

Otto's Tales



TODAY IS COLUMBUS DAY!

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TODAY IS COLUMBUS DAY!



Ruff Ruff!

Today is Columbus Day. What an exciting day it's been. We pretended to be explorers and travel the world. Dennis pulled out a suitcase. "This can be our time machine," he said. "Hop in! We're going on another big adventure."

With my stumpy tail wagging, I jumped in Dennis's lap.

ZOOM... "Let's go exploring, Otto, and don't forget the map!"





We landed in Spain in 1492.

Christopher Columbus was about
to sail the ocean blue.





"I'm Christopher," he said, "nice to meet you."

"We're Dennis and Otto. How do you do?"

"My father was a wool weaver in **Genoa, Italy**.

But I've sailed to Iceland, Ireland, and Africa—my home is at sea."

He continued, "I'm going to be like **Marco Polo** and travel the world."

Christopher pulled out a map, which he carefully unfurled.

He came up with a plan to sail across the **Atlantic**.

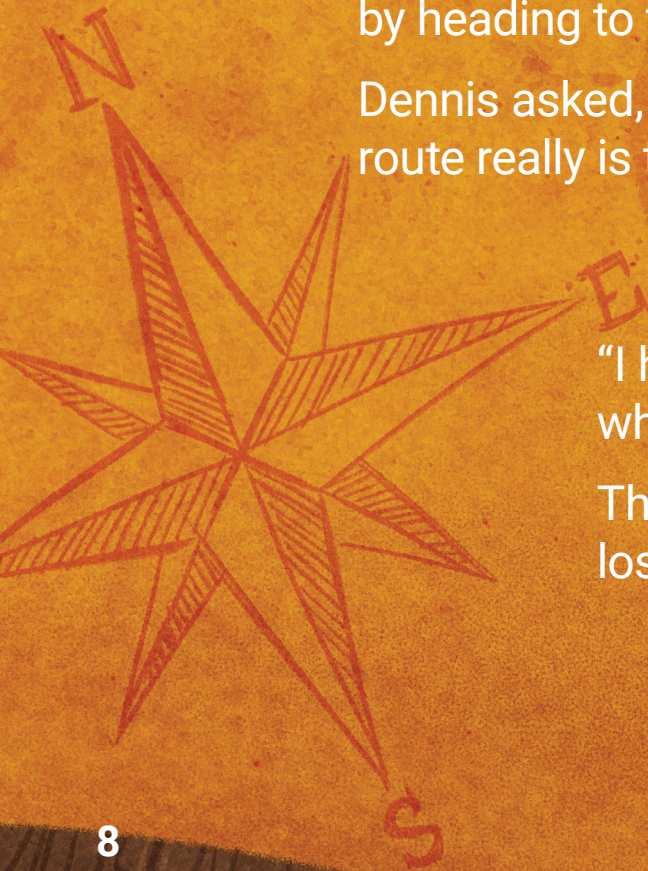
This was no small journey; its goal was quite gigantic.

He said, "I'm going to sail to **India** by heading to the west."

Dennis asked, "How can you be sure that route really is the best?"

"I have a **compass and quadrant**, which I will use every day.

These tools will help guide me, so I won't lose my way."





For his voyage he could find no
eager sponsors.

They feared he'd get lost or devoured
by sea monsters!





“King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella finally agreed.

They gave me three small ships, for which I’m grateful, indeed.”





Dennis replied, "That's a nice gift from the king and queen of Spain."
Columbus said, "It's not just a gift—they have much to gain."

We watched the **Niña**, the **Pinta**,
and the **Santa María** set sail.

I said to Dennis, "I hope Columbus's
voyage does not fail."







Then **ZOOM...** We were on Columbus's ship,
going for a ride.

We **ZOOMED** so fast, I almost fell off the side.



Three weeks into his journey,
Columbus was far from completing,
his crew began to grumble and lose
hope of succeeding.



Columbus—fearless and rather quite confident,
helped the men stay the course toward the
Asian continent.

After ten long weeks, Columbus
finally spotted land.

I was so happy, I jumped out and
kissed the sand.



But this was not India; this was a different place.
And there were natives here, who were of a different race.

The settlers and natives got along quite a lot.
But also had trouble with each other and sometimes they fought.

Dennis and I wandered around, enjoying
the warm sun.

