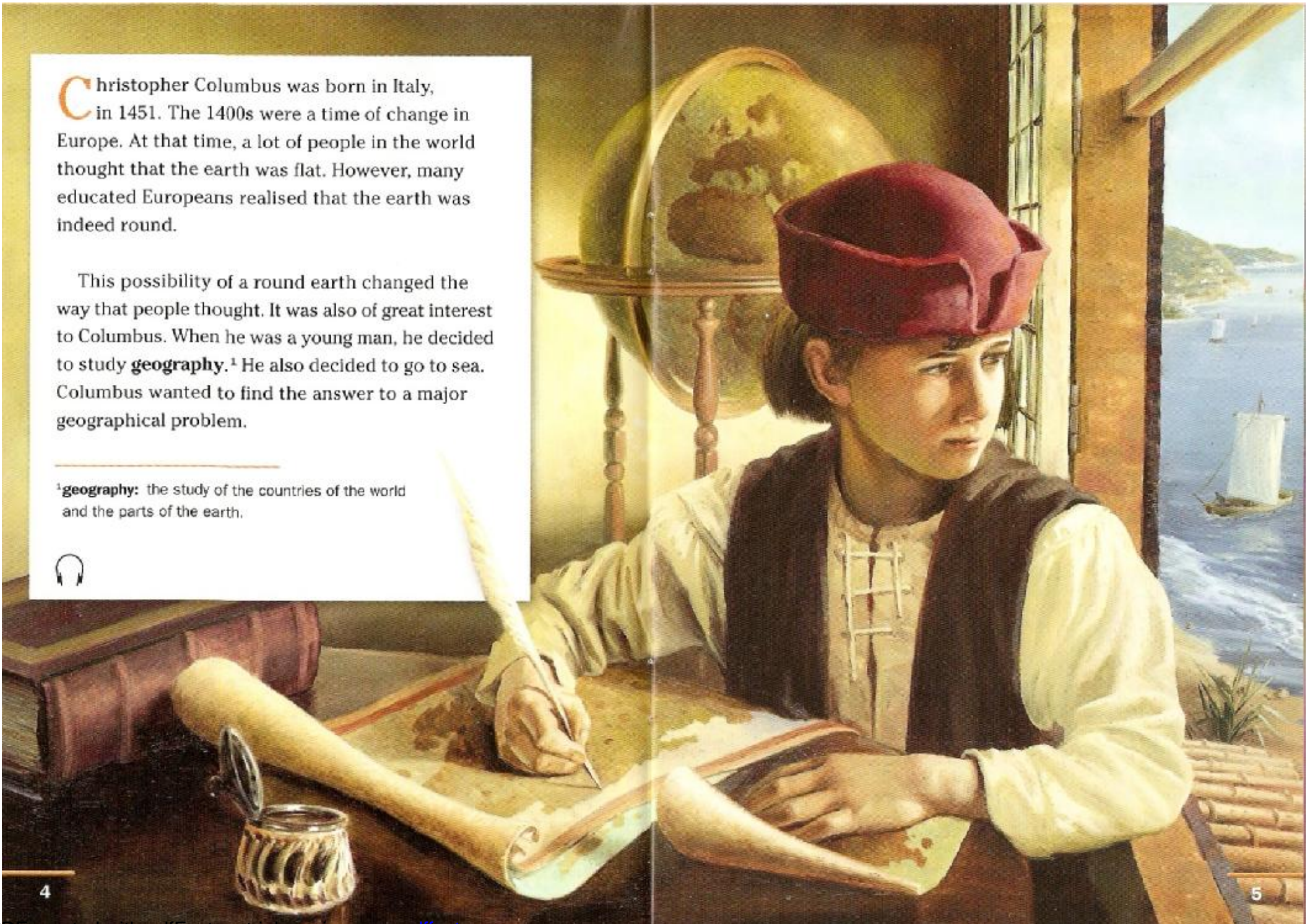
Christopher Columbus 1451-1506



Christopher Columbus was born in Italy, in 1451. The 1400s were a time of change in Europe. At that time, a lot of people in the world thought that the earth was flat. However, many educated Europeans realised that the earth was indeed round.

