

From the Journal of Christopher Columbus

Document

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Accessed via the Medieval Sourcebook (Fordham University):

<http://www.fordham.edu/halsall/source/columbus1.html>

Thursday, 11 October [1492]

... The Admiral landed in the boat, which was armed... The Admiral bore the royal standard, and the two captains each a banner of the Green Cross, which all the ships had carried; this contained the initials of the names of the King and Queen each side of the cross, and a crown over each letter arrived on shore... The Admiral called upon... the rest of the crew who landed ... to bear witness that he before all others took possession (as in fact he did) of that island for the King and Queen his sovereigns, making the requisite declarations...

Afterwards [the natives] came swimming to the boats, bringing parrots, balls of cotton thread, javelins, and many other things which they exchanged for articles we gave them... Weapons they have none, nor are acquainted with them, for I showed them swords which they grasped by the blades, and cut themselves through ignorance. They have no iron... It appears to me, that the people are ingenious, and would be good servants and I am of opinion that they would very readily become Christians, as they appear to have no religion...

Saturday, 13 October

At daybreak great multitudes of men came to the shore... They came loaded with balls of cotton, parrots, javelins, and other things too numerous to mention; these they exchanged for whatever we chose to give them. I was very attentive to them, and strove to learn if they had any gold. Seeing some of them with little bits of this metal hanging at their noses, I gathered from them by signs that by going southward or steering round the island in that direction, there would be found a king who possessed large vessels of gold, and in great quantities...

Wednesday, 17 October

At noon set sail from the village where we had anchored and watered... My intention was to follow the coast of the island to the southeast as it runs in that direction, being informed by the Indians I have on board, besides another whom I met with here, that in such a course I should meet with the island which they call Samoet, where gold is found... I discovered a remarkable haven with two entrances, formed by an island at its mouth... I thought it advisable to examine it... I had directed the casks to be carried ashore for water, which being done we discovered eight or ten men who straightway came up to us... one of the men had hanging at his nose a piece of gold... I endeavored to purchase it of them in order to ascertain what sort of money it was but they refused to part with it. Having taken our water on board, I set sail and proceeded northwest...

QUESTION(S) TO CONSIDER:

Identify THREE (3) of Columbus' goals and evaluate his success in achieving those goals.

| Goal | How Successful? |
|------|-----------------|
| 1. | |
| 2. | |
| 3. | |