

Christopher Columbus

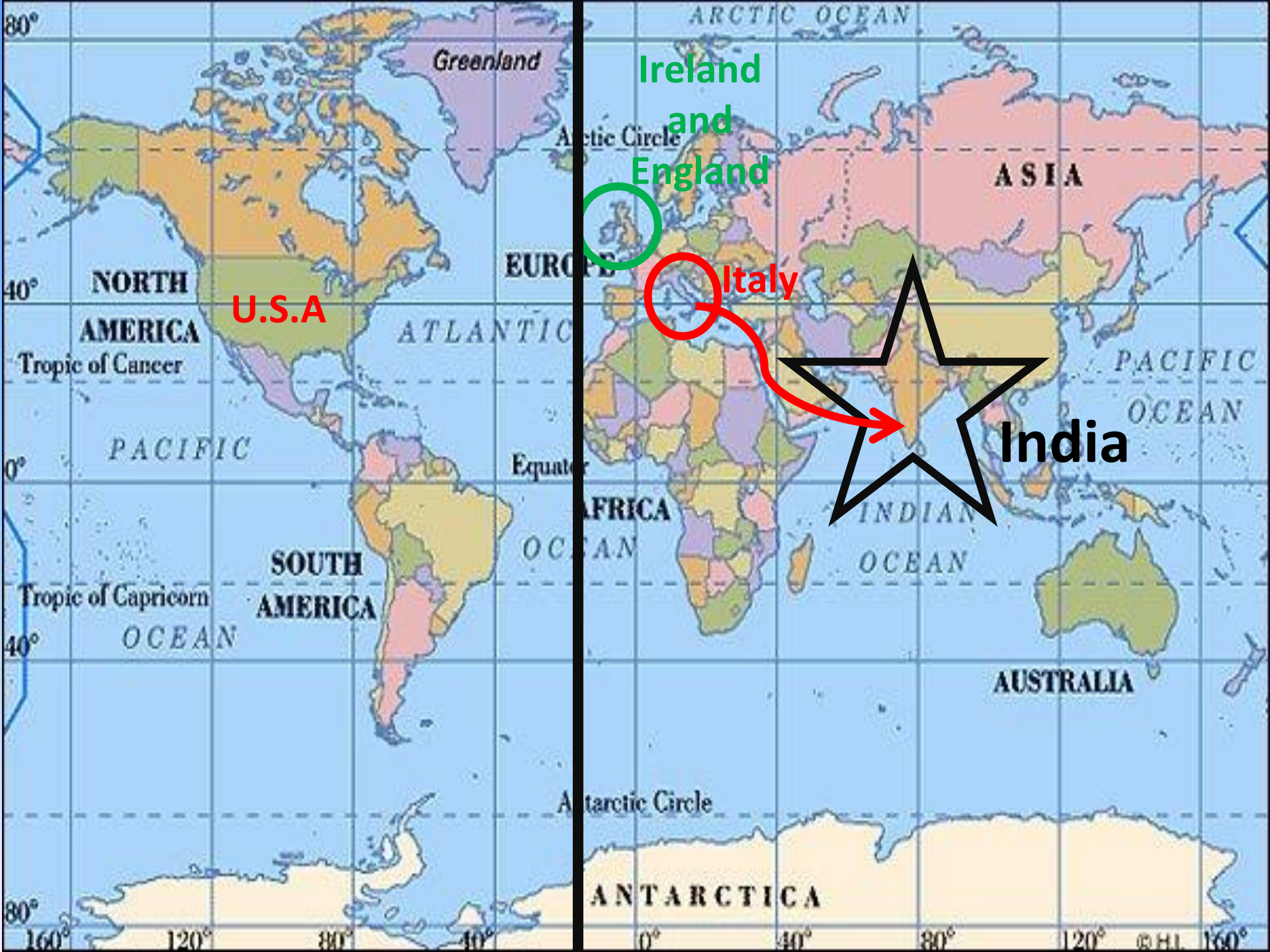


Christopher Columbus was born in 1451. He was **Italian**. When he grew up he became a great explorer who sailed across the Atlantic Ocean, hoping to find a route to India.





India was very important because many of the spices that people in Europe wanted grew there. They used these spices in cooking, for medicine, to dye their clothes and lots of other things.



Columbus sailed for King Ferdinand the second and Queen Isabella of **Spain**. Columbus sailed with three ships, **the Niña, the Pinta and the Santa Maria**, and about 90 crew members. They set sail in August **1492** from Spain.



Life on the ships

The sailors worked shifts. The time for each shift was measured using a half-hour glass. The men had no cabins, but slept on deck. Every morning, they said prayers.

The ships let in water all the time. The men had to work pumps, to keep the ships afloat.

Finding the way

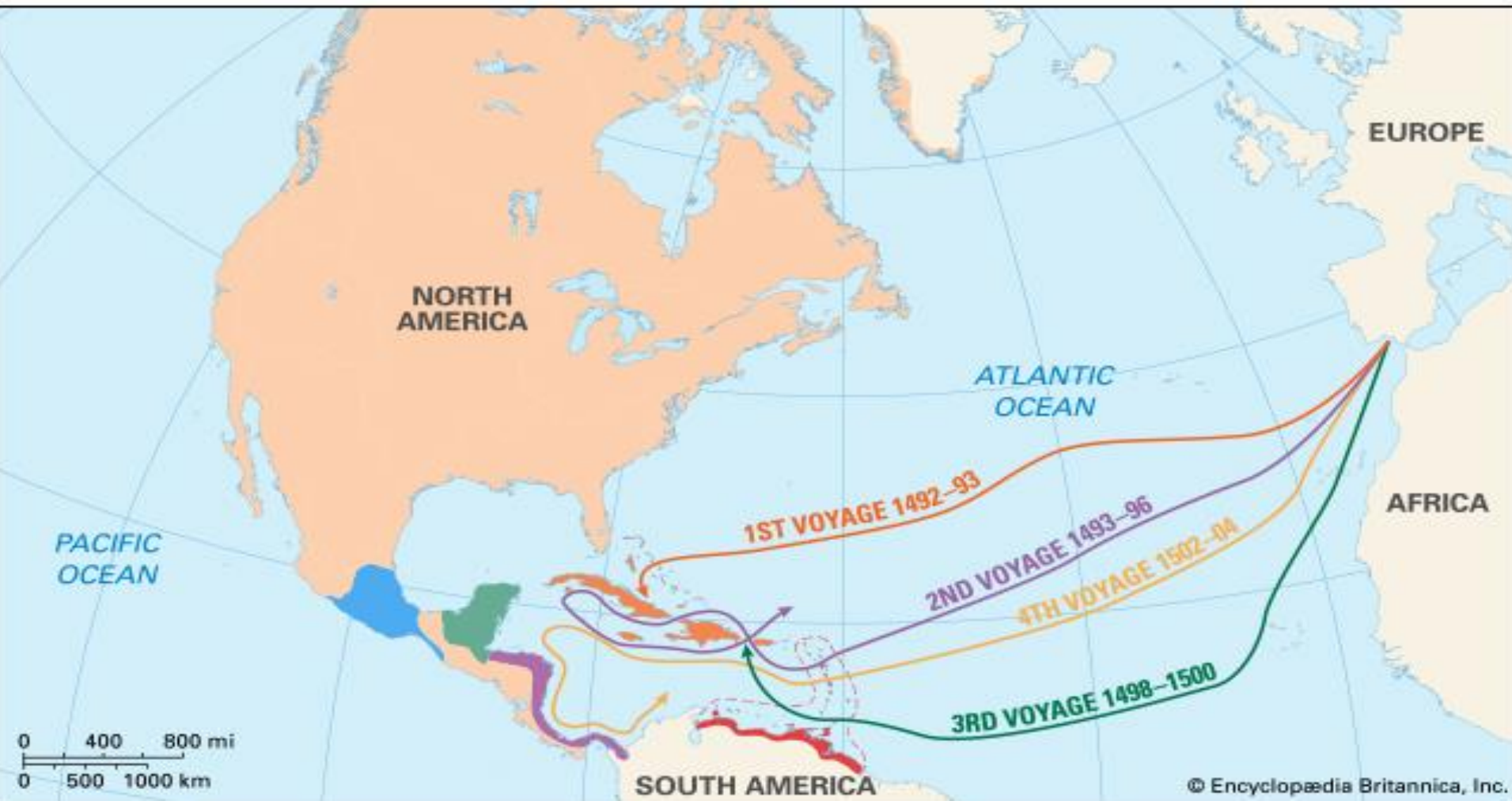
Columbus used a compass to help him navigate. He used a traverse board to plot (mark) the direction they wanted to sail in.



In October 1492 they spotted the **Caribbean islands** off the coast of America. They landed on an island they named it **San Salvador**. They were met by the **native people**. Many of these people were captured by Columbus' men and later sold as **slaves**. Columbus thought he had made it to India, and called this area the Indies, and called it's the people who lived there **Indians**.

VOYAGES OF CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

At the time of Christopher Columbus's voyages, millions of people already lived in what would become known as North America and South America. When Columbus reached the Bahamas, he thought he had reached the East Indies, so he called the people he met there Indians. The ancestors of those peoples had arrived in the Western Hemisphere thousands of years before Europeans began to explore the Americas. Upon first contact with Europeans, these "Indians" were almost immediately enslaved or killed by disease or war. Over time their land was stolen from them as well.



Columbus didn't know it at the time but he had discovered a new part of the world. Many people moved to the Americas after his great discovery. It became known as The New World.



He also discovered...

- **Shipwreck**

On Christmas night 1492 the Santa Maria was wrecked. It hit a reef.

- The other two ships sailed home. Columbus left 40 men behind. He took some captive Native Americans with him. He landed in Spain in March 1493.

- **Second voyage**

Columbus soon went back to rescue his men. This time, he took 17 ships. But all the men left behind were dead.

What happened Columbus?

Columbus in disgrace

Spain ruled the lands Columbus had found. On his third voyage, Columbus saw South America for the first time. But he came home in disgrace. His enemies said he had ruled Hispaniola to make himself rich. He was sent back to Spain in chains. But the king and queen set him free.

Native Americans made slaves

People from Europe sailed to America to start colonies. Some wanted to make the Native Americans become Christians. The Europeans began treating the Native Americans badly. They made many of them work as slaves

Columbus Dies...

- Columbus sailed to America for a fourth time in 1502. He was still hoping to land in China. This time he explored Central America. His ships were too leaky to sail home, so he had to wait a year before being rescued.
- When Columbus got back to Spain, he was a sick man. He died in 1506

How Columbus changed history...

- **Other explorers**

Other explorers followed Columbus. In 1497-98, John Cabot sailed from England to North America. In 1501 Amerigo Vespucci from Italy sailed to South America. 'America' was named after him. People knew that the New World was not Asia, but a new continent.

- **How Columbus changed history**

Columbus and his sailors sailed bravely into the unknown. Columbus did not give up, even when people laughed at his ideas.

- Explorers brought home gold, new foods and new knowledge. However, they brought misery to many Native Americans. The Europeans took their land. Many Native Americans were killed in wars with the Europeans, or died from European diseases.



A map of the world from the late 1400s. This map was used by Columbus to plan his trip to India, but he ended up discovering America!