This possibility of a round earth changed the way that people thought. It was also of great interest to Columbus. When he was a young man, he decided to study **geography**.¹ He also decided to go to sea. Columbus wanted to find the answer to a major geographical problem.

¹**geography:** the study of the countries of the world and the parts of the earth.

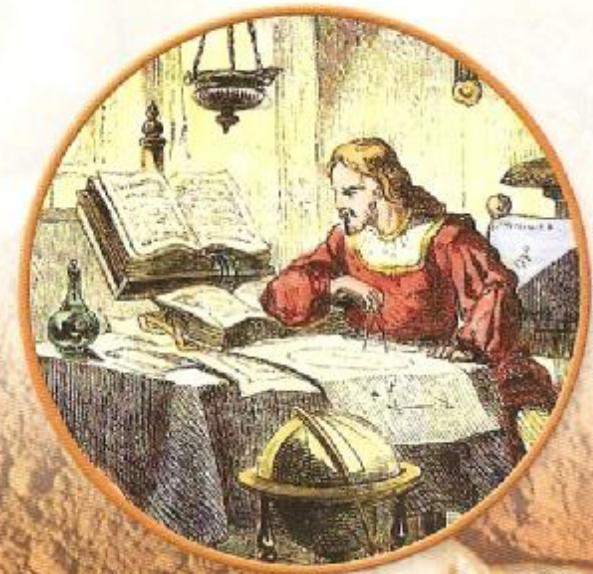




At the time, Europeans wanted **spices**² from India and China. However, it cost too much money to carry these products from the East using the traditional land and sea routes.

Columbus wanted to find a new sea route from Europe to Asia. He knew that the earth was round. Because of this, Columbus thought he could reach the East by sailing west. However, he also knew that sailing around the world would be costly. Therefore, he needed a lot of money to find out if he was right.

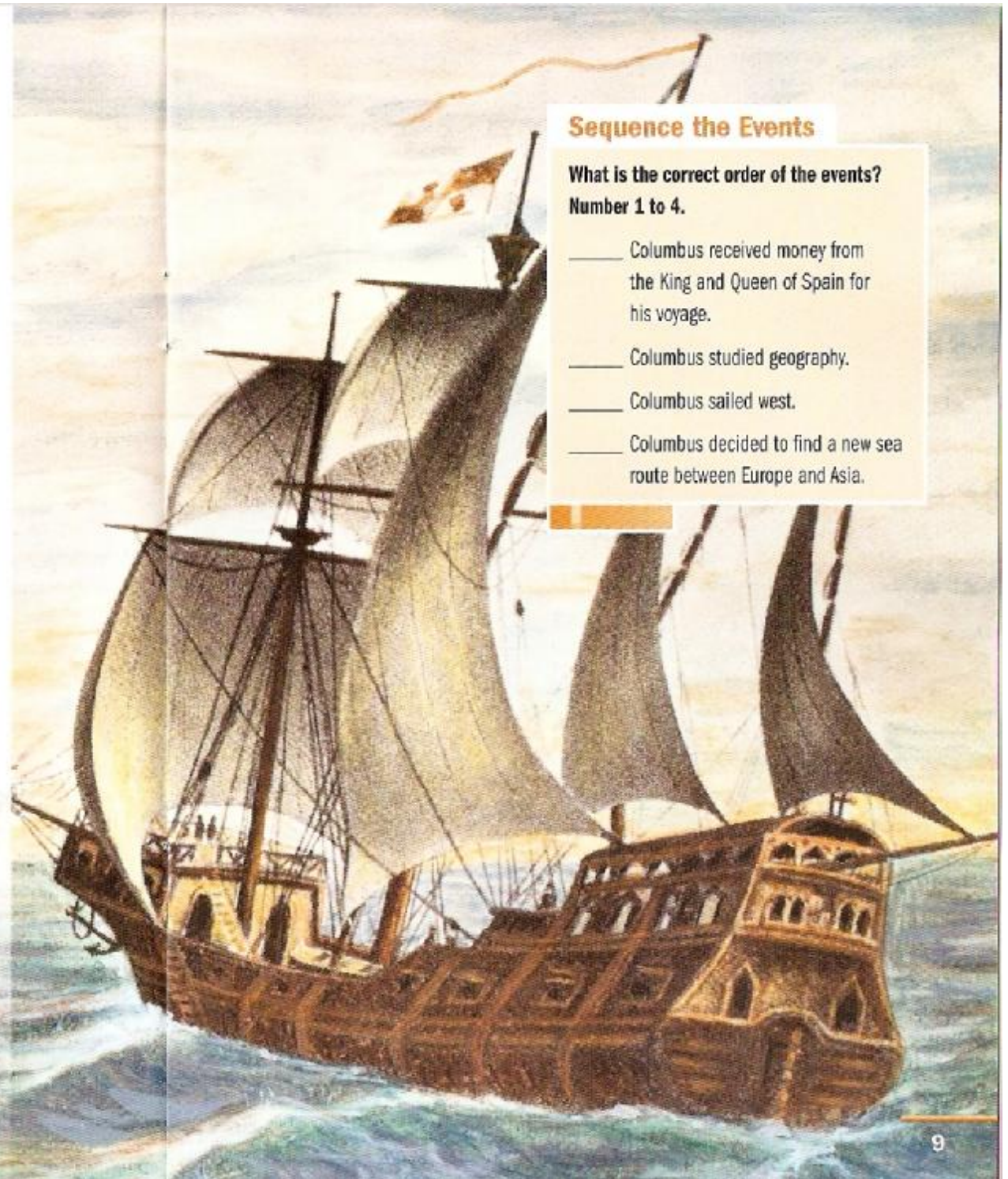
²**spice:** a material used to make food taste good



