

First and surprising

Reaching North America



[Public domain

https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Portrait_of_a_Man,_Said_to_be_Christopher_Columbus.jpg]

Christopher Columbus was the captain of the first ship to sail from Europe to the North America. This was in 1492.

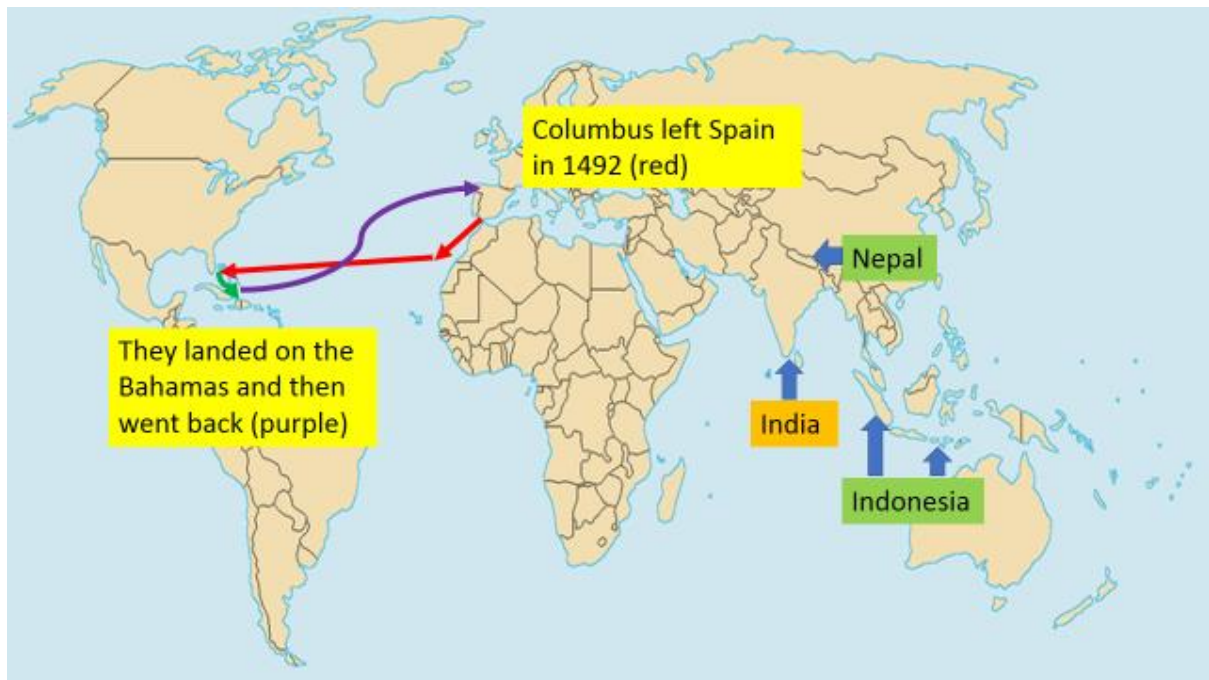
They didn't know North America was there – when they arrived, they thought they had reached India [which is much further away] – that was why they incorrectly called the people who lived there, “Indians”.

He sailed from Spain. He had 3 ships. The main one was the Santa Maria. The picture below is a copy of the Santa Maria.



[Replica of the Spanish carrack Santa María.

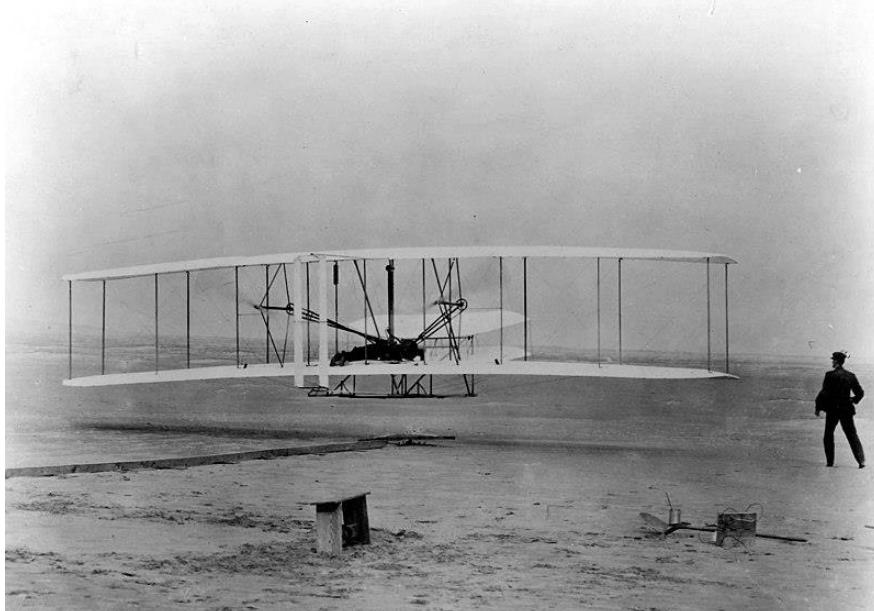
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Mar%C3%ADA_\(ship\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Santa_Mar%C3%ADA_(ship))]



