

- *What is it ?*



# Who was Christopher Columbus?

- He was an Italian explorer who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492.
- Columbus "*discovered America*" when he landed on San Salvador Island in the Bahamas.
- He was not the first European to visit America, but his visit led to the Spanish colonization of the area, which encouraged other European countries to also colonize the area.





# What was Columbus looking for?



- He was looking for a sea route to Asia.
- European merchants traveled across the land to get silk, spices, and opiates from China and India.
- Columbus thought he could find a faster route to Asia.



# Who financed Columbus's voyage?



- King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain financed his trip.

# How many ships made the voyage to the New World?

- There were three ships in Columbus's small fleet: the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.
- Columbus sailed on the Santa Maria, which was the largest of the three ships.





# Where did Columbus and his men first land?



- They landed on an island in the Bahamas. Columbus called the place *San Salvador*.
- Columbus thought he and his men had reached the East-Asian mainland.



# Why did the King and Queen of Spain sponsor Columbus's voyage?

- They wanted to increase Spain's power and wealth by establishing new trade routes and new colonies.
- Columbus made four trips to the New World.





# What did Columbus call the inhabitants of North America?

- He thought he was in India, so he called them *Indians*.
- The arrival of Columbus and the European colonization that followed led to a genocide of the native population.
- Many native people were killed, enslaved, committed suicide or died from European diseases.





# When did Christopher Columbus die?



- He died on May 20, 1506. He was about 55 years old.
- He is buried in the Cathedral of Seville in Spain.
- Some experts believe that a mistake was made and that his remains are in Santo Domingo.