"I love exploring," Dennis said, "this is so
much fun."



North
America

Columbus established a settlement
and brought back many treasures.

This would open new trade routes
and many more endeavors.

The king and queen were as happy as could be.

“We want to send you on more voyages—not just
two, but three!”

South
America



The news of Columbus's discovery traveled very fast.

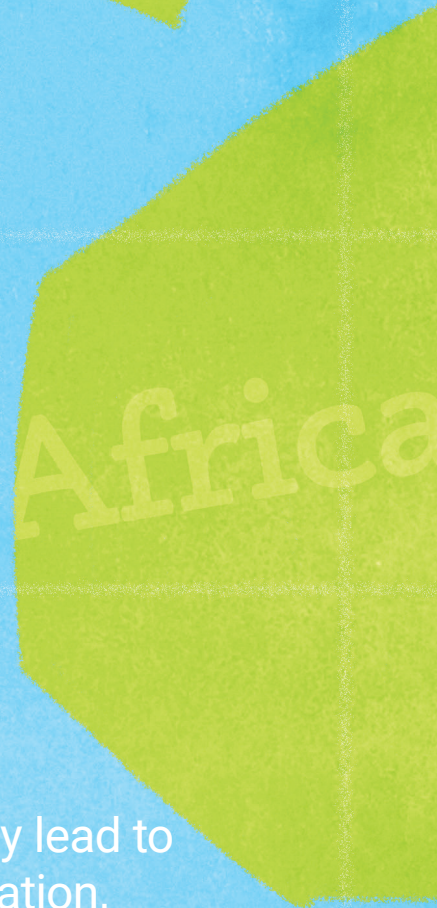
People wanted to see this **New World** with opportunities so vast.

1492-1493

1493-1496

1498-1500

1502-1504



This would eventually lead to a wondrous new creation, the United States of America, a mighty, great nation.



