

Simple Literature No. 84: Curriculum for
Christopher Columbus

by S. Seifert

Parents and teachers may reproduce study guides from any *Simple Literature* book for personal use in public, private, or home school classrooms. This material may not be included in printed or online curricula, or be distributed, personally, electronically, or commercially, except as cited above.

Simple Literature curricula is ©2008 copyrighted by S. Seifert. All rights reserved.

First printing, 2008 / Printing year, 2008

How to Use This Curriculum

- 1.** Have students read this book for 20 to 30 minutes each day.
- 2.** When students have finished the book, ask the **Comprehension Questions**. A study guide worksheet is available for practice, but an oral discussion is appropriate for this age group.
- 3.** When you have finished discussing the comprehension questions, have students **Write a Paragraph**. Students should write in complete sentences, spell words correctly, capitalize the first letter of every sentence, and place a period at the end of each sentence.
- 4.** Although these guidelines work for this age group, remember that your students are individuals. Therefore, adjust the curriculum to your students' abilities and personalities.

Did you find something confusing, or are you excited about the curricula? You can contact us through <http://home.rmi.net/~seifert/id51.html>.

Although the number of e-mails received does not allow me to respond personally, every e-mail is read and appreciated.

If you want to view an alphabetical list of titles that have free comprehension questions, go to <http://home.rmi.net/~seifert/id50.html>.

S. Seifert

Curriculum for *Christopher Columbus* by Stephen Krensky

OVERVIEW

1. Have students read for 20 to 30 minutes. Reading for half an hour, and not a completed book, is the daily goal. A study guide for this book is available. If you assign it, let students complete the study guide while they are reading the book.
2. When students have finished reading the book, ask the comprehension questions (study guide questions). If you assigned the written study guide, let students read their answers from it.
3. Prompt students to write a paragraph.

SUMMARY

On August 3, 1492, Christopher Columbus, the captain of the *Santa María*, sets out from Spain with two other ships, the *Niña* and the *Pinta*. Christopher is a mapmaker, and he knows how to navigate on the water. Because he wants to find a way to the Indies by sailing west, Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand pay for his trip. If Christopher is right, then Spain will be able to make money trading with India, China, and Japan. Most people thought the world was flat. Christopher thought it was round. The ships are small on the big ocean, and they are powered solely by the wind. Thirty sailors are on each ship, along with a doctor, Arabic interpreter, carpenter, and goldsmith. The sailors see a meteor, sail through seaweed, and are on their ship for over two months. The crew wants to go home. Christopher begs them to wait three more days. On the second night, October 12, 1492, a sailor on the *Pinta* spots land. They go ashore on an island we now call San Salvador. Christopher calls the people Indians because he thinks he is in the Indies. He sails to other islands and looks for gold. When the *Santa María* wrecks, some sailors must stay behind. The *Niña* and the *Pinta* are loaded with new foods, and six Indians are forced to travel back to England with them. The weather is bad on their way home. Everyone is scared, but they reach Spain on March 15, 1493 after being gone for 32 weeks. Spain thinks that Christopher has found a route to the Indies.

COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. Christopher was a captain. What was the name of his ship? What were the names of the other two ships? Christopher Columbus, the captain of the *Santa María*, sailed his ship with two other ships, the *Niña* and the *Pinta*.
San Salvador. Christopher thought he had found a new trade route to the Indies, but he really found the location of North and South America.
2. What land did the sailors find? What land did the sailors think they found? On October 12, 1492, a sailor saw what is now called the island of
3. What did the sailors take from the new land? Christopher and his sailors took corn, potatoes, peanuts, papayas, avocados, cotton cloth, and a colorful bird not found in Europe. They also took six Indians, who did not want to leave their island.

WRITE A PARAGRAPH

Have students relate one aspect of *Christopher Columbus* to their own lives by writing a paragraph: The sailors were scared on their voyage to the new land. Why were they scared? Before assigning this paragraph, discuss how everyone thought the world was flat and ask students to consider what might happen if the world was flat and a sailor sailed to the end of it. Also discuss how people fear things that are not familiar. The ocean and the voyage were new. The sailors did not have computers or science classes that taught them what we know today.

Name _____ Date _____

Study Guide for
Christopher Columbus by Stephen Krensky

Instructions: Write your answers in the spaces below.

1. Christopher was a captain. What was the name of his ship? What were the names of the other two ships?

2. What land did the sailors find? What land did the sailors think they found?

3. What did the sailors take from the new land?