[This map was released into the public domain by its author, Vardion. Many thanks.]

First to fly

The first people to design, build and fly an aeroplane were two brothers, Orville and Wilber Wright. The first flight happened in 1903, near a town called Kitty Hawk, in USA. The brothers also called their plane Kitty Hawk.



[Author: John T. Daniels (1873-1848). U.S. Air Force photo First Flight
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Kitty-hawk.jpg>]

In this picture of the first flight, Orville Wright is flying the Kitty Hawk, and brother Wilber is watching.

First to climb Mt Everest



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http://www.copyrightfreephotos.hq101.com/v/nature/mountains_volcanoes/North_Face_Of_Mt_Everest.jpg.html]

Mount Everest is the highest mountain in the world. It is in the tiny country of Nepal, which is marked on the map above.

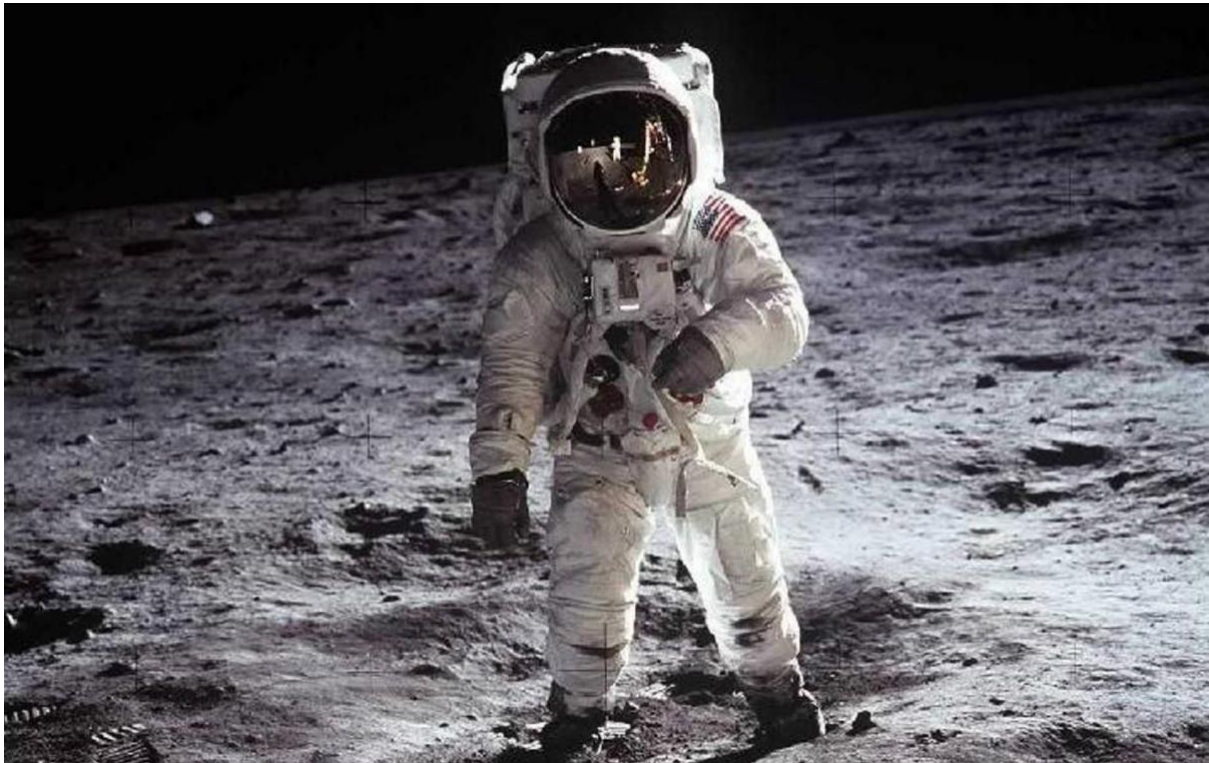


[From Wikimedia Commons, the free media repository.
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Edmund_Hillary#/media/File:Edmund_Hillary_and_Tenzing_Norgay.jpg]

