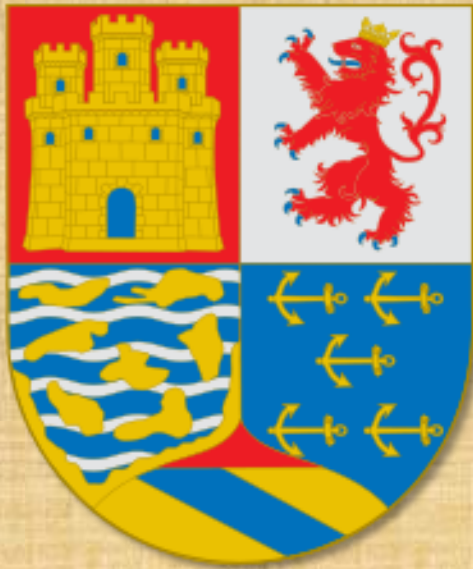


Christopher Columbus



Standard of Learning Enrichment

Educational Enrichment for Young Patriots

WHY ARE WE DOING THIS?

Upon completion you will meet (and hopefully exceed) the requirements for the History and Social Science Standards of Learning for Virginia Public Schools, adopted in January 2008 by the Board of Education of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

Specifically, you will:

History

1.3 Discuss the lives of people associated with Columbus Day

Civics

1.10 The student will apply the traits of a good citizen by

a) focusing on fair play, exhibiting good sportsmanship, helping others, and treating others with respect;

b) recognizing the purpose of rules and practicing self-control;

c) working hard in school

The People: Who They Were

Christopher Columbus was born between 25 August and 31 October 1451 in Genoa, part of modern Italy.

His father Domenico Colombo was a wool weaver and owned a cheese stand. Young Christopher worked as a helper. Christopher's mother was Susanna Fontanarossa.

Christopher had three brothers Bartolomeo, Giovanni Pellegrino and Giacomo, and a sister named Bianchinetta.





The People: Who They Were

the Explorers

Columbus claims to have gone to the sea at the age of 10.

Traveling away from home takes a lot of courage. Would you sail away from home at 10 years of age?

In 1470, at the age of 19, Columbus was on a Genoese ship hired in the service of René I of Anjou.



In 1473 Columbus traveled to Chios, a Genoese colony in the Aegean Sea. In May 1476, he took part in an armed convoy sent by Genoa to carry a valuable cargo to northern Europe. He docked in Bristol, England and Galway, Ireland. Between 1482 and 1485, Columbus traded along the coasts of West Africa, reaching the Portuguese trading post of Elmina at the Guinea coast.

The Explorers: Who They Were

Intelligent and ambitious, Columbus eventually learned Latin, as well as Portuguese and Castilian, and read widely about astronomy, geography, and history.

Columbus was not the first explorer to reach the Americas from Europe, but the voyages of Columbus molded the future of European colonization and encouraged European exploration of foreign lands for centuries to come.