In 1492, Columbus **persuaded**³ King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain to give him the money for the voyage. He received enough money for three small ships: the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.

Columbus had his ships. He also had high hopes for this new sea route from Europe to Asia. Columbus and his group sailed west, but they didn't know what was waiting for them.

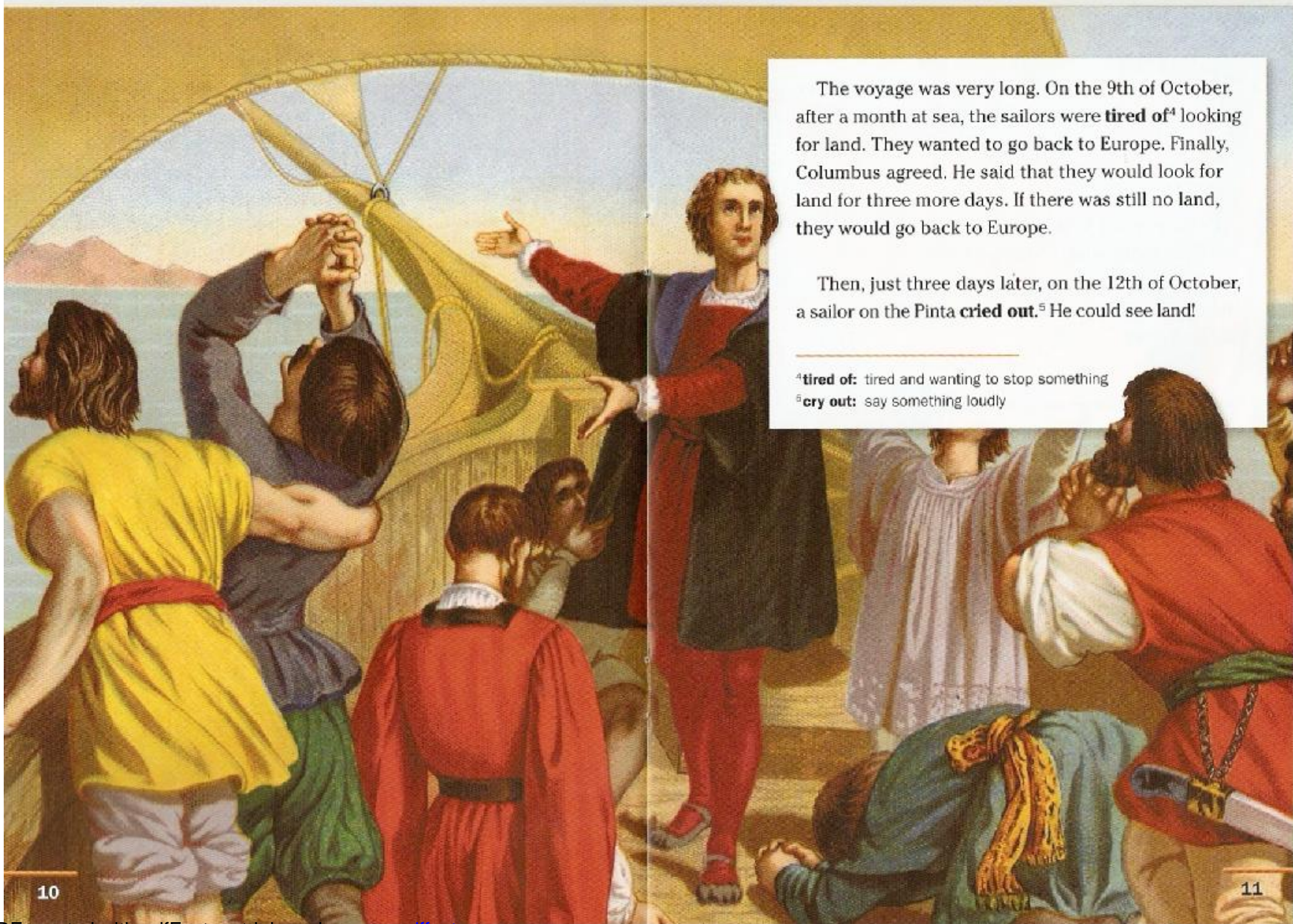
³**persuade:** make someone agree to do something by talking to them about it a lot