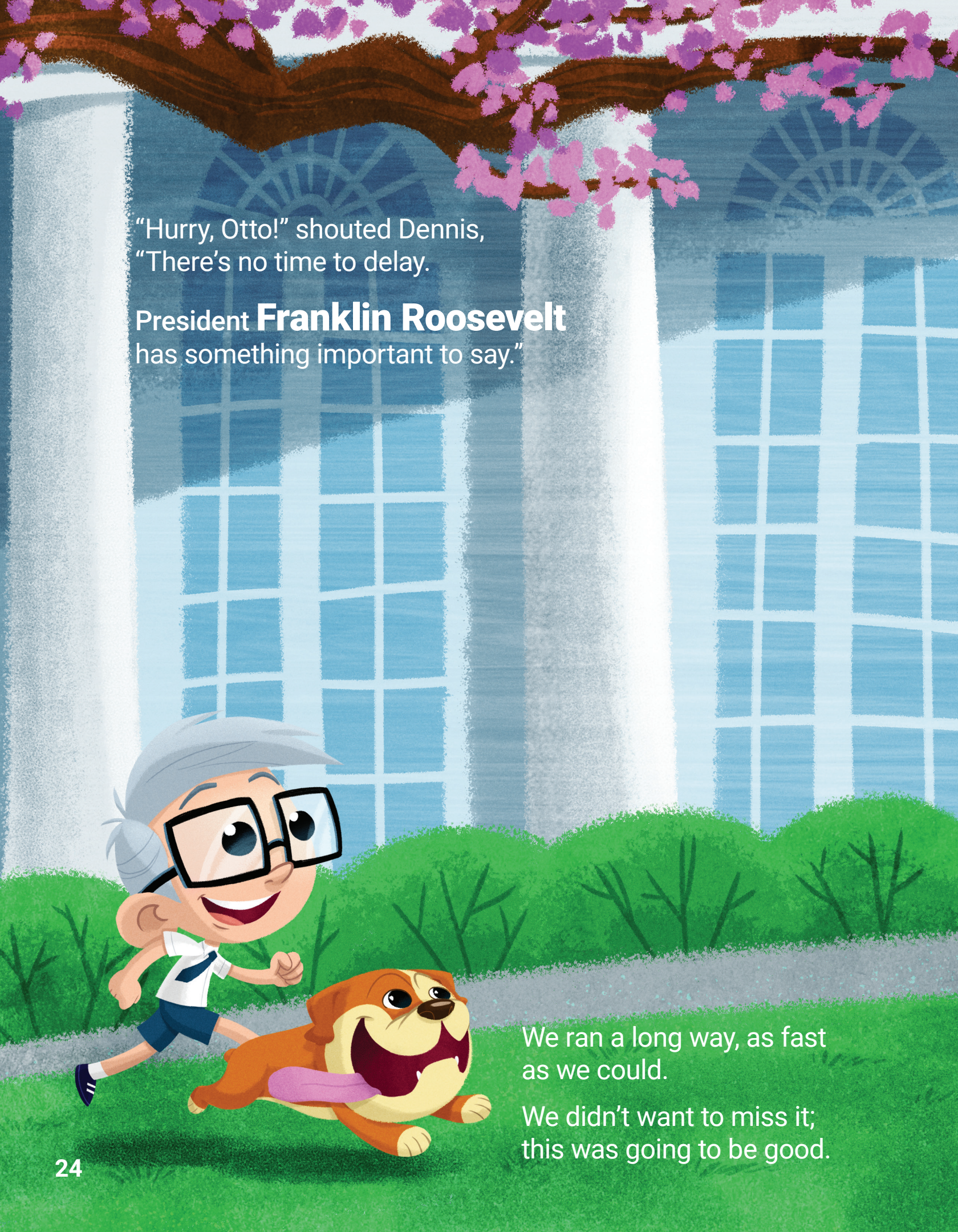


We said goodbye to Columbus, our new explorer friend.

We were learning so much, I didn't want it to end.



We jumped in our suitcase, even though I was hesitant, and ***ZOOM***... went to 1937, to meet the U.S. president.

