



**INDIAN SCHOOL AL WADI AL KABIR
DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH [2023– 2024]**

TOPIC: Reading Comprehension

WORKSHEET

RESOURCE PERSON: Ms. Gemma Schwan

NAME: _____ CLASS: V SEC: ____ DATE: _____

Read the passage given below carefully and answer the questions that follow.

The Discovery of Santa Maria

Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer, navigator and coloniser, whose efforts led to the discovery of America by the Spanish. He set sail on August 12th, 1492 with three ships named the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. He hoped to find India as it was rumoured to be a land of great riches. On October 12th, 1492 land was spotted. He named the inhabitants of this island "Indians" as he was convinced that he had landed on islands off the coast of East Asia. Columbus is a central figure in European History as it was his voyage that started the exploration and colonisation of the America.

The Santa Maria was the largest of the three ships used by Christopher Columbus in his first voyage. The Santa Maria which was used by Columbus' mission to discover America has been found after five hundred years, lying at the bottom of the sea off Haiti's coast, an archaeological investigator has claimed. Barry Clifford stated that all the evidence strongly suggested that the wreck was Columbus' famous flagship, the Santa Maria. If the claim is proved to be true, the recovery of the shipwreck is likely to be one of the world's most important underwater archaeological discoveries. Clifford's team has measured and photographed the wreck.

Tentatively identifying the wreck was made possible by quite separate discoveries made by other archaeologists in 2003, suggesting the probable location of Columbus' fort nearby. Armed with this new information about the location of the fort, Clifford was able to use data in Columbus' diary to work out where the wreck should be.

His team, a decade ago, had found and photographed the wreck but did not realise its identity at that stage. A comparison of those photographs combined with the new data found from dives on the site by Clifford's team has allowed the wreck to be tentatively identified as that of the Santa Maria.

The evidence so far is substantial. It is the right location in terms of how Columbus, writing in his diary, described the wreck in relation to his fort.

The meanings of some words from the passage are given here for a better understanding.

WORD	MEANING
1. coloniser	a person who helps take control of an area or a country that is not their own, especially using force, and sends people from their own country to live there
2. colonisation	when one country takes control of another country or region, establishing a settlement, or permanent part of the colony, in order to control the area and gain riches

I. Choose the correct option to complete the following sentences.

1. Christopher Columbus was _____

- a. a Spanish navigator
- b. an Italian explorer
- c. an American saluter

2. Christopher Columbus hoped to find India because it was _____

- a. a large island
- b. a central figure in European history
- c. a land of great riches

3. The recovery of the shipwreck is considered to be _____

- a. the best in the world
- b. the most important archaeological discovery
- c. important underwater archaeological survey

II. Answer the following questions based on the passage.

1. Why did Columbus set sail?

Ans:

2. What is the evidence to prove that the wreck which was found, was that of Columbus' ship?

Ans: _____

III. Match the words with their meanings as given in the passage.

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| 1. explore | a. ruin/destruction |
| 2. navigate | b. long journey by sea |
| 3. rumour | c. to look carefully to learn more and analyse |
| 4. voyage | d. to find a way when sailing a ship |
| 5. wreck | e. information which people believe in |

1. ____ 2. ____ 3. ____ 4. ____ 5. ____