Sequence the Events

What is the correct order of the events?
Number 1 to 4.

- Columbus received money from the King and Queen of Spain for his voyage.
- Columbus studied geography.
- Columbus sailed west.
- Columbus decided to find a new sea route between Europe and Asia.



The voyage was very long. On the 9th of October, after a month at sea, the sailors were **tired of**⁴ looking for land. They wanted to go back to Europe. Finally, Columbus agreed. He said that they would look for land for three more days. If there was still no land, they would go back to Europe.

Then, just three days later, on the 12th of October, a sailor on the Pinta **cried out**.⁵ He could see land!

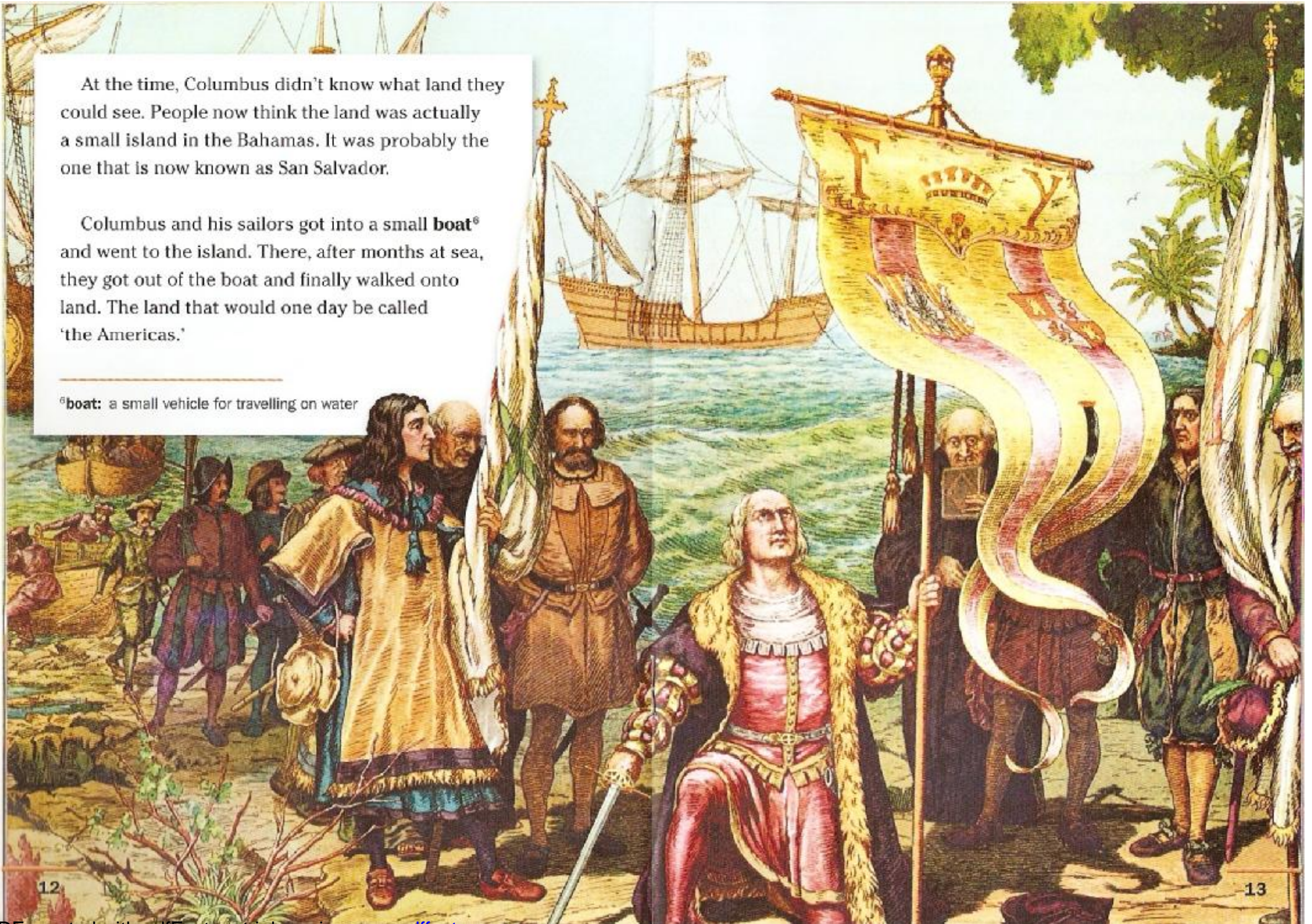
⁴**tired of:** tired and wanting to stop something

