

Write a passage explaining about the Christopher Columbus.

Christopher Columbus was an Italian. He asked the princes of Italy to sponsor him in an expedition across the Atlantic Ocean to reach the East Indies. The Italian princes refused and so he went to the Spanish and asked them to do the same. King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain agreed and provided Columbus with three ships: The Santa Maria, The Pinta and The Nina.

The Santa Maria was the flagship of his fleet. He only had three small ships and he found it difficult to crew these boats because no one would believe that he could sail west and reach the East Indies. Eventually, he managed to find a crew for each of the three vessels and he set sail for the East Indies.

As part of the deal that Columbus had negotiated with the Spanish King and Queen, the sailors were provided with a greater variety of rations than was usual on Spanish ships. Normally, salted beef, olive oil, sea biscuits and wine was provided but Columbus's fleet was also provided with anchovies, sardines, wheat (from which to make bread) and dried chickpeas, beans and lentils. In addition to this, the Spanish Royal Family provided bait (in the form of fish) and fishing equipment so that the sailors could catch fresh fish for themselves.

Despite these extra rations, many of the Spanish sailors disliked Columbus because he was an Italian. On the 10th October 1492, it was reported that there was a mutiny aboard the Santa Maria as many of the sailors wanted to turn back and head for home. Columbus persuaded them to give him three more days and on the third day, they sighted land and so the mutiny was averted.

Upon landing, Columbus declared that he had found a route to the East Indies and the Spanish Royal Family became very rich as a result. However, it turned out that Columbus had discovered the West Indies instead and this started a race for land that was to continue for the next two hundred years.

This race for land and riches had many consequences including the Act of Union (1707) between England and Scotland but a more immediate effect was that the peoples of North America became known as Red Indians.