

The Log of **CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS**

Columbus's log shows that he was aware of more than just the sea. His original log, which was given to the king and queen of Spain, was lost. But a copy, passed down from Columbus to his sons and grandson, is our link to Columbus's original log.

Interpret Primary Sources

DIRECTIONS: Read the following accounts from Columbus's log. Then answer the questions that follow.

Thursday, 20 September, 1492. Very early this morning three little birds flew over the ship, singing as they went, and flew away as the sun rose. This was a comforting thought, for unlike the large waterbirds, these little birds could not have come from far off.

Sunday, 23 September, 1492. I saw a dove, a tern, another small river bird and some white birds. . . . The crew is still grumbling about the wind. When I get a wind from the southwest or west it is inconstant, and that, along with a flat sea, has led the men to believe that we will never get home.

Monday, 24 September, 1492. I am having serious trouble with the crew. . . . They have said that it is insanity . . . on their part to risk their lives following the madness of a foreigner. . . . I am told by a few trusted men (and these are few in number!) that if I persist in going onward, the best course of action will be to throw me into the sea some night.

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Imagine being on board Columbus's ship as one of the crew members along for the voyage in 1492. Your assignment is to write three journal entries as if you were on the expedition with Columbus. You should be writing this in your point of view as if this was really happening to you during your journey. Be sure to add the dates to each journal entry. Each entry should be at least 5 sentences. Be creative!