



**Christopher Columbus (1451 – 1506)**



**Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer.**  
**He was born on the 31<sup>st</sup> of October, 1451, in Genoa.**

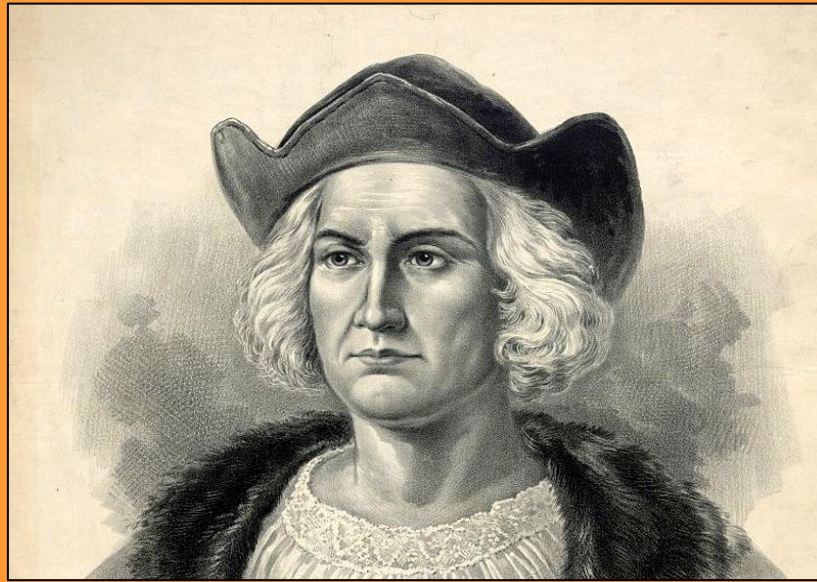


**He completed four voyages across the Atlantic Ocean that led to general European awareness of the American continents.**



**Those voyages, and his efforts to establish permanent settlements initiated the Spanish colonization of the New World.**





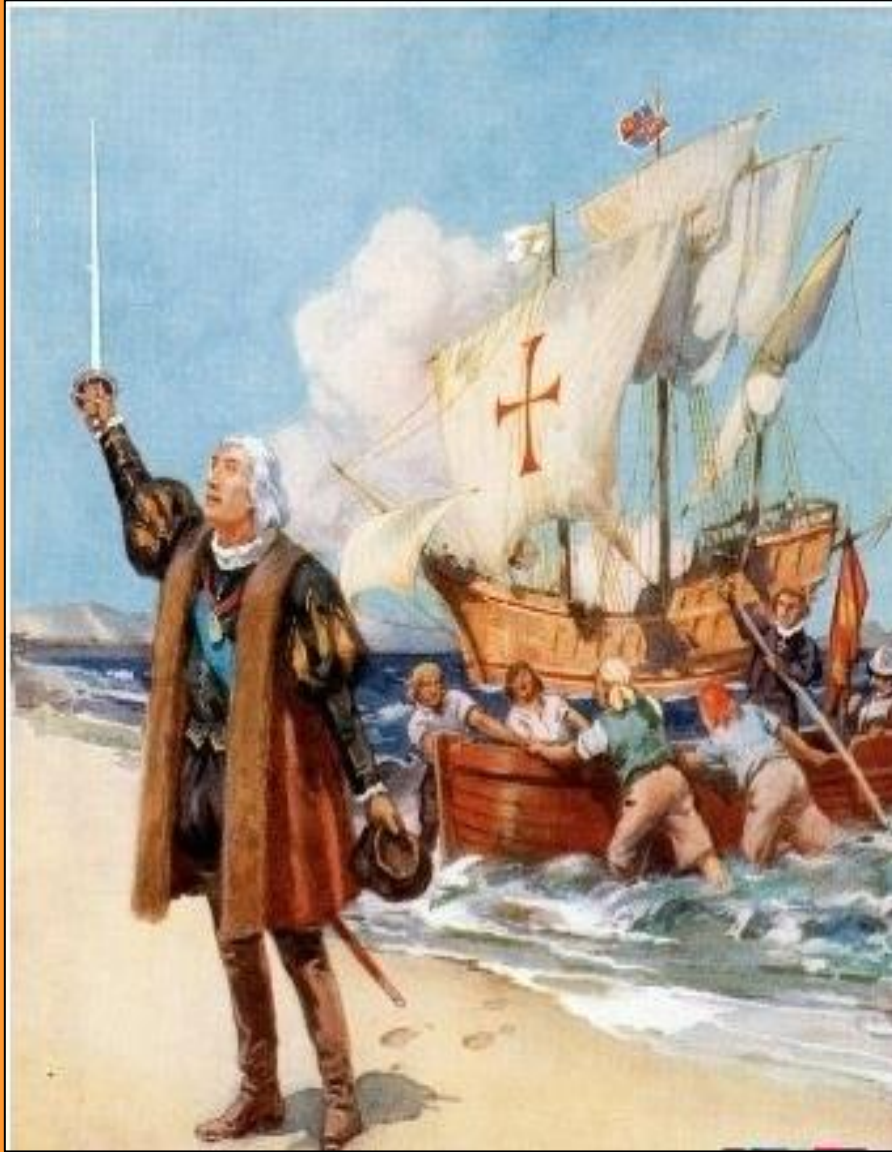
**During his first voyage in 1492, Columbus landed in the Bahamas archipelago. Over the course of three more voyages, he visited the Caribbean coast of Venezuela and Central America, claiming them for the Spanish Empire.**



