

AF1: Read a text

AF2: Retrieve information from a text.

## **Christopher Columbus**

Christopher Columbus asked King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain to pay for the trip to the East Indies. They agreed and bought three ships: the Santa Maria, the Nina and the Pinto. Columbus also asked for them to have a bigger variety of food for the journey.

### **What did the sailors eat and drink?**

On the journey, the sailors ate salted food such as salted beef. This was because the salt helped to keep the meat fresh. Almost everything was cooked in olive oil. The sailors could also make bread.

When it came to drinking, the sailors preferred to drink wine than water. This was because the water went stale quicker and so could make you ill. The alcohol in the wine helped to keep it fresher.

### **What did the sailors do?**

The sailors worked in two watches. These would be kept on time by a ships boy whose job it was to turn an 30 minute egg timer. Each time he turned it, he would shout out a prayer so that the sailors knew what time it was.

The sailors on each watch had to make sure the ship was kept tidy. They also had to make sure that the ropes and

sails were kept in good condition. They got about four hours off each day when they would sleep or fish.

**What punishments were there?**

The sailors had to do exactly what they were told or they would be whipped with a cat o' nine tails.

Draw a picture of the ship's boy keeping the time.