

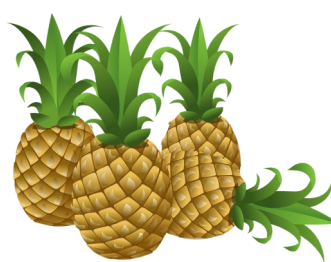


CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS AND THE PEPPER

Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer and navigator, who started sailing from a young age.

In August 1492, he set sail in his ship the Santa Maria, on the first of four voyages across the Atlantic, with two other ships, Pinta and Nina alongside

After 36 days of sailing, Columbus discovered the island that we now call The Bahamas and claimed it for Spain. There he discovered a tribe of native Arawakan Indians, who ate a range of foods, most of which were new and unfamiliar to Columbus and his crew. The Indians mostly ate colourful crops, seafood, wild fowl, beans and squash. The natural crops included cacao (chocolate), maize, potato, cassava (the root of a tropical tree), pumpkins, ground-nuts (peanuts), pineapples and peppers.





Columbus brought back chili peppers upon returning from his second journey (in 1493 after his discovery of the America's), as a gift to the kings of Spain, who had financed the trips hoping to achieve considerable income through the sale of this new spice, appreciated by the upper-class tastes.



When they tasted the dried peppers from the New World, they found them even hotter than the black pepper they knew. For them, if something was hot, it was peppery—and so they named the new arrival “pepper” as well. However, pepper and peppers are totally unrelated.

The misleading name “pepper” (pimiento in Spanish) was given by Christopher Columbus upon bringing the plant back to Europe. At that time peppercorns (black pepper, *Piper nigrum*) were a highly prized condiment.

Within 50 years of Columbus returning to Europe with peppers, they are being grown in England

Today there are over 3,000 chili pepper types grown all around the world.

k i d s

Country



Christopher

Columbus

Born

1451

in Genoa



Columbus set sail

August 3, 1492

The Ship made landfall on

Oct 12, 1492

on one of the Bahamian Islands

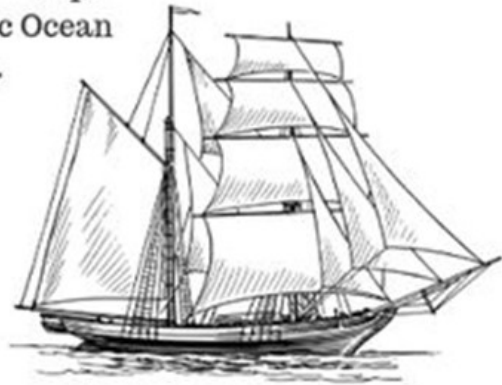
Columbus Day is celebrated on the

2nd Monday

in October

4

Columbus made trips
across the Atlantic Ocean
from Spain.



First Trip in 1492 followed by
trips in 1493, 1498 & 1502



In 1502 Columbus went on his last
trip across the Atlantic. He made
it to Panama.