**Though Columbus wasn't the first European explorer to reach the Americas, his voyages led to the first European contact with the Americans, exploration, conquest and colonization that lasted for several centuries.**

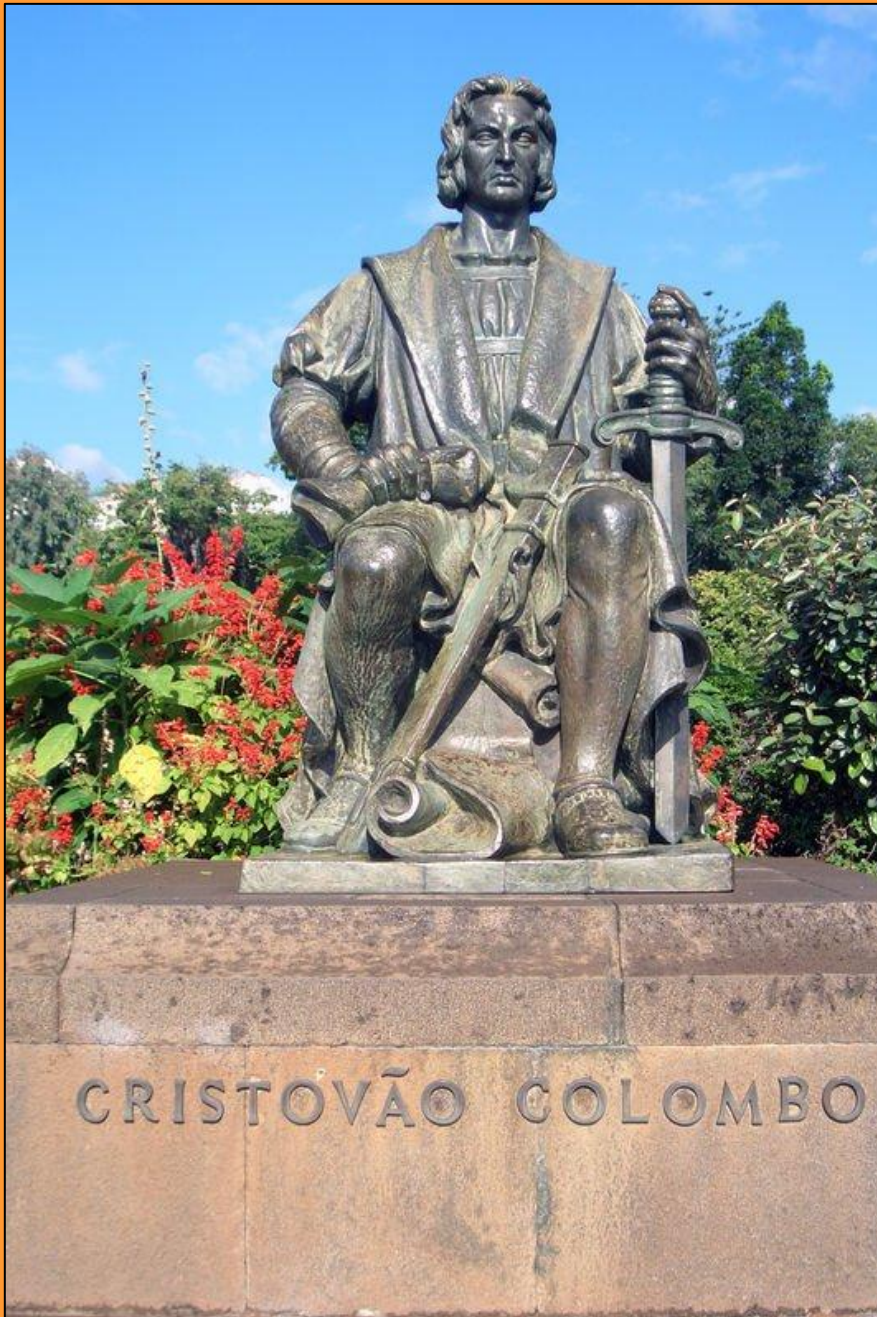


**They had an enormous impact in the historical development of the modern Western world. Columbus himself saw his accomplishment primarily in the light of spreading Christian religion.**



**Never admitting  
that he had  
reached a continent  
previously  
unknown to  
Europeans,  
Columbus called  
the inhabitants of  
the lands he visited  
“Indians”.**





**Christopher  
Columbus died on  
the 20<sup>th</sup> of May,  
1506, at the age of  
54.**