

## MORE PRACTICE

- 1 Read the text *Daring<sup>1</sup> Sailors*. Answer the question:  
 What discoveries did Christopher Columbus make?

### Daring Sailors

About five hundred years ago at a seaport in Italy, a little boy was helping his father in a workshop.

Christopher Columbus ['krɪstəfə kə'lʌmbəs] — Христофор Колумб; Marco Polo ['mɑ:kou 'pɒləu] — Марко Поло; Amerigo Vespucci [ə'merɪgou ves'pu:tʃɪ] — Америго Веспутчи; the Canary [kə'neəri] Islands — Канарские острова

The boy's name was Christopher Columbus. Little Christopher Columbus was not fond of his work. He loved the sea, he loved to watch the ships that came from many parts of the world. He loved to watch the sailors as they unloaded the monkeys, the bright parrots, the elephant tusks and the other wonderful things which they had brought from the new strange land of Africa. He liked to talk to the sailors about the countries they had sailed to. The sailors used to tell him a lot about their adventures and about the dangers they had met with when they were sailing to Asia around Africa.

Then the boy learned how to make maps, and he soon became very clever at his work.

After a time it became Columbus's dream to sail to the countries he had heard of. He read Marco Polo's book and other books which explained how to travel to China and India. He studied hard the map of the world as sailors and travellers knew it then.

At last he felt that he could not stay at home any longer and when he was 14 years old he went off to sea.

<sup>1</sup> **daring** ['deəriŋ] — отважный



As time went on Columbus made many voyages to different countries, but his dream was to discover new continents and lands which people had not yet been to.

At that time the seamen did not sail very far from land as it was very dangerous and they knew very little about seas and oceans. They also believed that the Earth was flat, and that those who sailed across the ocean to the west would come to the edge<sup>1</sup> of the earth and fall off.

It was about this time that some astronomers [ə'strɒnəməs] said that the Earth was a ball. "If that is true," Columbus thought, "then I can sail to the west and reach the east." So he made up his mind to sail to the west and to find a new way to India. That was his great dream. But he needed ships and money, and he had nothing.

Columbus told kings and queens what he wanted to do, but they did not believe him that it was possible to sail to the west and to reach India.

At last the king and queen of Spain agreed to help Columbus. They gave him three small ships and about a hundred men. On August 3, 1492 the three ships sailed from Spain to the west.

They sailed into the Atlantic Ocean and soon reached the Canary Islands. People then thought that these islands were the end of the world. Seamen had never sailed beyond them and Columbus's men were afraid to sail farther west, but Columbus made them do it.

"In my time," said an old sailor, "I have heard stories about ships which fell off the earth at the end of the sea. I believe they are true stories."

"They are true," said another sailor, "and so are many others, just as bad<sup>2</sup>."

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<sup>1</sup> **edge** [edʒ] — край

<sup>2</sup> **and so are many others, just as bad** — и многие другие, такие же страшные

While the men were telling one another these stories, the three ships sailed on and on. The sailors thought of Spain behind them. Columbus thought of Asia, which he thought was in front of him.

They sailed for more than forty days and still they saw no land. The sailors tried to make Columbus turn and sail back home, but he did not want to and made them go on. As the days went by, there were many signs that land was not far off and the sailors felt happier. Sometimes birds flew in the blue summer sky. Once a sailor cried, "Look, a tree!" There in the water they saw a branch of a tree with fresh berries on it. The sailors knew that land could not be far away.

A few days later Columbus and some of his men got into their boats and landed on a shore. They saw strange trees, plants, animals and birds. They saw strange men, some of them had painted their bodies red, others had blue faces. It was October the twelfth, 1492. Columbus's three ships had crossed the Atlantic Ocean. It had taken them about three months to do it. A new unknown world lay before the men's eyes, but Columbus thought it was India. He gave the name of San Salvador to the island where they landed.

Columbus made several more voyages across the Atlantic Ocean. He discovered a few more islands, but he never knew that he had made one of the most wonderful voyages in the history of the world. He never knew that he had opened the way to the discovery of a new continent.

