**Christopher Columbus: Extracts from Journal**

This text is slightly adapted from Julius E, Olson and Edward Gaylord Bourne, *The Northmen, Columbus, and Cabot, 985-1503,*(New York: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1906), ORIGINAL NARRATIVES OF THE VOYAGES OF COLUMBUS, edited by Professor Edward G. Bourne, pp. 77 ff

Online at Internet Archive: <https://archive.org/details/northmencolumbus00olso/page/90>

Whereas, Most Christian, High, Excellent, and Powerful Princes, King and Queen of Spain and of the Islands of the Sea, our Sovereigns, this present year 1492(…)Your Highnesses, as Catholic Christians, and princes who love and promote the holy Christian faith, and are enemies of the doctrine of Mahomet, and of all idolatry and heresy, determined to send me, Christopher Columbus, to the countries of India, to see the princes, people, and territories, and to learn their disposition and the proper method of converting them to our holy faith and furthermore directed that I should not proceed by land to the East, as is customary, but by a Westerly route, in which direction we have hitherto no certain evidence that any one has gone.

(….) Hereupon I left the city of Granada, on Saturday, the twelfth day of May, 1492, and proceeded to Palos, a seaport, where I armed three vessels, very fit for such an enterprise, and having provided myself with abundance of stores and seamen, I set sail from the port, on Friday, the third of August, half an hour before sunrise, and **steered** for the Canary Islands of your Highnesses which are in the ocean, thence to take my departure and proceed till I arrived at the Indies, and perform the embassy of your Highnesses to the Princes there, and discharge the orders given me.

For this purpose I determined to keep an account of the voyage, and to write down punctually every thing we performed or saw from day to day, as will hereafter appear. Moreover, Sovereign Princes, besides describing every night the occurrences of the day, and every day those of the preceding night, I intend to draw up a nautical chart, which shall contain the several parts of the ocean and land in their proper situations; and also to compose a book to represent the whole by picture with latitudes and longitudes.

(…) Thursday, 11 October. Steered west-southwest; and encountered a heavier sea than they had met with before in the whole voyage. The crew of the Pinta saw a cane and a **log**; they also picked up a stick which appeared to have been carved with an iron tool, a piece of cane, a plant which grows on land, and a board. The crew of the Nina saw other signs of land, and a **stalk** loaded with rose berries. These signs encouraged them, and they all grew cheerful. Sailed this day till sunset, twenty-seven leagues.

(…) The land was first seen by a sailor called Rodrigo de Triana, although the Admiral at ten o'clock that evening standing on the **quarter-deck** saw a light, but so small that he could not affirm it to be land; (…) The Admiral again perceived it once or twice, appearing like the light of a wax candle moving up and down, which some thought an indication of land. But the Admiral held it for certain that land was near (…) At two o'clock in the morning the land was discovered, at two leagues' distance; (…) when they found themselves near a small island, one of the Lucayos, called in the Indian language Guanahani. Presently they **descried** people, naked, and the Admiral landed in the boat, which was armed, along with Martin Alonzo Pinzon, and Vincent Yanez his brother, captain of the Nina. The Admiral bore the royal standard, and the two captains each a banner of the Green Cross, which all the ships had carried; this contained the initials of the names of the King and Queen each side of the cross, and a crown over each letter. Arrived on shore, they saw trees very green many streams of water, and diverse sorts of fruits. (…) Numbers of the people of the island straightway collected together. Here follow the precise words of the Admiral: "As I saw that they were very friendly to us, and perceived that they could be much more easily converted to our holy faith by gentle means than by force, I presented them with some red caps, and strings of beads to wear upon the neck, and many other trifles of small value, wherewith they were much delighted, and became wonderfully attached to us. Afterwards they came swimming to the boats, bringing parrots, balls of cotton thread, **javelins**, and many other things which they exchanged for articles we gave them, such as glass beads, and **hawk's bells**; which trade was carried on with the utmost good will. But they seemed on the whole to me, to be a very poor people. They all go completely naked, even the women, though I saw but one girl. All whom I saw were young, not above thirty years of age, well made, with fine shapes and faces; their hair short, and coarse like that of a horse's tail, combed toward the forehead, except a small portion which they **suffer** to hang down behind, and never cut. Some paint themselves with black, which makes them appear like those of the Canaries, neither black nor white; others with white, others with red, and others with such colors as they can find. Some paint the face, and some the whole body; others only the eyes, and others the nose. Weapons they have none, nor are acquainted with them, for I showed them swords which they grasped by the blades, and cut themselves through ignorance. They have no iron, their javelins being without it, and nothing more than sticks, though some have fish-bones or other things at the ends. They are all of a good size and stature, and handsomely formed. I saw some with scars of wounds upon their bodies, and demanded by signs the of them; they answered me in the same way, that there came people from the other islands in the neighborhood who endeavored to make prisoners of them, and they defended themselves. I thought then, and still believe, that these were from the continent. *It appears to me, that the people are ingenious, and would be good servants and I am of opinion that they would very readily become Christians, as they appear to have no religion. They very quickly learn such words as are spoken to them. If it please our Lord, I intend at my return to carry home six of them to your Highnesses, that they may learn our language. I saw no beasts in the island, nor any sort of animals except parrots*." These are the words of the Admiral.

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| **Paraphrase:** Rewrite theunderlined sentence in your own words:  *Evaluation criteria (grade 1-3)*  *Semantic completeness (meaning is preserved)*  *Lexical similarity (the lexical form is different)*  *Fluency* |
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| **Inference**: What does this source tell us about Christopher Columbus’ view of the people he has found?  *Evaluation criteria (grade 1-3)*   * *Gives a factual statement* * *Gives a simple explanation* * *Gives detailed explanations* |
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| **Evidence**: List three quotations from the whole text that support, or prove, your inference.  *Evaluation criteria (1 grade if the quotation is pertinent and correct)* |
| **1.** |
| **2.** |
| **3.** |

Evaluation criteria: