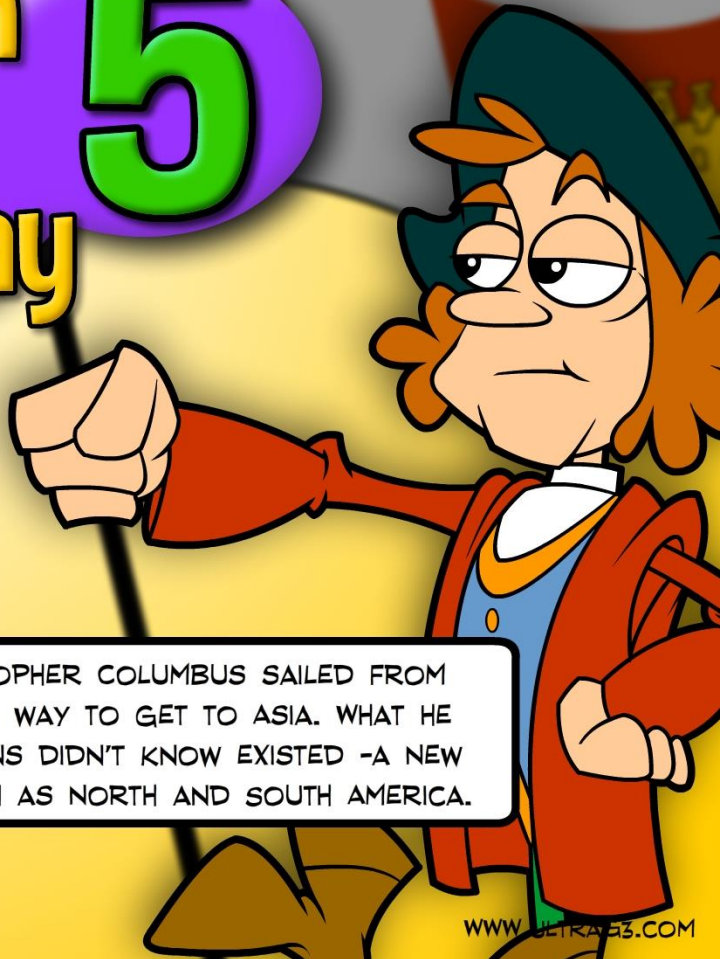


Count Down to Columbus Day

5

Christopher Columbus: The Education of An Explorer

ALMOST EVERYONE KNOWS THAT CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS SAILED FROM EUROPE IN 1492 TRYING TO FIND A NEW WAY TO GET TO ASIA. WHAT HE FOUND INSTEAD WAS A PLACE EUROPEANS DIDN'T KNOW EXISTED -A NEW WORLD THAT WOULD COME TO BE KNOWN AS NORTH AND SOUTH AMERICA.





TO ACCOMPLISH THIS HE HAD TO KNOW HOW TO DO A LOT OF THINGS LIKE SAILING, NAVIGATING AND JUST STAYING ALIVE ON DANGEROUS WATERS. BUT THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS A SCHOOL FOR EXPLORERS. THE ONLY WAY TO LEARN ALL THAT HE NEEDED TO KNOW WAS TO GET OUT THERE AND JUST START DOING IT. AND FOR COLUMBUS, HIS EDUCATION STARTED EARLY.



CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS GOT HIS FIRST JOB WHEN HE WAS JUST A KID. HIS FATHER WAS A WOOL MERCHANT, BUT HE ALSO OWNED A CHEESE STAND WHERE YOUNG CHRISTOPHER WORKED AS AN ASSISTANT.

FOR THE
LAST TIME CHRIS! STOP
ALL THE GIGGLING AND JUST
CUT THE CHEESE!

HA,HA,HA.
YES PAPA!
HA,HA,HA. HE SAID
CUT THE CHEESE.
HA,HA.



