

## Columbus Day

Christopher Columbus was looking for a new way to get to the Indies. He did not want to sail around Africa. He wanted to travel across the Atlantic Ocean to China and India.

Columbus needed money for his trip. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain helped him. They wanted Columbus to find gold and a new way to travel to the Indies. They gave him three ships: the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria.

The three ships left Spain on August 3, 1492. The sailors did not see land for a month. They wanted to go back to Spain. Finally, on October 12, 1492, they found land. They put a Spanish flag on the land and called it Espanola. Columbus thought he was in India. He called the people Indians. But Columbus was in the Bahamas. He found a new continent by accident. He found America.

This was an important event in the history of the world. Columbus Day is celebrated each year on the second Monday in October.