

Every October 2nd Monday is the USA National Columbus Holiday

Christopher Columbus, Italian Cristoforo Colombo, Spanish Cristóbal Colón (born between August 26 and October 31?, 1451, Genoa, Italy—died May 20, 1506, Valladolid, Spain) master navigator and admiral whose four transatlantic voyages (1492–93, 1493–96, 1498–1500, and 1502–04) opened the way for exploration and colonization of the Americas. He has long been acknowledged as the “discoverer” of the New World, the Americas.

Columbus made his transatlantic voyages under the sponsorship of Ferdinand II and Isabella I, the Catholic Kings of Aragon, Castile, and Leon in Spain. He was full of hope and ambition, an ambition partly gratified by his title “Admiral of the Ocean Sea,” awarded to him in April 1492, and by the grants enrolled in the Book of Privileges (a record of his titles and claims).

The “discovery” of the Americas was a great triumph, one in which Columbus was the part of hero in accomplishing the four voyages, in being the means of bringing great material profit to Spain and to other European countries, and in opening up the Americas to European settlement.

Little is known of Columbus’s early life. The vast majority of scholars, citing Columbus’s testament of 1498 and archival documents from Genoa and Savona: He was born in Genoa to a Catholic household; Columbus was the eldest son of Domenico Colombo, a Genoa wool worker and merchant, and Susanna Fontanarossa, his wife.

His career as a seaman began effectively in the Portuguese merchant marine. In 1479 he met and married Felipa Perestrello e Moniz, a member of an noble Portuguese family. Their son, Diego, was born in 1480. Between 1482 and 1485 Columbus traded along the coast of tropical West Africa. Felipa died in 1485, and Columbus took Beatriz Enríquez de Harana of Córdoba, by whom he had his second son, Ferdinand (born *c.* 1488).

In 1484 Columbus began seeking support for an Atlantic crossing from King John II of Portugal but was denied aid. By 1486 Columbus was firmly in Spain, asking for patronage from King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella. After at least two rejections, he at last obtained royal support in January 1492.

Their success in defeating the Muslims aggression and control of Granada, Spain may have saved the Christian religion of Europe and allowed Spain's Catholic Kings to divert their attention to exploration, after Christopher Columbus's first voyage in 1492.

In 1493, Columbus brought 1,500 mostly Spanish colonists with him on his second voyage. In 1493 Pope Alexander VI formally approved the division of the unexplored world between Spain and Portugal. allowed Portugal to claim Brazil. New Spanish, Portuguese, and Italian explorers made discoveries that came in quick succession.