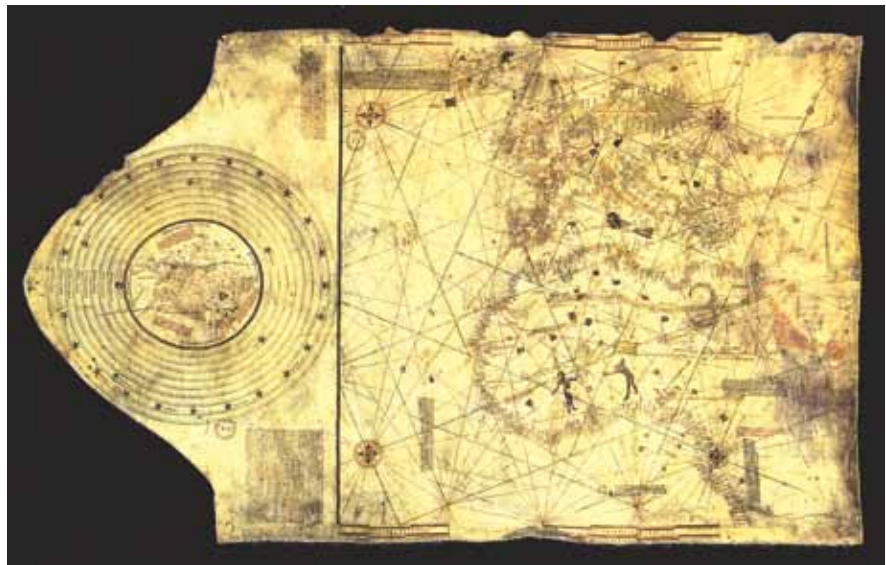




HEY, LITTLE BUDDIES!

IT'S **UNCLE RICK**, coming to you from the Little House in the Pasture, where you can hear the bird sing, the cows moo, the horses neigh and Uncle Rick talk to his little buddies!

Does your family celebrate Columbus Day? All of us should. Christopher Columbus made the long and dangerous voyage across the Atlantic Ocean looking for a shorter way