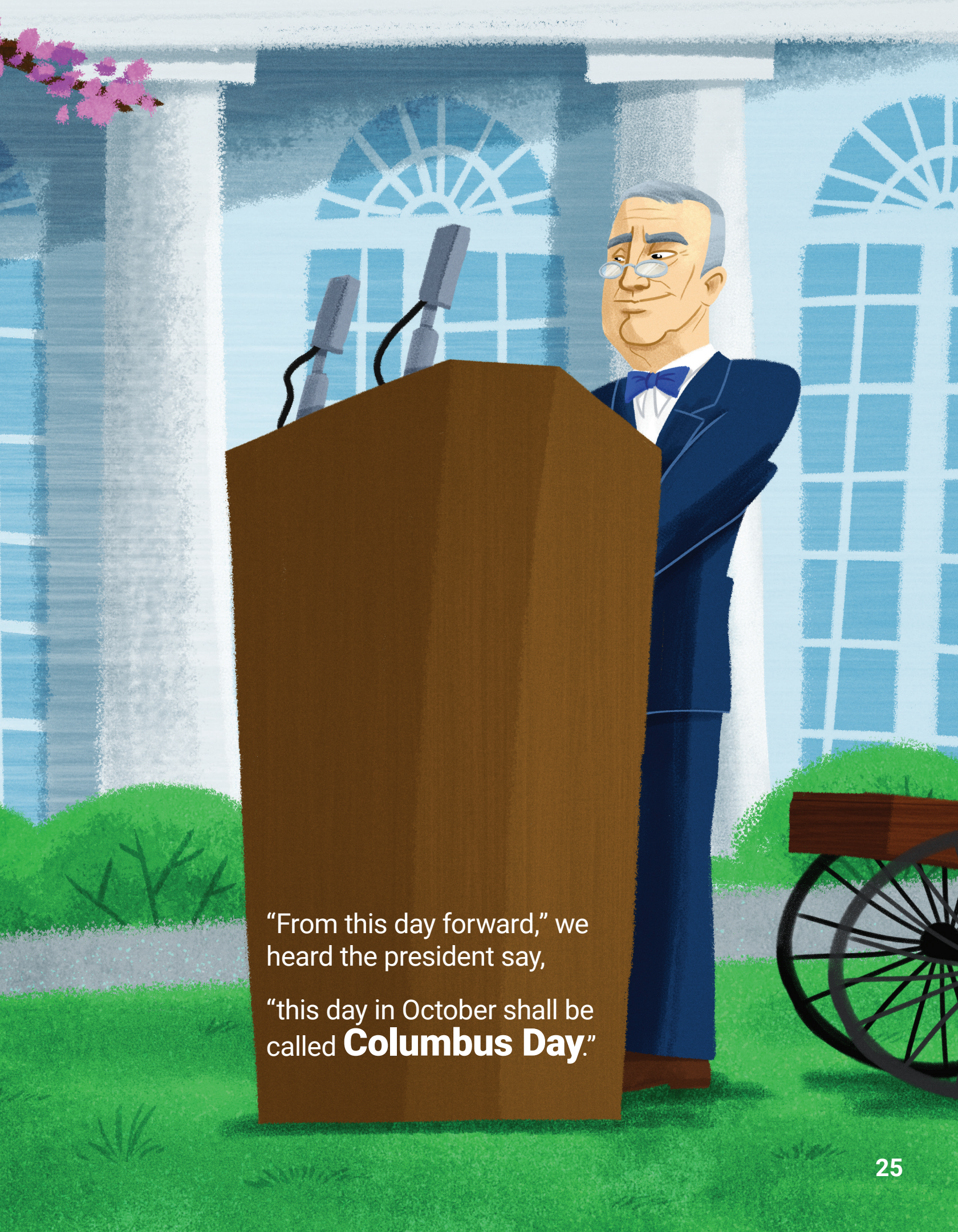


"Hurry, Otto!" shouted Dennis,
"There's no time to delay."

President **Franklin Roosevelt**
has something important to say."

We ran a long way, as fast
as we could.

We didn't want to miss it;
this was going to be good.



"From this day forward," we
heard the president say,
"this day in October shall be
called **Columbus Day**."

Then we jumped in our suitcase and once again ***ZOOM...***
we ***ZOOM, ZOOM, ZOOMED*** back to Dennis's room.

"That was my favorite adventure yet!" I barked.

"You say that every time, Otto."

"Well, I never knew what an adventurous man Christopher Columbus was."

"That's right," said Dennis. "His hard work and perseverance paid off, even though he never discovered a faster route to India like he wanted."



"But he found something even better!"
I barked. "Is that why we celebrate
Columbus Day?"

Dennis explained, “We honor Columbus for his courage, for being the first person to connect the ‘New World’ to the ‘Old World’ of Europe, and for making America possible.”

“If it weren’t for him, we wouldn’t be here!” I said.

“You’re right, Otto. **Happy Columbus Day!**”

“Happy Columbus Day! **Ruff Ruff!**”





We Love Our History

Spain: A country in southwestern Europe whose shores touch the Atlantic Ocean in the west, and the Mediterranean Sea in the south and east. It has been ruled by kings and queens since the days of Columbus, though they don't have as much power these days as they once did.

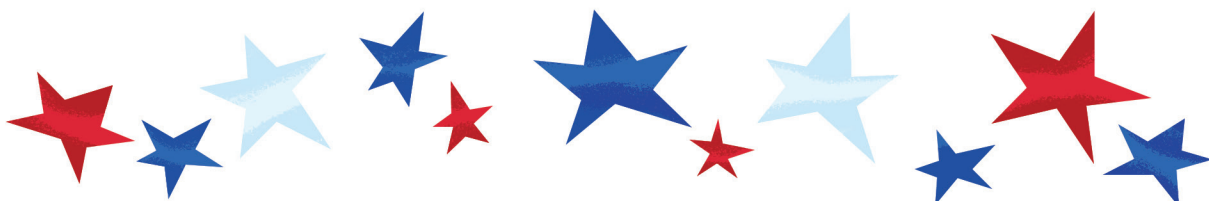
Christopher Columbus: An Italian navigator and explorer born in Genoa, Italy, in 1451. He is most famous for setting sail in 1492 across the Atlantic Ocean in search of a westward route to India. In the process, he stumbled upon the "New World" of the Americas, which eventually led to the founding of the United States. On October 12, 1492, Columbus arrived (most likely) at San Salvador Island in what is now the Bahamas (originally named the "West Indies" by Columbus because that's where he mistakenly thought he was). Many people don't realize he never stepped foot in North America!

