

Christopher Columbus's Discoveries Answer Key

1. When did the first journey begin, and when did it end?
August 3, 1492 to March 15, 1493
2. What was life like at sea? What did the crew have to eat?
It was not comfortable; there were no crew's quarters, no hammocks, and no mess halls; captains and pilots had very small cabins; crew members slept wherever they could find a spot; men stayed busy by saying prayers, singing songs, telling stories, doing ship chores, eating and waiting.

Possibilities are water, vinegar, wine, olive oil, molasses, cheese, honey, raisins, rice, garlic, almonds, sea biscuits (hardtack), dry legumes such as chickpeas, lentils, beans, salted and barreled sardines, anchovies, dry salt cod and pickled or salted meats (beef and pork), salted flour.
3. How did Christopher Columbus navigate the ships?
Columbus used dead reckoning to navigate the ships. This was common before celestial navigation was developed. Dead reckoning uses a course-and-distant measurement.
4. Name two places Christopher Columbus explored.
Cuba and Hispanola
5. Who did Christopher Columbus and his crew meet?
Native Indians
6. What kinds of vegetation did they find?
Possibilities are corn, beans, and squashes.
7. What happened on December 25, 1492?
The Santa Maria sank from hitting a coral reef.
8. What did the crew build on Hispanola?
Using materials salvaged from the Santa Maria, they built a fort called La Navidad.
9. How many men were left behind when Christopher Columbus set back for Spain?
39
10. Name two things Christopher Columbus brought back from the New World to show the King and Queen of Spain.
Possibilities are native Indians, parrots, and gold in the form of masks, crowns, ornaments, and nuggets.