The first people to climb to the top of Mount Everest were Edmund Hillary [who lived in New Zealand] and Tenzing Norgay [who lived in Nepal]. They got to the top in 1953.

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Chapter 11.

First on the Moon



[File created by NASA. Public Domain.
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Aldrin_Apollo_11_original.jpg]

Only 12 men have walked on the Moon [so far].

The first person to step onto the Moon was Neil Armstrong. He was part of the Apollo 11 mission, from the USA – they landed in 1969. This is a picture of Buzz Aldrin, he was the second person to walk on the Moon – he was also on the Apollo 11 mission.

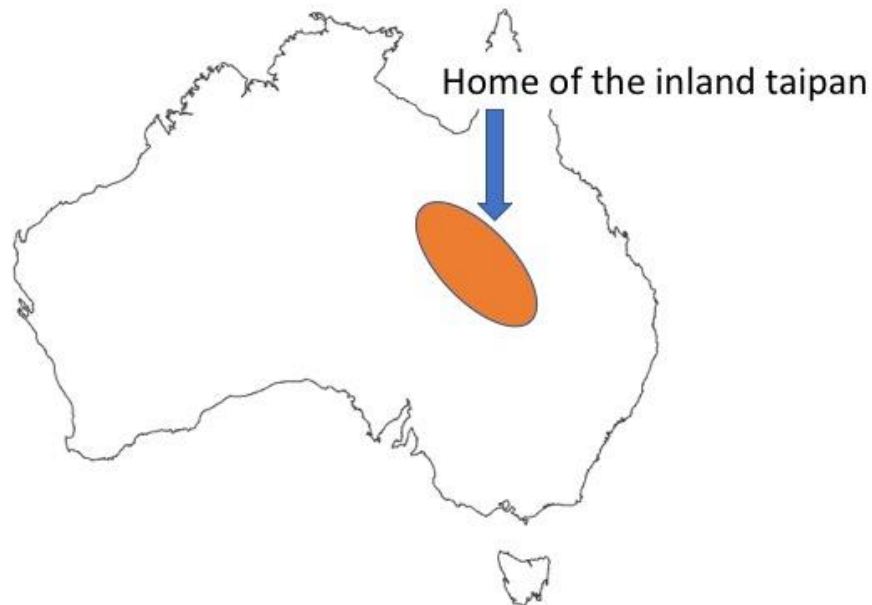
Longest snake



[2013-2019 Publicdomainvectors.org. Many thanks
<https://publicdomainvectors.org/en/free-clipart/Snake-illustration/54723.html>]

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The Australian inland taipan – it is usually at least 2 meters long – so, one of the longest snakes in the world. It is very venomous. The good thing is it is very shy and keeps away from people.



It lives in a part of the country where very few people live – unless you go to its home, there is no chance of being bitten.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Amos.

Amos who?

A mosquito.

Knock, knock.

Who's there?

Canoe.

Canoe who?

Canoe come out and play?

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Biggest plants

Titan arum



[Titan Arum, Royal Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia. Creative Commons
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Titan_Arum,_Royal_Botanic_Gardens,_Melbourne,_Victoria,_Australia.JPG]

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Titan arum is a huge flower – it may grow to be 3 metres high (much taller than a tall person). It is found on some of the islands of Indonesia (a string of islands – see the map above).

An amazing thing is that it smells horrible – like rotting meat. It smells like this to attract flies, which help it make seeds.

Rafflesia



[Author: ma_suska. Creative Commons Attribution 2.0
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Rafflesia_sumatra.jpg]

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Did someone say “Flowers are boring?”

Rafflesia is the largest flower on Earth. It grows to 1 metre across. It is also found in Indonesia.

The amazing thing – it has no leaves, stem or roots. It is a parasite – which means it gets its food from other plants. Rafflesia attaches itself to jungle vines and takes food from them.