# SW Advantage American History Curriculum – Lesson Plan 1

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| **Topic: 1492 Discovery of America/Voyages**  Subtopic: First American Discovery - Christopher Columbus  Age: Late Elementary/Early Middle School  **Goal:** What prompted Christopher Columbus to seek other lands? Who was Christopher Columbus and how did he first discover America? |
| **Materials/Resources:**   1. The Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria 2. SW Advantage Book (Pages 28-32) 3. Christopher Columbus Voyager of the Unknown (Chapter 1-3) 4. Astrolabe <https://in-the-sky.org/astrolabe/index.php> 5. Quadrant <https://www.upliftingmayhem.com/quadrant-used-for-early-navigation/> 6. Crossword printouts (All About Ships & Age of Exploration) |
| **Lesson:** (you can do this in any order throughout the week/weeks)  Week 1: Read The Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria (half of book)  Read SW Advantage Book Pages 28-32  Do Age of Exploration crossword (see below)  Choose Quadrant or Astrolabe craft  Week 2: Read The Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria (finish book)  Read Christopher Columbus Voyager Chapter 1-3  Do All About Ships crossword  Complete other craft  Label ship (copy page 42-43 in Voyager of Unknown book) or complete coloring page  (below) (depending on age of student)  Oral Exam: What were the names of the ships? Why did Columbus seek other lands?  What are some of the parts of a caravel? |
| **Crafts/Activities:**   1. Astrolabe <https://in-the-sky.org/astrolabe/index.php> 2. Quadrant <https://www.upliftingmayhem.com/quadrant-used-for-early-navigation/> 3. Label a caravel Crossword: key terms of explorer general (<https://worksheets.theteacherscorner.net/make-your-own/crossword/>)    1. Crossword: all about ships terms (used glossary terms from The Nina Pinta book) |
| **Extensions:**  A step further: The discovery of ships – astrolabe, the quadrant and the caravel   * 1. Books on invention of caravels/ships/1500 ships   2. Prince Henry the Navigator   3. Extra resources: <https://portugaltravelguide.com/caravel/>   4. Extra Resources: Voyage of the Dawn Treader by C.S. Lewis   5. A Step Further: Other countries and where they came from – Norway, Portugal, Spain, France and England –   6. Label or color – coloring page of a caravel   7. Use book Into the Unknown inner map section p.42-43 |
| **Extra Books:**  Books Found for Christopher Columbus/Age of Exploration:   1. Christopher Columbus: From Vision to Voyage by Joan Anderson (Early Elem) 2. The Voyages of Columbus- Exploration through the Ages by Richard Humble (Elem) 3. Who Was Christopher Columbus? By Bonnie Bader (Elem) 4. Explorers of the New World by History Firsthand /Greenhaven Press/Jake Mattox (late Elem) 5. The Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria by Dennis Brindell Fradin (Elem) 6. The 1400’s Headlines in History (only one or two sections have Columbus) by Stuart Kallen/Greenhaven Press 7. Into the Unknown How Great Explorers Found Their Way by Stewart Ross (good maps of ships) 8. Christopher Columbus Voyager to the Unknown by Nancy Levinson (Elem/middle) 9. Timelines Explorers Expeditions and Pioneers by Fiona Macdonald (Elem/middle) 10. The most Brilliant boldly going book of exploration ever by the Brainwaves (mixture of colorful timeline cartoons) (Elem/middle) 11. You Wouldn’t Want to Sail with Christopher Columbus Uncharted Waters You’d Rather not Cross by Fiona Macdonald (Elem/early) |

Crossword puzzle with text and words

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

A diagram of a tree

Description automatically generated with medium confidence

A black and white drawing of a ship

Description automatically generated