⁵**cry out:** say something loudly

At the time, Columbus didn't know what land they could see. People now think the land was actually a small island in the Bahamas. It was probably the one that is now known as San Salvador.

Columbus and his sailors got into a small **boat**⁶ and went to the island. There, after months at sea, they got out of the boat and finally walked onto land. The land that would one day be called 'the Americas.'

⁶boat: a small vehicle for travelling on water



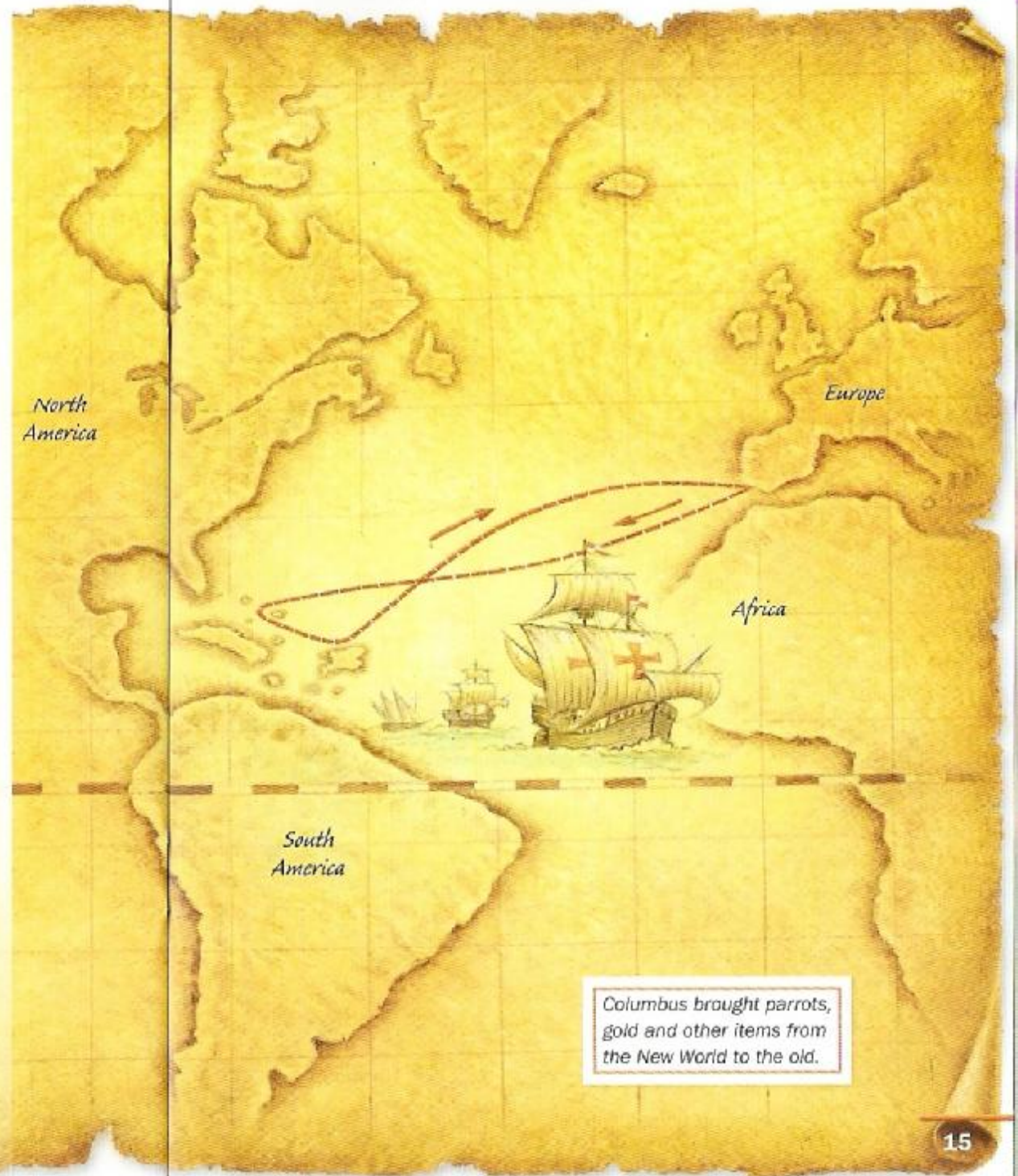
However, Columbus didn't realise that he was on a new continent. He believed that he and his sailors were near the coast of Asia. He thought they were in the islands of the East Indies. He even called the island people who came to meet him 'Indians.' Because of this, people incorrectly called **Native Americans**⁷ 'Indians' for hundreds of years.

Columbus returned to Spain. He brought **gold**,⁸ **parrots**,⁹ and other things from the New World to show the king and queen. For him, this was the high point of his life as a sailor. As a result of his voyage, he was considered by some to be a very important man in Europe.

⁷**Native Americans:** certain groups of people who first lived in North and South America

⁸**gold:** a valuable, shiny yellow metal

⁹**parrot:** a bird from hot countries which can sometimes talk





After his first voyage to the New World, Columbus didn't just stay in Europe. During his life, he made three more voyages to the New World. But in the end, he never achieved what he really wanted. He never found a route to bring spices from Asia to Europe. Columbus was a **disappointed**¹⁰ man when he died on the 20th of May, 1506. However, questions about what Columbus achieved didn't end with his death.

¹⁰ **disappointed:** unhappy because something was not as good as hoped or expected



There are still concerns about Columbus's voyage today. For hundreds of years, people believed that Columbus was the first European to reach the Americas. However, people now know that the **Vikings**¹¹ reached North America five hundred years earlier than Columbus. It is true that Columbus found a new world for Europeans to **explore**.¹² However, in the end, this exploration caused a number of problems for the Native Americans.

Columbus made 1492 one of the most important years in world history. However, this importance was for both good and bad reasons. One thing is certain however: on the 12th of October 1492, the New World—and the Old—changed forever.

