**As He Sailed the Ocean Blue**

By Gianna M.

"In 1492, he sailed the ocean blue," your teacher chants as she walks down the aisle between all of your peach colored desks. Your mind goes straight to thinking about Christopher Columbus and his journey which lead him to North America by mistake. As you think about him, you wonder, "Was there anything special about Christopher Columbus that made him a good captain?" Christopher Columbus's special personality traits allowed him to be a superior leader. Three of his extravagant personality traits include being persistent, being brave, and being an independent thinker. All aboard, our time machine is going back to 1492 to learn all about Christopher Columbus.

To begin with, our first stop on our time machine journey starts all the way back in the late 1400s. At this stop on our journey, you will learn how Christopher Columbus's persistence helped him to convince Spain's King and Queen to sponsor his journey. Christopher Columbus believed that he was destined to be at sea, and hoped for many travels during his life. When he found out that ships from different countries were struggling to find a passage to Asia, Christopher Columbus thought that he had figured out a passage called the northwest passage that would lead him through present day Canada. Of course, if you would like to go on a journey like this, you need some finances. For example, if you join a sports team, sometimes on the back of the shirts you will find companies names written. The companies make money when you look on the shirt and notice the company, and perhaps buy yourself something from that company. First, Christopher Columbus went to the king of Portugal, John the second. His request was denied. Here is an example of Christopher being persistent. He didn’t give up after he got denied by Portugal-he decided to travel to Spain! He presented his idea to see if King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella would sponsor his journey. Christopher Columbus had to be persistent because it took a lot of explaining to hook King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella into his idea. Just like how a writer wants to hook a reader into their story. At first, the Royal Commission rejected his plan. He tried again in 1492 because he was persistent and knew that he would need to campaign once more. Finally, in 1492, his plan was confirmed by the King and Queen of Spain. Even though Christopher was born in Italy, his sponsor was Spain. Now, we'll go hop back onto our time machine and travel to the next great thing about Christopher Columbus which was his braveness. Hop on, we're getting ready for take off!

Secondly, our next stop on our time traveling journey is when Christopher Columbus had to be brave. This takes place on Christopher's first journey across the Atlantic Ocean. Once he landed in North America, thinking it was Asia, knew that he must build a fort for all of the people on his ship. Of course, none of the sailors would want to spend their whole journey to "Asia" only on the ship! After all, they came to "Asia" just to get riches for Spain. Since Christopher got to North America around Christmas time, he named the fort that he built "La Navidad." That is Spanish for "The Christmas." He also had to be brave after he made his fort because they soon encountered the Taino people. This group of people were a Native American tribe that was living on the land that Christopher had just landed on. Christopher had to be brave here because he knew that he would need to make friends with the Taino in order to be able to live here peacefully. Christopher bravely strode towards the Taino to talk, and soon enough after, he was able to trade with the Taino people. The Taino had some valuable items that Spain would surely want, and the sailors all had certain things that the tribes wanted that they had never seen before. As you can see, in order for a friendship to be established with the Taino people, Christopher Columbus had to be brave. Now that we are done visiting this bullet in the time line, we're ready to join up with our time machine to yet again, learn about another great quality of Christopher Columbus that made him an extravagant leader.

Finally, our time machine ride has almost come to an end. Our last stop before we go back to the present shows how Christopher Columbus was an independent thinker. Being an independent thinker is a crucial part of being an explorer. Christopher Columbus had to be an independent thinker when he journeyed back to North America on yet another expedition. A year before, Christopher Columbus had built his fort "La Navidad" and left some sailors there to keep watch over the fort. When Christopher Columbus got there, he found that none of his sailors were there and his fort was gone. He asked the Taino if anything had happened, thinking that it was the Indians that had attacked the fort. After asking a great deal of Native Americans, Christopher Columbus came to the conclusion that his fort had burnt down in a fire-and his sailors had shriveled up in the flames with it. Christopher Columbus had to be an independent thinker in this situation because he knew that he had to be the one to handle it and go talk to the Taino. Even though his sailors weren't used to the Taino and didn't want to talk to them, Christopher made the choice to go over and chat. (Sailors were switched out on almost every journey so these sailors weren't used to the Taino.) Being an independent thinker is a big part of being (or becoming) a superior leader. Unfortunately, our amazing time machine ride has come to an end. All aboard! The time machine is ready to go back to the present!

In conclusion, our time machine ride has come to an end. After our grand journey, we learned how Christopher Columbus's personality helped him be an amazing leader. He was a great leader because he was persistent, brave, and an independent thinker. Thank you for riding with us on the Miller Time Machine Historical Society! Now that you know all about Christopher Columbus, you'll be the stellar student in class! We must go, for our next journey starts at 3:15!