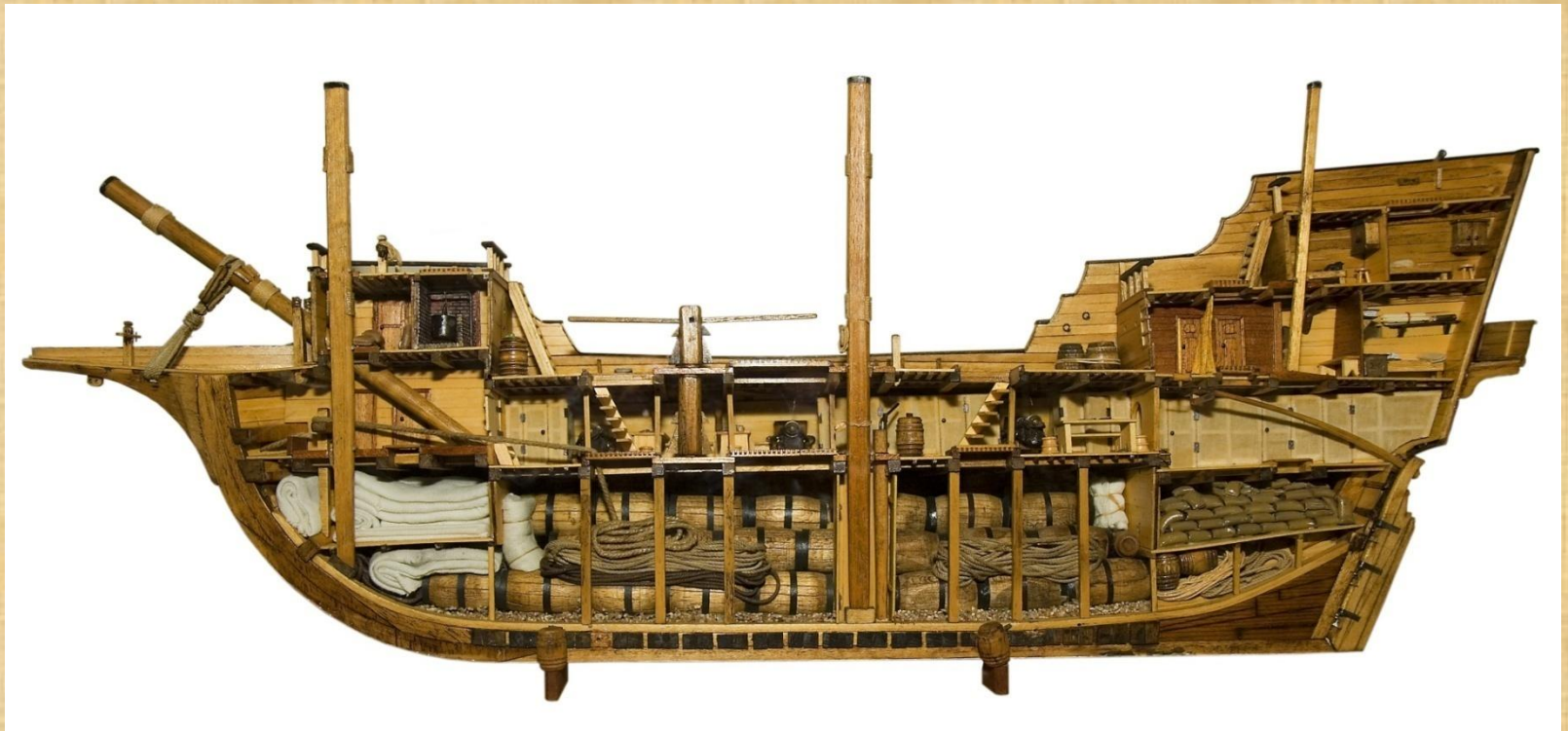
Columbus worked hard and he learned to speak different languages. What can you do in school to help you later?