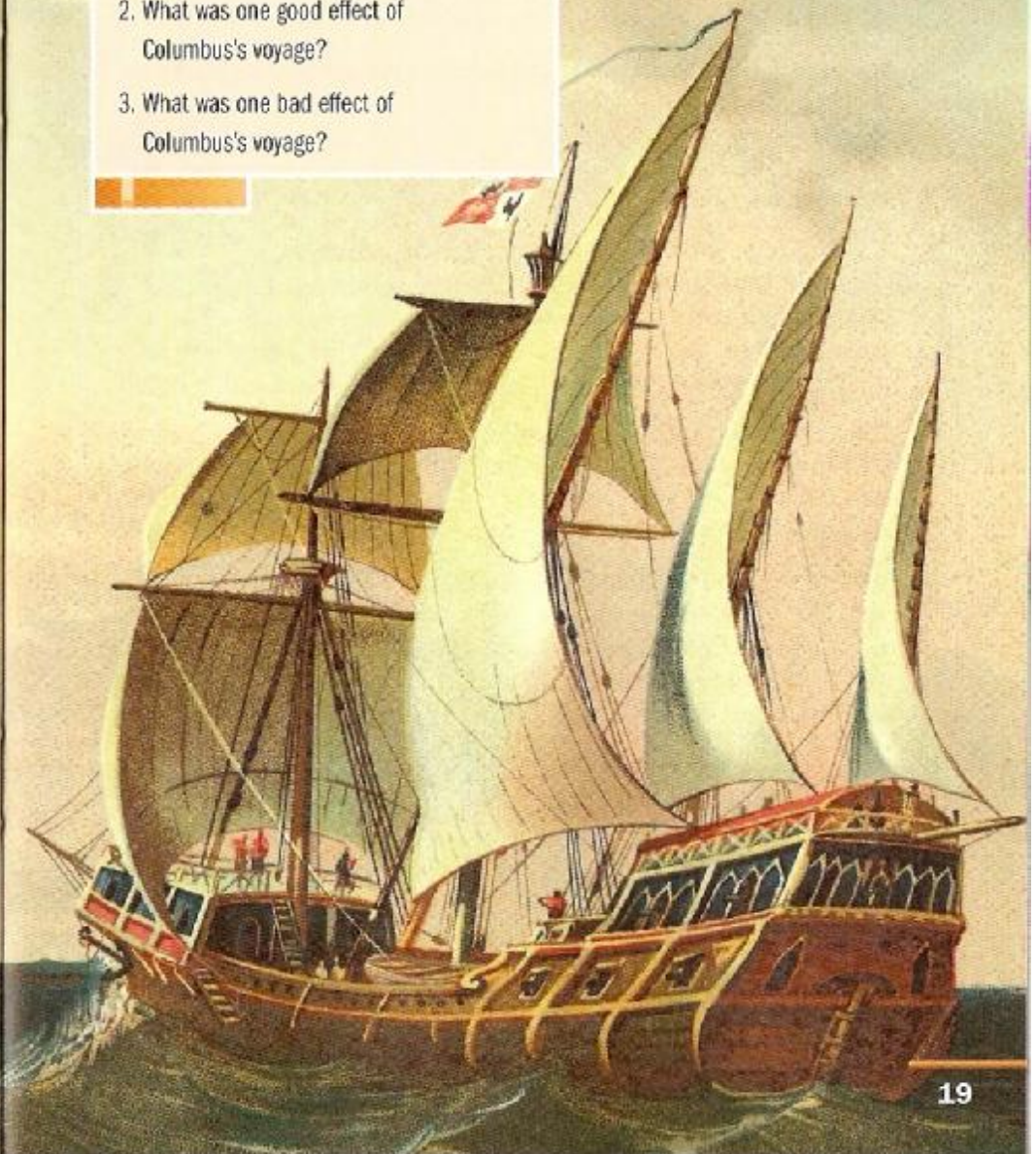
¹¹ **Vikings:** groups of people from Northern Europe who travelled by sea between the 700s and 1000s

¹² **explore:** look for and find

Scan for Information

Scan page 18 to find the information.

1. Who reached North America first?
2. What was one good effect of Columbus's voyage?
3. What was one bad effect of Columbus's voyage?



After You Read

1. On page 4, the word 'educated' in paragraph one means:
 - A. rich
 - B. informed
 - C. uninformed
 - D. young
2. On page 7, the phrase 'these products' in paragraph one refers to:
 - A. Europeans
 - B. sea routes
 - C. spices
 - D. India and China
3. Columbus decided to sail west because he wanted:
 - A. to bring spices to Europe.
 - B. to find an answer to a problem.
 - C. to reach Asia.
 - D. all of the above
4. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Italy gave Columbus money.
 - A. True
 - B. False
 - C. Not in text
5. Which is a good heading for page 11?
 - A. Sailors Tired of Looking for Land
 - B. Columbus Returns to Europe
 - C. Nina Sailor Sees Land
 - D. After Three More Weeks
6. Columbus sailed a small boat _____ the island in the Bahamas.
 - A. around
 - B. in
 - C. under
 - D. to

