Columbus Day became an official United States federal holiday in 1970. “Since 1971, the holiday has been commemorated in the U.S. on the second Monday in October, the same day as Thanksgiving in neighboring Canada. It is generally observed today by banks, the bond market, the U.S. Postal Service and other federal agencies, most state government offices, and some school districts; however, most businesses and stock exchanges remain open.” Some Italian-Americans celebrate their heritage on this day with parades or other festivities. Many states and cities with large Native American populations do not recognize Columbus Day or celebrate “Indigenous People’s Day” or “Native American Day” instead. Many countries celebrate Christopher Columbus’s arrival in the New World under the names DÃ­a de la Raza (Day of the Race) or Day of the Cultures, Day of the Americas, Discovery Day, Spanish Day (Spain), or DÃ­a de la Resistencia IndÃ©gena (Day of Indigenous Resistance – Venezuela). Wikipedia

Lessons Plans:

- With the poem “In 1492”, you can teach Columbus Day and poetry too! (LA K-1)
- This lesson is called “Sink or Float?” and uses the book “Christopher Columbus” (Science K-1)
- Here’s a Columbus Day song and game idea (Music 2-3)
- In this lesson, students learn about Columbus Day from two perspectives (SS/LA 4-6)
- Students write a postcard from the perspective of a Spanish sailor in this lesson about Columbus’ first encounter with the Taino Indians (SS/LA 4-5)
- Christopher Columbus The Man the Myth the Legend UNIT (Kindergarten)
- Columbus Sailed the Ocean Blue UNIT (Kindergarten)
- Christopher Columbus UNIT (1st Grade)
- Christopher’s Crossing (3rd, 4th, and 5th Grades)
- Columbus Day Center (Grades 3-5)
- Chart Columbus's Voyages
Videos and Other Media Resources:

- Get the real story on Columbus, his voyages and the Columbus Day holiday at History.com
- BBC – Famous People hosts a great slide show and interactive quiz for kids
- Find out about Columbus and his journey in this National Geographic for Kids video
- Here are Columbus Day PowerPoints
- Video - Christopher Columbus Sets Sail
- Brain Pop Video – Christopher Columbus
- Brain Pop Jr. Video – Christopher Columbus

Additional Resources:

- Find out more about Christopher Columbus and the history of Columbus Day at History.com
- “1492: An Ongoing Voyage” is a virtual exhibit from the Library of Congress showing how the events of 1492 set the stage for cultural interaction still in progress
- Learn how indigenous people view Columbus Day here
- This site explains South Dakota’s Native Americans’ Day
- “Columbus Fact vs. Fiction” is a study undertaken by the Order of Sons of Italy in America in defense of Columbus and the celebration of Columbus Day
- Here are some great Columbus Day discussion questions
- Learn how Columbus’ voyage revolutionized eating habits across the globe
- The Columbus Navigation Homepage might be a interesting source for a math or science lesson and it has a great timeline
- These are Columbus Day poems
- Find Columbus Day crafts, cards, coloring pages and nine additional lesson plans at Crayola.com
- Columbus
- Find your Longitude
- Was Columbus Smart about Safety?
- Columbus Day (Readers Theatre)
- Web Hunt: Christopher Columbus
- Columbus Day
- Christopher Columbus (1451-1506)

Printables

- Columbus Hat: Template
  Cut out and paste together a Columbus hat to wear.
- Christopher Columbus Discovery Map
  Follow the journey on this illustrated map, then imagine your own story.
- **Columbus Puppet: Pattern**
  Follow this pattern to create a paper bag puppet.

- **Columbus' Ship Pattern**
  Build a ship with three masts. Color, cut out, and assemble the pieces.

- **Columbus Day: Word Find**
  Search for the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria with this holiday word search.

- **Stand-Up Christopher Columbus Pattern**
  Make a model of Columbus. Color, cut, and fold.

- **Columbus Day Journal & Activity Pages**

- **Printable Columbus Day Match-up Worksheets**

- **Printable Columbus Day Word Scramble**

- **Columbus Day Printable Worksheets**

**Websites**

- **The Columbus Navigation Homepage**
  This site provides articles on the history of Columbus and his voyages, how he navigated, his ships and crew, his interaction with Native Americans, and more. Images and maps are included, as well as links to further information about Columbus.

- **BBC: Famous People**
  Designed for 5- to 7-year-olds, this BBC Schools website features 10 famous people-including Christopher Columbus. Click on the link for Teachers to access related lesson plans and printable worksheets. The site includes a Flash and non-Flash version.

- **Cyberspace Explorer: Getting to Know Christopher Columbus**
  Students explore multiple online sources to gather information about the life of Christopher Columbus, complete a cyber scavenger hunt, and use their notes to prepare a timeline and summary report.