

# Columbus' View of the Earth

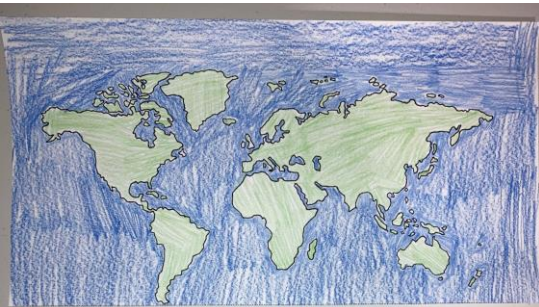
Use this craft to help students understand what Christopher Columbus believed about the earth.

Contrary to legend, most Europeans who lived at the same time as Christopher Columbus did not think the earth was flat. They knew the earth was a sphere and estimated its circumference almost perfectly. Columbus disagreed with them about the **size** of the earth. He estimated its circumference to be much smaller than it is.

Both Columbus and his contemporaries believed there was nothing but ocean between Europe and Asia. None of them were aware of North and South America. This is the reason it was so hard for Columbus' trip to get sponsored. His critics said it was too far for any ship to sail. And, if there *had* been nothing but ocean in between, they would have been correct.



- ❖ color both maps and cut on the lines
- ❖ tape maps together to compare circumferences
- ❖ hole punch each map and tie with string to this circle copied onto cardstock



Christopher Columbus  
thought the earth was much  
smaller than it is.

He thought only one ocean  
was in between Europe and  
Asia.

He did not know the Americas  
were there.