Atlantic Ocean

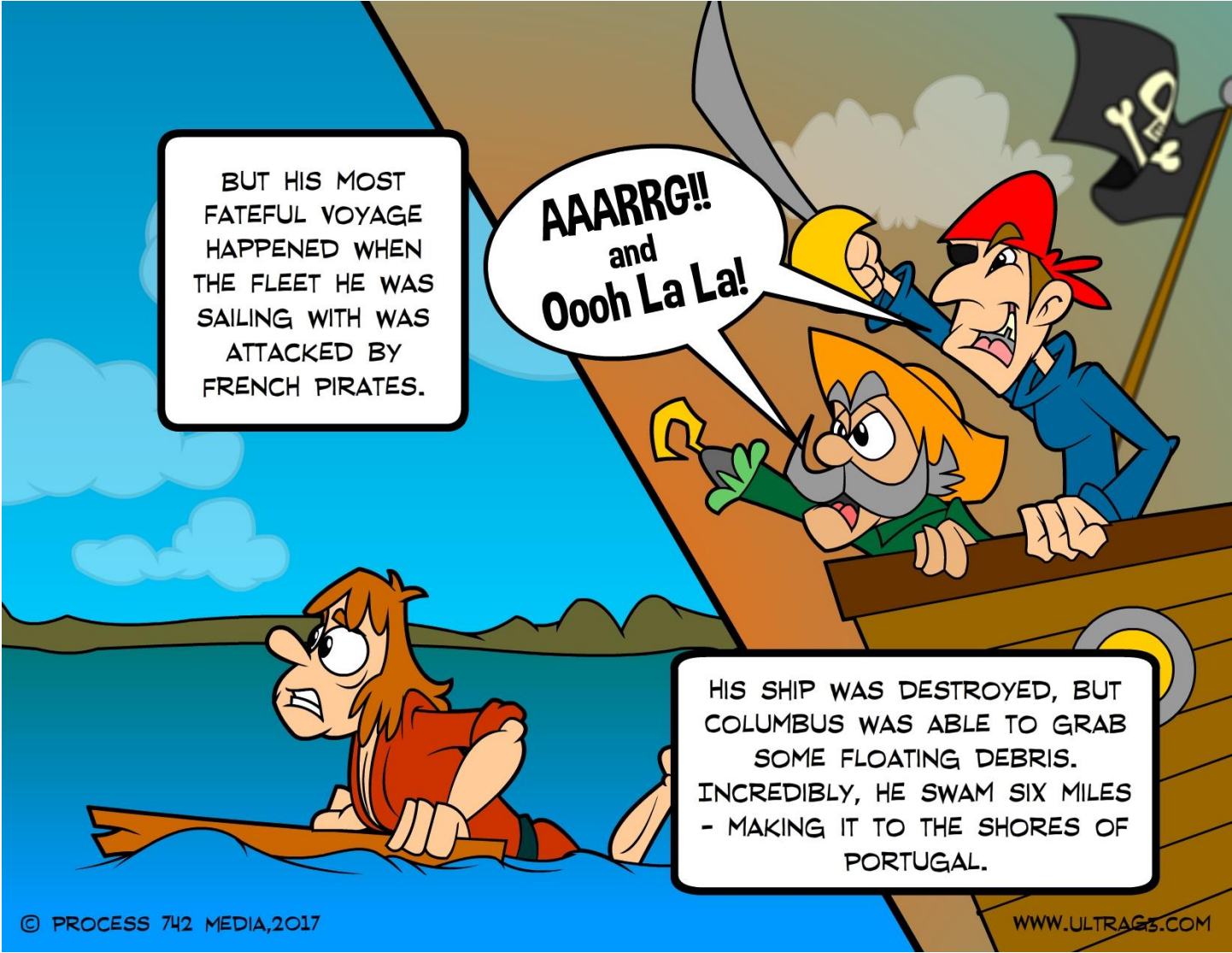
BUT THIS DIDN'T LAST LONG. COLUMBUS WENT TO SEA AT THE YOUNG AGE OF 10. HE SERVED ON MERCHANT SHIPS, SAILING AROUND THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA FOR THE WOOL TRADING BUSINESS.

Mediterranean Sea

ONCE HE WAS OLDER, HE GOT THE CHANCE TO VENTURE OUT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN AND INTO THE MORE DANGEROUS WATERS OF THE ATLANTIC OCEAN. DURING THIS PERIOD HE TRAVELED TO PLACES MOST EUROPEANS COULD ONLY READ ABOUT. HE WENT AS FAR AS THE WEST COAST OF AFRICA, AS WELL AS NORTH TO ENGLAND, IRELAND AND POSSIBLY EVEN ICELAND.