The Ship: Santa Maria



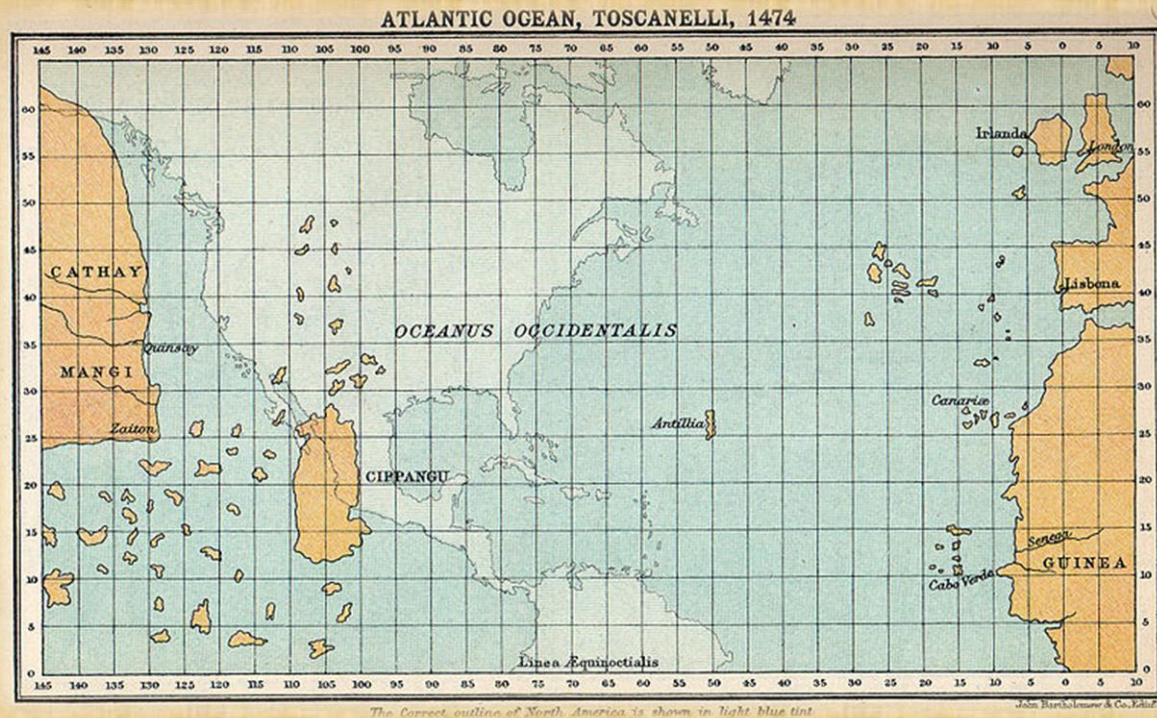
Aboard Ship: On The Inside

Life at sea was hard. The quarters, or the place where you slept, were very small. There was not a lot of room to do much except sleep, work on the ship, and eat. The Santa Maria was a Spanish merchant ship, known as a Carrack, and was about 82 feet long, with a displacement estimated at 110 tons, three masts, square-rigged on the fore and main mast with a topsail on the main mast and a lateen-mizzen and spritsail. She carried a crew of 40 but was criticized by Columbus as slow and not so good for weathering storms, as the smaller Caravels that accompanied her.



The People: Why Explore?

The Kings and Queens of Europe had just finished fighting a war on the Iberian Peninsula (modern Spain), and were desperate for a competitive edge over other European countries in the quest for trade with the Indies. Columbus promised such an advantage. Christopher Columbus thought the New World was the easternmost part of the Indies. He underestimated the westerly distance from Europe to Asia. But he was sure he would find the new world.



The Rules of Kings and Queens

In 1485, Columbus presented his plans to John II, King of Portugal. He asked the king to equip him with three sturdy ships and grant Columbus one year's time to sail out into the Atlantic, search for a western route to the Orient, and return. The King did not agree.

In 1488 Columbus asked the court of Portugal again to reconsider. John II invited him to an audience, but he was turned down again. Columbus traveled from Portugal back to Genoa and Venice, but he received no encouragement.



Columbus got to speak to Kings and Queens. But he had to follow many rules when speaking to them. He had to show respect by bowing, or kneeling. Columbus knew the purpose of rules when talking to kings and practiced self-control.

What are some rules you learned in school that teach you self-control?

The People: Never Give Up

Columbus' brother also asked King Henry VII of England, to see if the English monarch might not be interested to Columbus's proposal. But after much careful thought and hesitation, King Henry's invitation came too late. Columbus had already committed himself to Spain.



Columbus also requested an audience from the monarchs Ferdinand II of Aragon and Isabella I of Castile. On 1 May 1486, permission having been granted, Columbus presented his plans to Queen Isabella. But in the end, the plan was not accepted.

Even though Columbus' ideas were rejected, he did not give up.

What are some things in school that are hard to do but you don't give up?

The People: Success! At Last!

After two years, asking over and over for support, Ferdinand II and Isabella I gave Columbus a yearly allowance of 12,000 Maravedis and in 1489 furnished him with a letter ordering all cities and towns under their domain to provide him food and lodging at no cost.

Between 1492 and 1503, Columbus completed four round-trip voyages between Spain and the Americas, all of them under the sponsorship of the Crown of Castile.



