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Columbus Day

Traditionally, Columbus Day has been celebrated on October 12, but this holiday is now celebrated on the second Monday in October. Christopher Columbus was born in Genoa, Italy, in 1451. As a young man, he grew up loving the sea and navigation. His first voyage as a seaman was made at the age of fourteen.

Most people of Columbus' time believed the earth was flat. Columbus proved his belief that the earth was round and that it was possible to reach China by sailing west from Europe.

When Columbus landed in America, he began to call the natives Indians, for he believed he was on an island near India. This is how the American Indians were named. Columbus did not realize that he had discovered a new continent. The area where he landed is today called the Bahamas. Columbus actually made four trips to America. He explored a number of areas of the New World, including parts of Central America, Cuba, Haiti, and the coast of South America.

Columbus Day was first celebrated in 1792. In 1892 a large celebration was held and a statue of Columbus was placed in Central Park in New York City.