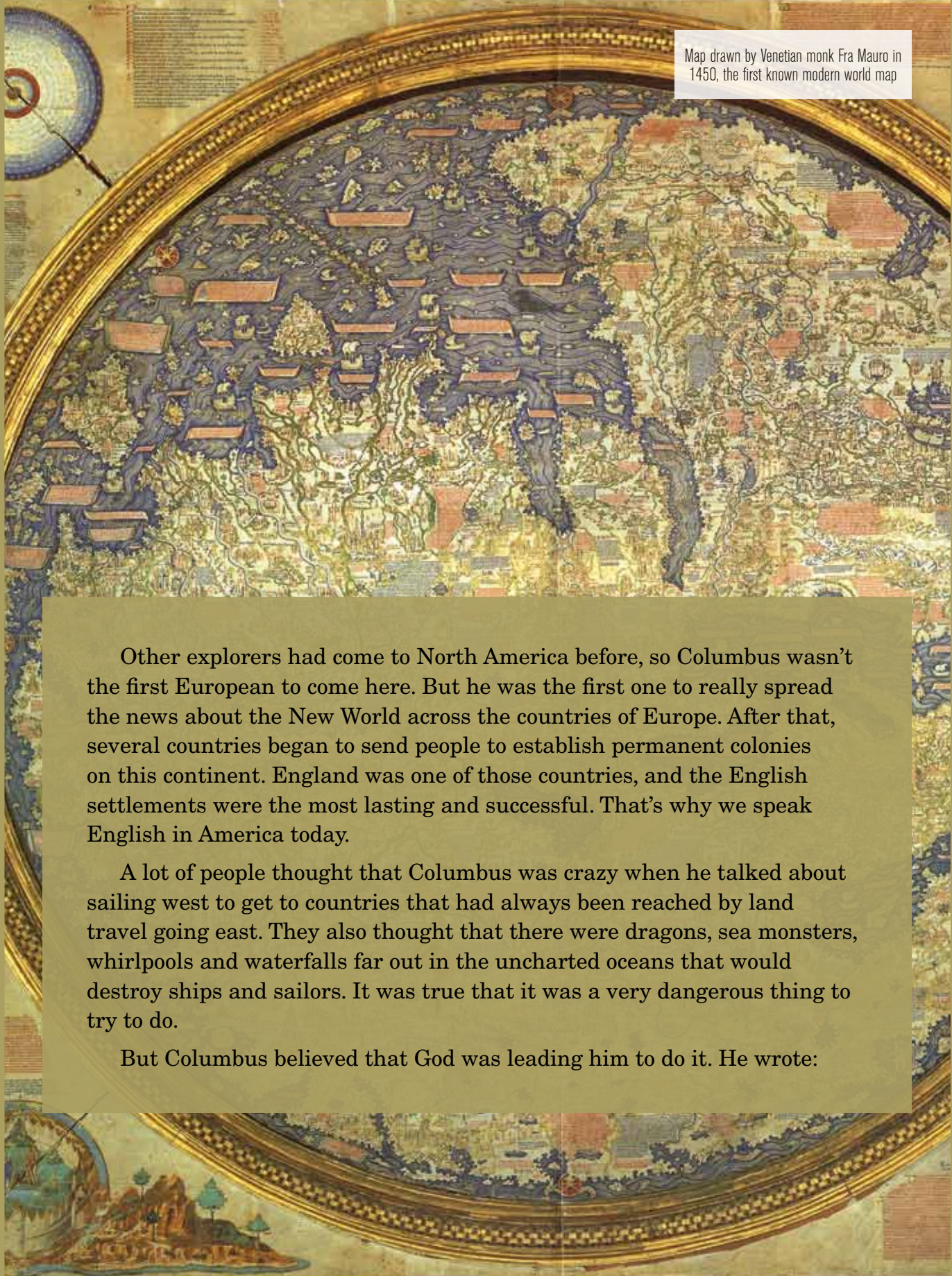


The "Columbus map" which perhaps was drawn by Christopher Columbus and his brother Bartolomeo in Lisbon around 1490 before the discovery of the New World, showing the known world in their time.



Drawing of the *Pinta*, one of the three ships which sailed to the New World with Christopher Columbus.

to reach Oriental countries that European countries wanted to do business with. He thought he could find a route across the ocean that would be shorter and faster than the old slow way of traveling thousands of miles by land. But on his first voyage he bumped into a little island off the coast of Florida. And that was the beginning of the settlement of America.



Map drawn by Venetian monk Fra Mauro in 1450, the first known modern world map

Other explorers had come to North America before, so Columbus wasn't the first European to come here. But he was the first one to really spread the news about the New World across the countries of Europe. After that, several countries began to send people to establish permanent colonies on this continent. England was one of those countries, and the English settlements were the most lasting and successful. That's why we speak English in America today.

A lot of people thought that Columbus was crazy when he talked about sailing west to get to countries that had always been reached by land travel going east. They also thought that there were dragons, sea monsters, whirlpools and waterfalls far out in the uncharted oceans that would destroy ships and sailors. It was true that it was a very dangerous thing to try to do.

But Columbus believed that God was leading him to do it. He wrote:

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS



Replica of the *Santa Maria*, Columbus' flagship.



[O]ur Lord opened to my understanding (I could sense His hand upon me) so it became clear to me that it was feasible. . . . All those who heard about my enterprise rejected it with laughter, scoffing at me. . . . Who doubts that this illumination was from the Holy Spirit? I attest that He, with marvelous rays of light, consoled me through the holy and sacred Scriptures . . . they inflame me with a sense of great urgency. . . . No one should be afraid to take on any enterprise in the name of our Savior if it is right and if the purpose is purely for His holy service. . . . And I say that the sign which convinces me that our Lord is hastening the end of the world is the preaching of the Gospel recently in so many lands.

Columbus didn't have enough money to buy and equip three ships to sail across the Atlantic. He convinced the King and Queen of Spain to give him the money he needed. They did it hoping to increase their buying and selling with the nations of the Orient. But Columbus believed that he had been led by God to take the Christian faith to countries where Christ was still unknown.

Columbus was successful. His exploration led to the establishment of many European colonies, most of which were Christian in their laws and values. That's why we should celebrate Columbus Day. It honors the memory of a man who was used by God to establish a new Christian nation now called the United States of America.

Love,

Uncle Rick

Columbus and his crew land in the New World, October 12, 1492