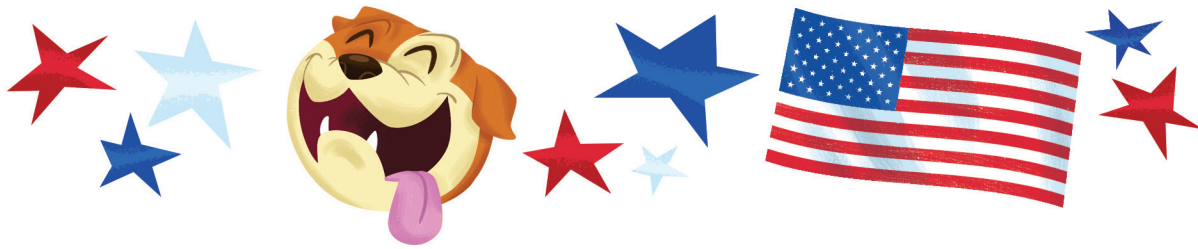
Genoa, Italy: An Italian city and seaport in northwestern Italy, and the birthplace of Christopher Columbus.

Marco Polo: An Italian explorer born in Venice around 1254. He traveled from Europe to Asia in a trip that took him more than 20 years. For 17 of those years, he was in China, and wrote the classic book, *Travels of Marco Polo*. Columbus admired Marco Polo and may even have traveled with a copy of Marco Polo's book.

Atlantic: The ocean separating Europe and Africa in the east from North and South America in the west. The name means "Sea of Atlas," which refers to the Greek hero, Atlas.

India: The third largest country in Asia, by area. It provided rare delicacies to European traders, such as tea and spices. Far from Europe, getting there involved a long voyage south, all the way around the southern tip of Africa, and then north and east across the Indian Ocean. That's why Columbus tried to find a shorter route by going west, when he accidentally ran into America!





Compass and Quadrant: Navigational tools for ships. A compass told sailors what direction they were going. A quadrant helped them determine their position at sea by measuring the altitude between the sun or a star and the horizon. Columbus used both tools, and versions of them are still used to this day.

King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella: The king and queen of Spain in Columbus's day. They paid for Columbus's four different voyages to the "New World," including his first and most famous one in 1492.

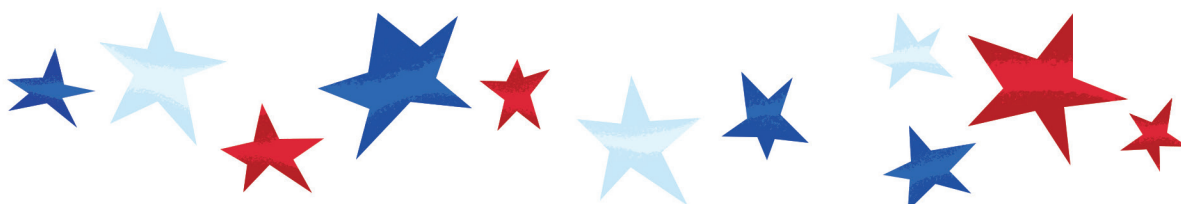
The Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa María: The three ships Columbus used on his first voyage to the "New World." The Santa María was the one Columbus himself sailed on.

Asian Continent: The largest continent on Earth. In Columbus's time, it included countries such as China, India, Arabia (now called Saudi Arabia), Persia (now called Iran), and large parts of Russia.

New World: North and South America, which were considered "new" to the Europeans when they arrived in the 1400s. While a Viking named Leif Erikson may have made it to North America several centuries before, Columbus was the first European to make it to the "New World" and permanently connect it with the "Old World" of Europe.

Franklin Roosevelt: The 32nd President of the United States, from 1933-1945. He made Columbus Day an official holiday in 1937.

Columbus Day: An American national holiday established in 1937 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt. It's celebrated on the second Monday in October.



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**See you in
our *next* adventure!**

- Dennis and Otto

ABOUT

Otto's Tales

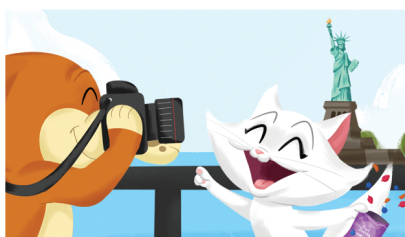
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TODAY IS

Celebrating American
holidays & traditions



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Traveling to important locations
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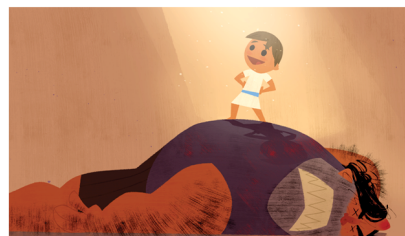
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