7. Why did Columbus call the Native American people 'Indians'?
 - A. They were from the East Indies.
 - B. He thought he was in the East Indies.
 - C. They showed him the way to the East Indies.
 - D. They had been called that for hundreds of years.
8. According to page 17, how many more times did Columbus go to the New World?
 - A. four
 - B. two
 - C. one
 - D. three
9. On page 18, the phrase 'a number of problems' can be replaced by:
 - A. a lot of problems
 - B. two problems
 - C. no problems
 - D. much problems
10. According to page 18, when did the Vikings reach the new world?
 - A. 1492
 - B. 500
 - C. 992
 - D. 1992
11. What does the writer think about Columbus?
 - A. He was a happy man.
 - B. He only did bad things.
 - C. He only did good things.
 - D. He changed the world.

Class: Geography

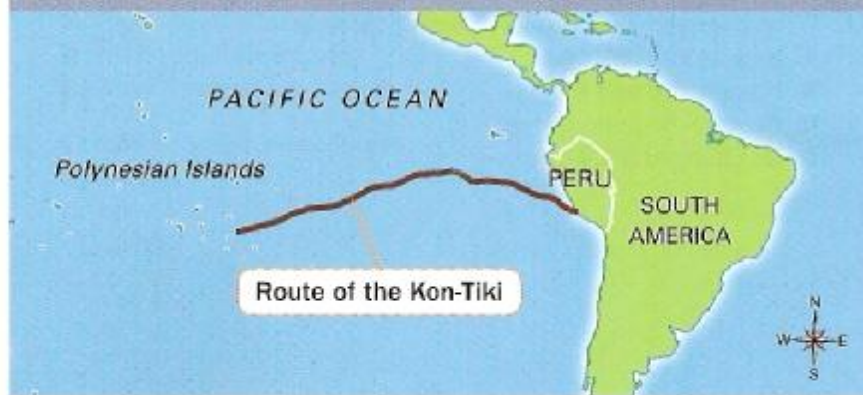
Teacher: Ms. Lopez

Assignment: Write about a well-known ocean voyage. Describe the person who planned it and explain the purpose of it.

The Kon-Tiki by Elliot Park

When Thor Heyerdahl was a little boy, he hoped to see the world. He wanted to learn about, and visit, unusual places all over the Earth. At the age of 24, he and his wife went to live on a Polynesian island in the Pacific Ocean. He became very interested in the people who lived there. He was also interested in how these people had arrived there. Most scientists believed that these people originally came from the Asian continent. However, Heyerdahl began to think that they might have come from South America. He wanted to persuade others that his idea was right. In order to do this, he decided to sail from South America to the Polynesian Islands to prove it was possible.

The Kon-Tiki sailed from Peru to the Polynesian Islands



The Kon-Tiki was a large raft

Heyerdahl built a special type of boat called a 'raft.' He named it the 'Kon-Tiki.' It was the type of boat that people used to sail across the ocean centuries ago. It did not have an engine. It was made of wood and had several sails. Heyerdahl and five other men left Peru on the 28th of April, 1947. They sailed west across the Pacific Ocean. Their voyage lasted for a hundred and one days and their route was very long. They finally arrived at the Polynesian Islands on the 7th of August, 1947.

The voyage proved that people could sail from South America to the Polynesian Islands. However, most scientists still don't agree with Heyerdahl's idea. They don't believe that the people of Polynesia are from South America. According to them, most scientific research says differently. They argue that people from the Polynesian Islands do not have a lot in common with people from South America. They think they have more in common with people from Asia.

Word Count: 318
Time: _____

Vocabulary List

boat (12)
continent (2, 14)
cry out (11)
disappointed (17)
earth (2, 4, 7)
explore (18)
geography (4, 9)
gold (14)
island (2, 12, 14)
parrot (14)
persuade (8)
route (2, 7, 8, 9, 17)
sail (2, 7, 8, 9)
sailor (2, 11, 12, 14)
spice (7, 17)
tired of (11)
voyage (2, 8, 9, 11, 14, 17)