Columbus Made Four Voyages

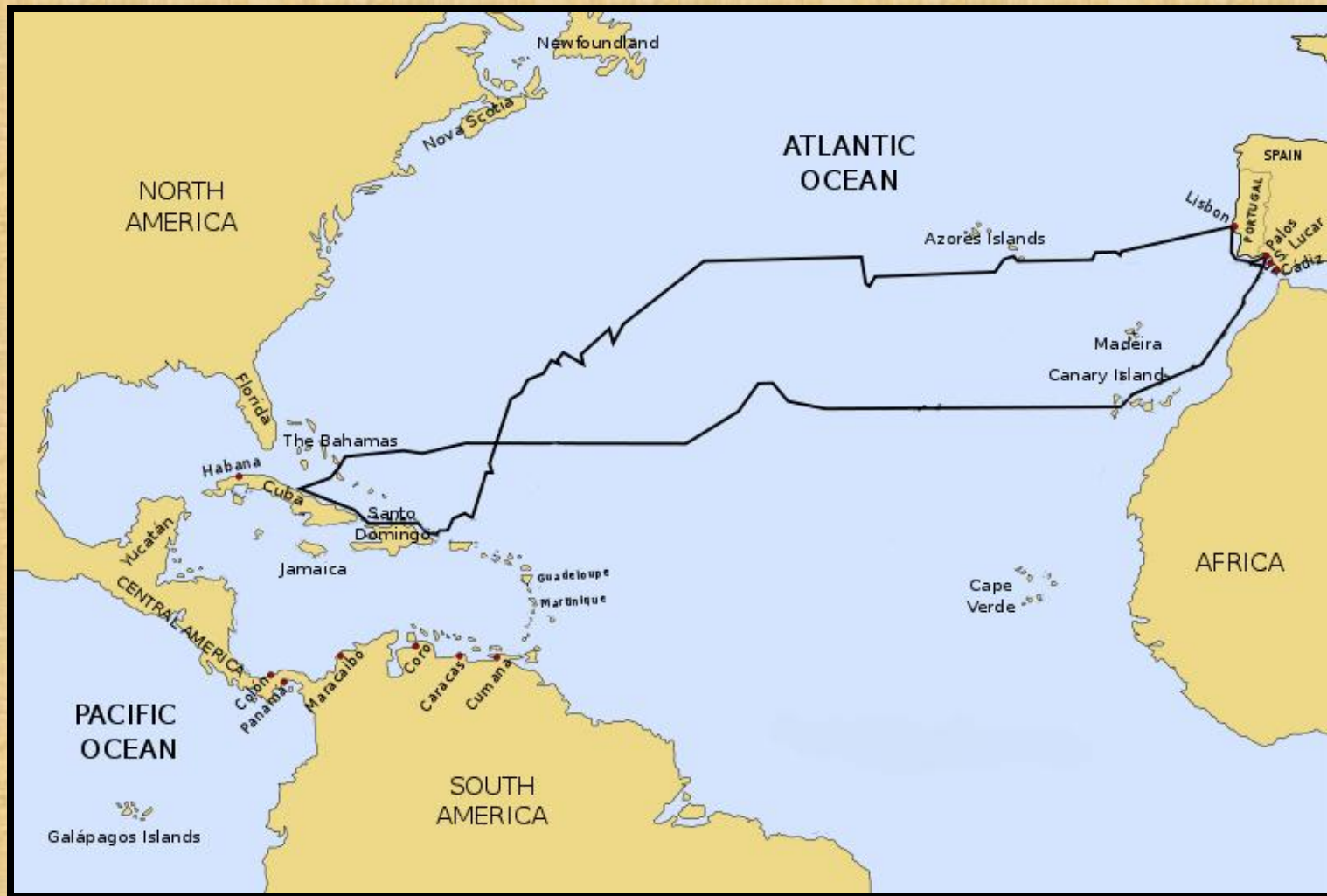


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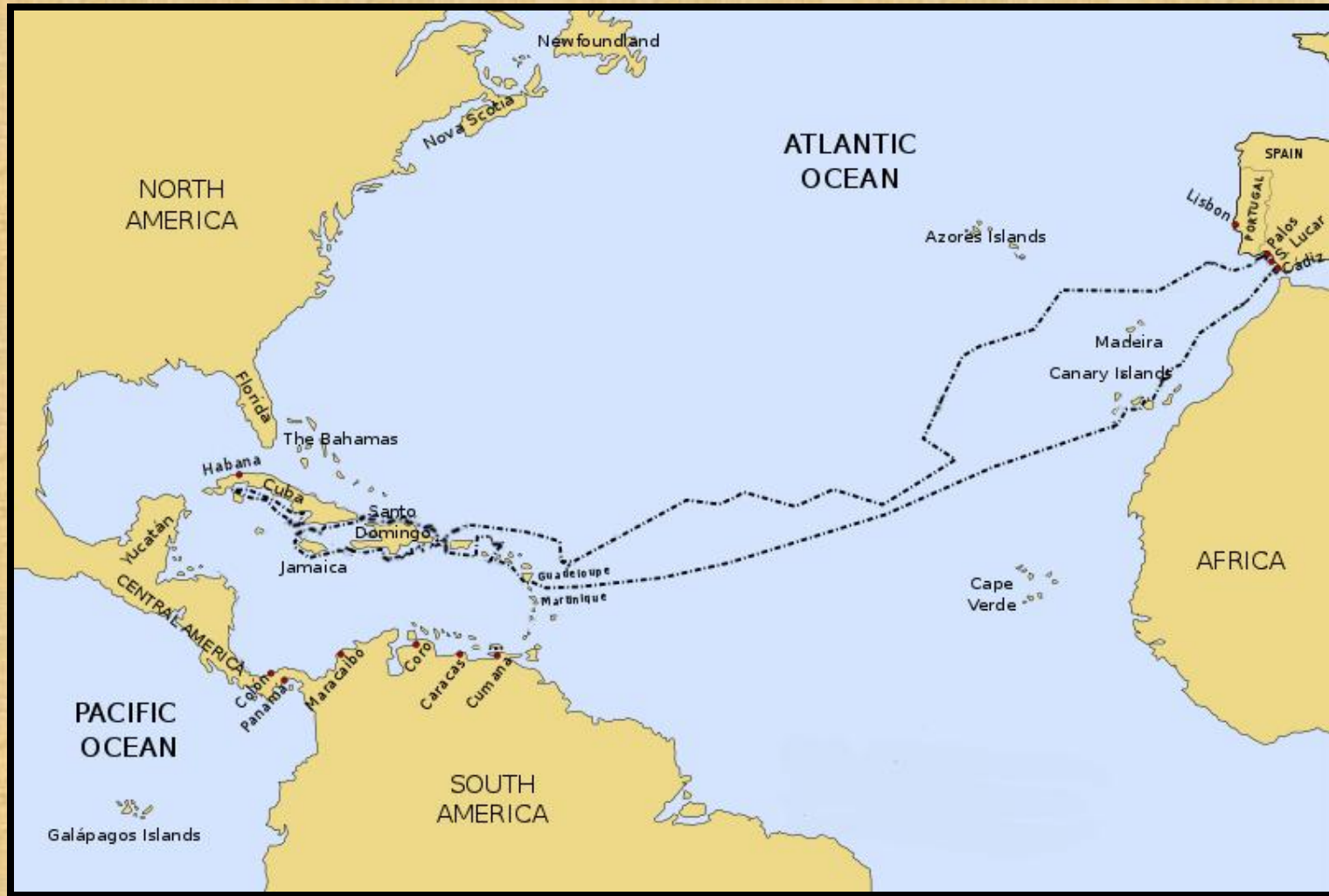
These voyages marked the beginning of the European exploration and colonization of the American continents, and are thus of enormous significance in Western history.

Columbus insisted that the lands that he visited during those voyages were part of the Asian continent .

