Competency: Understand Columbus Day

Lesson Overview: Student will understand Columbus Day, tell when it is celebrated, and describe the history behind this holiday.

This lesson plan includes:

1. Columbus Day Vocabulary
2. Columbus Day Vocabulary Matching
3. Columbus Day Reading Comprehension
4. Columbus Day Word Search
5. Columbus Day Word Search Answer Key
6. The Voyage of Columbus Map Skills
7. Columbus Day Vocabulary Flash Cards

Approximate Time: 1 - 2 hours

Prerequisite Skills: Students should be able to read and write simple sentences, understand the days of the week, and have basic ability of map reading skills (north, south, east, and west).

Prerequisite Vocabulary:

America
Asia
celebrate
Monday
ocean
October
sail
trade

Vocabulary:	Vocabulary for Optional Activities:
Christopher Columbus	Atlantic Ocean
crew(s)	compass
discovery	Cuba
flat	Europe
India	North America
journey(s)	northeast
king(s)	northwest
queen(s)	southeast
route(s)	southwest
sailor(s)	Spain
ship(s)	voyage
spice(s)	

Materials Needed: White board or flipchart, erasable markers, handouts, flash cards, and prizes (optional).

Equipment Needed: none

Activities:

1. Have the vocabulary words written on the board before class begins.

2. Explain the purpose of the lesson.

3. Review the prerequisite vocabulary and then introduce new vocabulary.

    a. Pronounce the new vocabulary words one at a time and have the students repeat the words in unison.

    b. Pronounce the new vocabulary words one at a time and ask individual students to repeat the word. Repeat until the students can pronounce the words well

4. Give each student a copy of the **Columbus Day Vocabulary**. Go over each of the vocabulary words and meanings. Allow students to take turns reading aloud each word and definition. Answer any questions the students may have.

5. Give each student a copy of the *Columbus Day Vocabulary Matching*. Have the students work individually on the worksheet. Review answers orally.

6. Read the passage about Columbus Day from the *Columbus Day Reading Comprehension*. Do not give them the sheet. Ask them to listen as you read. Read the passage twice. Tell the students they may take notes as you read. Ask the following questions:

   a. Christopher Columbus sailed from what country?

   b. How many ships did he have?

   c. How many sailors did he have?

   d. Until Columbus' discovery of the new world, the Europeans thought the world was _____?

7. Give the students the *Columbus Day Reading Comprehension*. Invite students to take turns reading the passage aloud. Answer any questions that they may have. Students should write their answers to the questions that follow the passage. Review answers orally.

8. Have students complete the *Columbus Day Word Search*. (This worksheet was made with Wordsheets 5.0 software available at www.qualint.com. There is a free demonstration version that allows 10 printings. After that, the software must be purchased.) Award a small prize to the first one who completes it if you wish.

Assessment/Evaluation of Learning:

1. Teacher observation of students' participation.

2. Evaluation of student worksheets.

Optional/Follow-up Activities:

1. Use the *Columbus Day Vocabulary Flash Cards* for further vocabulary development.

2. Write the optional vocabulary words on the board. Pronounce each one.

3. Have students look up the definitions for the optional vocabulary words using standard dictionaries. Have them write down the definition for each word and write a sentence using the optional vocabulary word.

4. Give each student the worksheet entitled **_"The Voyage of Columbus" Map Skills_**. On this sheet, students will be asked to label Spain, Canada, the United States, Cuba, and the Atlantic Ocean on their map. They will also plot Columbus' voyage by drawing a line from Spain to wherever they believe Columbus landed (Cuba or San Salvador).

5. For additional information about Columbus Day check out the following websites:

   a.   http://www.usis.usemb.se/Holidays/celebrate/Columbus.html

   b. http://www.geocities.com/holidayzone/columbus/

   c. http://www.kidsdomain.com/holiday/columbusday.html