A few years later a man named Amerigo Vespucci sailed across the Atlantic Ocean and explored the lands which Columbus had discovered. He found it was not India.

"It is a new world," he said. For a long time the land had no name and people called it "The New World". But later they gave it the name of America after Amerigo Vespucci.

## Do You Understand The Story?

- 2 *Number the facts below in the order in which they come in the story.*
- The three ships sailed from Spain to the West.
  - Columbus and some of his men got into their boats and landed on an unknown shore.
  - Columbus read a lot of books which explained how to travel to China and India.
  - Columbus made up his mind to sail to the west and to find a new way to India.
- 3 *Choose the correct ending to each sentence.*
- 1 Little Christopher Columbus did not like his work in his father's workshop because:
- it was very hard.
  - he loved the sea and he wanted to become a seaman.
  - he was not hardworking at all.
- 2 At that time the sailors did not sail far from land because:
- it was very dangerous and they knew very little about seas and oceans.
  - their ships were too primitive.
  - they were not brave enough.
- 3 The sailors tried to make Columbus turn and sail back home because:
- they did not believe that he was a good captain.
  - they had sailed for more than forty days and still saw no land.
  - they missed their homes.
- 4 An unknown world lay before Columbus and he thought:
- it was India.
  - he had discovered a new continent.
  - he had made one of the greatest voyages in the history of the world.

**4** *Agree or disagree.*

- 1 The seamen at that time knew little about the oceans and seas.
- 2 The explorers of those times sailed far beyond the Atlantic Ocean.
- 3 The king and queen of Spain did not help Christopher Columbus.
- 4 Christopher Columbus sailed to the west but he soon turned back home.
- 5 People called the new continent America after Amerigo Vespucci.

**5** *Answer the questions.*

- 1 What did little Christopher Columbus like to talk to the sailors about?
- 2 What was his great dream?
- 3 What did some astronomers at that time say about the Earth?
- 4 What new way did Columbus want to discover?
- 5 Who gave him ships and sailors to sail to India?
- 6 Why did the sailors try to make Columbus turn back home?
- 7 What made the sailors believe that land was not far off? What did they see on the shore?
- 8 What land did Columbus think it was?
- 9 Did he have any idea that there was a new continent beyond those islands?

**How Good Is Your English?**

(see pp 72–73)

**What Do You Think?**

- 6** *Why do you think people remember Christopher Columbus today? Which of his voyages were really most important to the world?*



## How Good Is Your English?



7 *Use the proper word from the box.*

- 1 Man has always wanted to .....  
new .....
- 2 It was hard and ..... to make  
..... across the seas and  
oceans in old times.
- 3 Lots of big ships ..... across  
oceans to far-off .....
- 4 The explorers knew that their  
..... was .....

<p>dangerous voyages lands continents discover sailed voyage</p>
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8 *A? The? Fill in the correct article where necessary.*

- 1 ..... Atlantic Ocean is very big.
- 2 ... Europe is not as large as ..... Asia.
- 3 ..... Volga is the longest river in .....  
Europe.
- 4 ..... Indian Ocean is not so large as  
..... Pacific Ocean.
- 5 ..... Italy is in ..... south of .....  
Europe, isn't it?
- 6 Which ocean is ..... largest?
- 7 ..... Moskva River runs into ..... Oka river.
- 8 Is ..... India in ..... Asia?



9 Find the words which are opposite in meaning.

dangerous	near
long	unload
far	safe
true	lose
agree	disagree
possible	beginning
in front of	short
end	impossible
load	false
find	behind

10 Write the missing forms of the verbs.

to find	found	found
to meet		
to reach		
to know		
to hear		
to make		

b) *Past Indefinite? Past Perfect?* Choose the correct form of the verb (✓).

- The sailors told the boy a lot about the adventures they (met, had met) with during their voyages.
- Columbus never knew that he (made, had made) the most wonderful discovery in the history of the world.
- Long ago people (knew, had known) little about far-off lands.
- Lots of brave travellers (explored, had explored) new continents, oceans and seas centuries ago.