

AF2: Understand and Retrieve Information from a Text:

The Voyage of Columbus

Who sailed on the voyage?

When Christopher Columbus proposed the expedition to the East Indies to King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. The Crown was to provide everything the expedition needed.

Three ships, the *Santa María*, *Niña*, and *Piñta*, were to sail from Palos, Spain. The crew would be taken from Palos and the surrounding towns:

- Moguer,
- Huelva,
- Lepe,
- Cadiz,
- Seville,
- Cordova,
- Jerez and
- Puerto Santa Maria.

The crew also included a few men who stayed aboard the *Santa María*; they were from the north country of Basque and Galicia.

Columbus had a difficult time hiring sailors. Many of the seasoned mariners looked at the Italian Admiral as if he was stupid. However, a few old timers vouched for the voyage, as did the Pinzón brothers.

The Pinzón brothers were called Martín Alonso Pinzón (Captain of the *Niña*) and Vicente Yáñez Pinzón (Captain of the *Piñta*). These brothers recruited relatives, friends, and former employees to sail with them. The expedition carried a few families such as the Niños, Quinteros, and Pinzóns.

As no one wanted to sail with Columbus, crew members were mostly prisoners given a reprieve. The Crown offered accused men the opportunity to put their sentences on hold while they went to sea.

Four known criminals who were awaiting execution took up the offer. (In those days, a death sentence could be handed down if you stole bread or livestock.)

With a partner, make up five questions that your friends could answer using only the evidence presented in the text.