Columbus made his voyages to the New World on behalf of Spain. He set sail from and returned to the main Spanish port, Cádiz, which would become extremely wealthy thanks to trade with the Americas.

Hispaniola
Columbus landed on the island of Hispaniola on his first voyage. He founded a colony named La Navidad, which was later destroyed by the native people. On his second voyage, in 1494, Columbus founded two new settlements on the island, first at La Isabela and later at Santo Domingo.

San Salvador
After five weeks at sea on his first voyage, Columbus made landfall on San Salvador, a small island in what is now the Bahamas. He and his crew arrived there on October 12, 1492.

Cuba
Columbus sailed to the north coast of Cuba. Columbus believed he had arrived in China and sent men to locate the emperor. They failed, but visited a Taíno village instead.

Central America
Columbus visited Central America in 1502, on his fourth voyage. In Panama he learned from native people about another ocean to the west. It was the first time Europeans had heard of the Pacific Ocean.

Jamaica
On his fourth voyage, Columbus and his crew were marooned for over 4 years on what is now Jamaica after their ship was wrecked just offshore.

Orinoco
When Columbus visited the coast of Venezuela on his third voyage in 1498, he saw the mouth of the Orinoco River. He believed that due to the size of the freshwater river, Venezuela was not just an island, but part of a whole continent: South America.

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