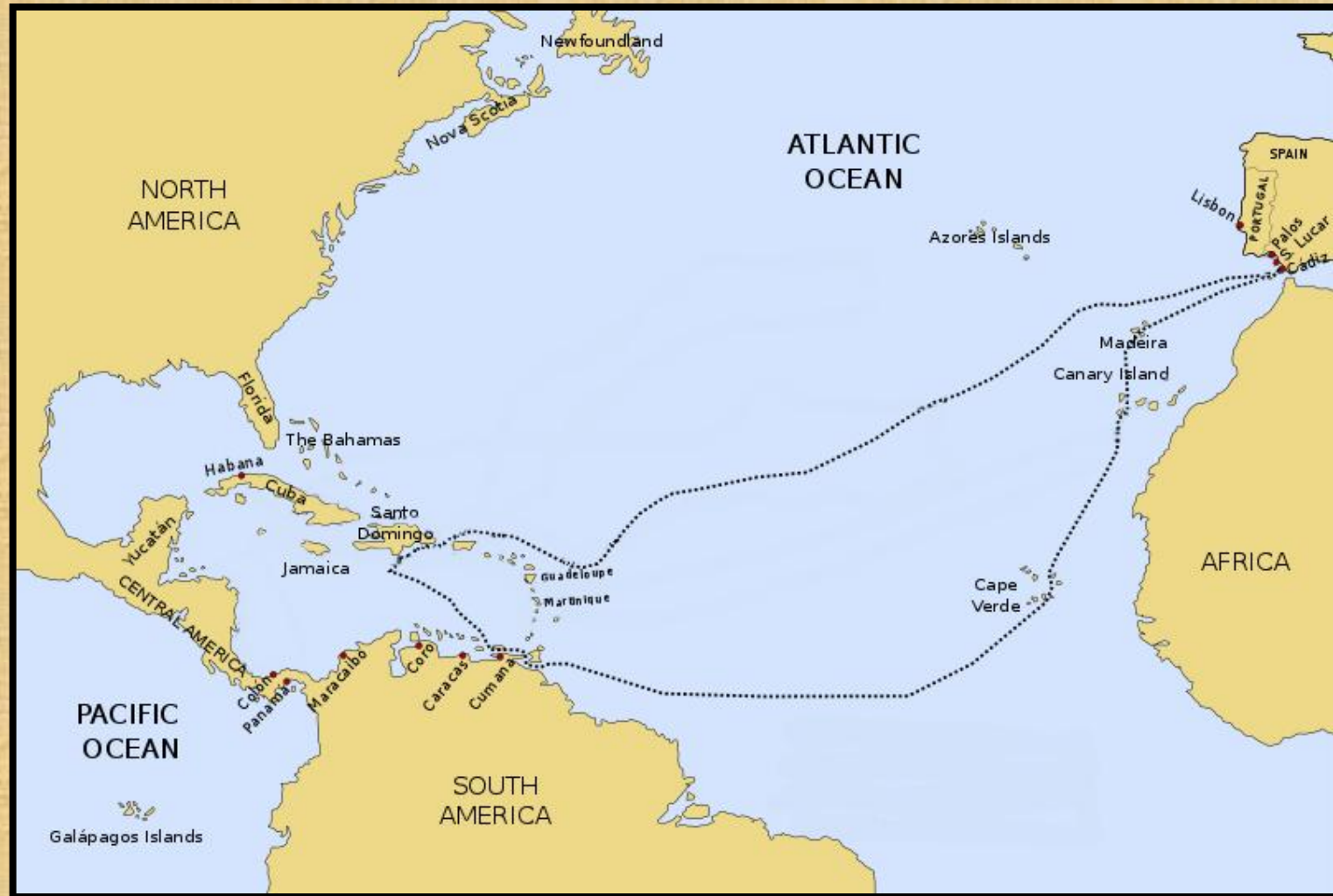
Columbus' First Voyage



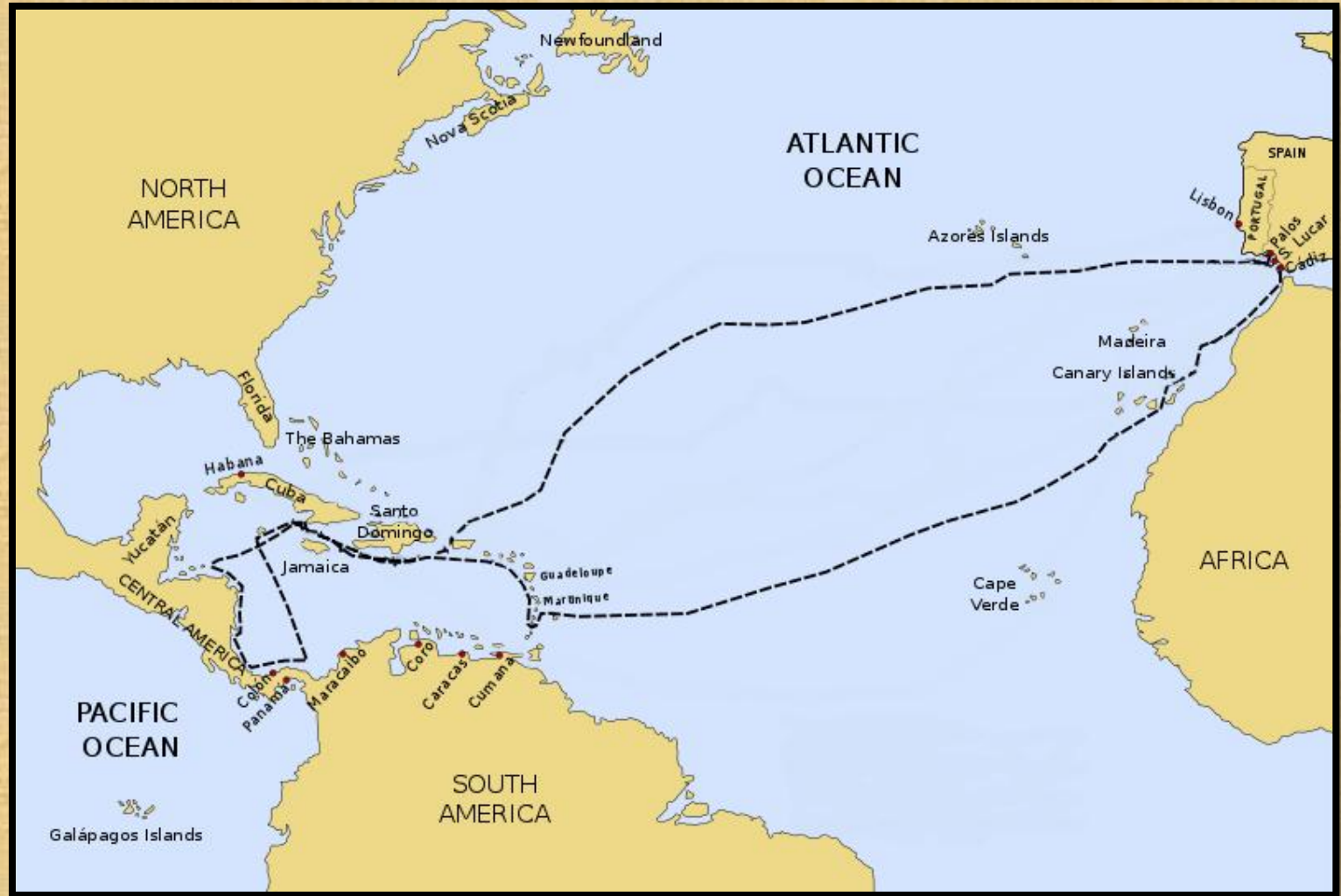
Columbus' Second Voyage



Columbus' Third Voyage



Columbus' Fourth Voyage



Conclusion

After his first voyage Columbus became the Viceroy and Governor of the Indies on the island of Hispaniola, whose capital was established in Santo Domingo. However, the court received accusations of tyranny and incompetence on the part of Columbus and his two brothers. The Spanish historian, states: "Even those who loved him [Columbus] had to admit the atrocities that had taken place."

At 48 years of age, Columbus was thrown into prison with his two brothers. A record of Columbus's trial contained the alleged testimony of 23 witnesses, Columbus regularly used barbaric acts of torture to govern Hispaniola.

Columbus and his brothers lingered in jail for six weeks before King Ferdinand ordered their release. Not long after, the king and queen restored their freedom and wealth and agreed to fund Columbus's fourth voyage.

Questions and Answers

Christopher Columbus



Standard of Learning Enrichment

Educational Enrichment for Young Patriots

Student Life Applications: Leadership Values

History

1.3 Discuss the lives of people associated with Columbus Day

1. Where was Christopher Columbus born?

Italy

2. What did his father Domenico Colombo do for a living?

Wool weaver

3. Columbus went to sea at the age of 10. What did he become?

Columbus became an explorer

Student Life Applications: Leadership Values

Civics

1.10 The student will apply the traits of a good citizen by

a) focusing on fair play, exhibiting good sportsmanship, helping others, and treating others with respect;

When Columbus got to the new world, the Indians already living there were made slaves. Do you think that was respectful to the Indians?

If you came to a new land that did not belong to you, would you take it for yourself?

What do you learn in school about helping others and being respectful?

Student Life Applications: Leadership Values

Civics

1.10 The student will apply the traits of a good citizen by

- b) recognizing the purpose of rules and practicing self-control;**
- c) working hard in school;**

Columbus learned to read and write. He worked hard and traveled. Traveling is education and learning. If you travel down the road and go to a historical place, what will that do for you?

What will you become if you work hard, and learn to read and write?

Columbus knew the purpose of rules and practiced self-control when he talked to kings and queens. What did he do when he said hello?

What do you do at a school that shows self-control ?

Further Study and Sources

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