

# The World is Round

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ /20 \_\_\_\_

Per. \_\_\_\_

*Fill in the blanks with the following words:*

empire

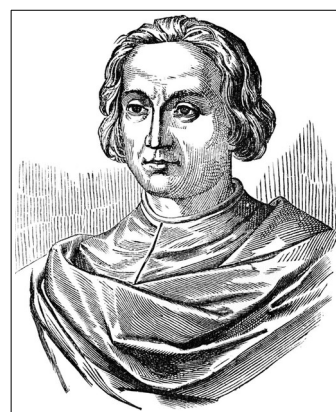
round

Spain

Indians

*Santa Maria*

Italian-born navigator and explorer Christopher Columbus (1451-1506) set out from \_\_\_\_\_ in 1492 to find a new, faster route to Asia by sailing to the west instead of to the east, as all previous sailors from Europe had done. His goal was to reach the Indies, the fabled land of wealth where others had gone and returned with riches such as spice and silks. The Spanish king and queen, who thought such a trip would be a good investment for the future of their \_\_\_\_\_, gave Columbus the financial backing he needed.



In the fifteenth century, the era when Columbus planned his voyage, basic geographical information about the globe was contained in atlases such as the 1482 edition of Claudius Ptolemy's second century *Cosmographis*. While the information in it had changed very little since the times of the Roman empire, by 1492 most Europeans believed that the earth was \_\_\_\_\_ - although they underestimated the overall size of the globe.

As a great navigator and fearless adventurer, Columbus tested the idea of a round earth by setting out on unknown seas in three very tiny ships: the *Niña*, the *Pinta*, and the \_\_\_\_\_. He sailed for weeks out of sight of land while his crew became more and more terrified of the seemingly endless ocean. When finally in October 1492, they made landfall in the Caribbean. Columbus was certain that he had reached the Indies - and thus misnamed the all inhabitants "\_\_\_\_\_." Even after Columbus' second and third voyage to the Caribbean and much evidence to the contrary, he continued to identify this new world as the Indies and its people as Indians.