

THE VOYAGE WITH COLUMBUS WAS NO VACATION!

Learning Objective(s): The students will

1. Explain the reason for the celebration of Columbus Day.
2. Understand the many challenges faced by Christopher Columbus and those who accompanied him on his voyage.
3. Express their ideas in spoken and visual forms based on knowledge and experiences.

TEKS: SS K.1A, K.15B, K.16, 1.2A, 1.17B, 1.18, 2.1A, 2.17B, 2.18

Materials Needed: Copies of the attached "Columbus Voyage Cards," 12" X 18" drawing paper, crayons, glue, pencils

Vocabulary: Capsize, course, deck, explorer, hourglass, hurricanes, lice, logbook, mast, ocean, sailors, seasick, voyage

Teaching Strategy:

1. Introduce the lesson by asking students what an explorer is? (Someone who investigates the unknown; to do something for the purpose of adventure or discovery.) Have students share something or somewhere they have explored.
2. Read students a children's book about the voyage of Christopher Columbus. Explain that we celebrate Columbus Day the second Monday in October in the United States to honor this great explorer whose voyages changed how people in the past viewed the world.
3. Relate to students that making the voyage across the ocean with Columbus in 1492 was very difficult.
4. Give each student a "Columbus Voyage Card." Explain that the cards describe what life would have been like on one of Columbus's ships during exploration of the New World.
5. Supply each student with a large piece of drawing paper. Instruct students to draw an illustration/picture to represent the information listed on their card. Students should glue the "Columbus Voyage Card" on their paper as a title or may write the title, if desired.
6. After students have completed their pictures, have them share their pictures with the class. Give other classmates an opportunity to share their thoughts about each situation pictured.

7. At the end of the presentations, have students indicate whether they would have wanted to explore the New World with Columbus. Discuss the following questions:
 - What would have been the most exciting thing about making the first voyage with Columbus?
 - What would have been the most difficult thing about making the first voyage with Columbus?
 - What places do we still explore today?
 - Why is it good that some people have a desire to explore, even though their exploration may be dangerous?
 - What or where would you like to explore in the future?
8. Explain that though Columbus didn't reach the Indies, the Bahamas still had riches that Columbus could take back to Spain. Columbus made three additional voyages to the Bahamas and many other Europeans sailed there, too. Columbus even took horses to the new world on his second voyage. Ask students to give their opinions concerning the importance of the explorations of Christopher Columbus.
9. Post the "Voyage Pictures" on the wall or use them as a bulletin board display with a title such as "Sailing with Columbus" or "Would You Have Wanted to Sail with Christopher Columbus?"

Extension for Gifted/Talented: Have students pretend that they are Christopher Columbus and write a persuasive letter or short speech to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella to convince them to provide the funds for your voyage to the New World. Be sure to include how they will benefit from your voyage. (Students should be encouraged to gather additional information from Internet sources or other children's books.)

Resource for this lesson: Macdonald, Fiona. *You Wouldn't Want to Sail with Christopher Columbus! Uncharted Waters You'd Rather Not Cross*. Danbury, CT: Franklin Watts, 2004.