OOOOH LOOK!
A PENGUIN!

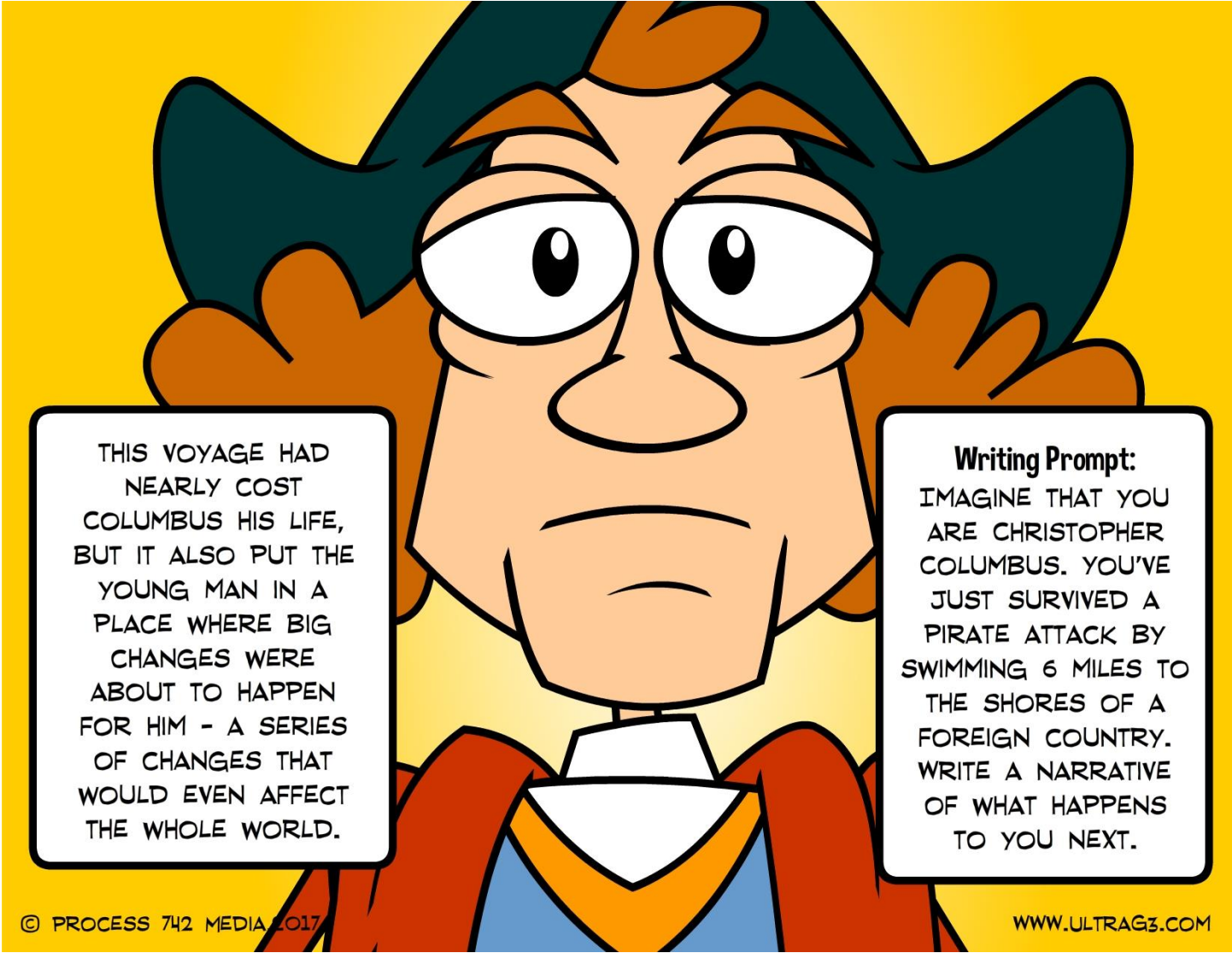
I'M
A PUFFIN, GENIUS.
PENGUINS LIVE IN THE
SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE.



BUT HIS MOST
FATEFUL VOYAGE
HAPPENED WHEN
THE FLEET HE WAS
SAILING WITH WAS
ATTACKED BY
FRENCH PIRATES.

AAARRG!!
and
Oooh La La!

HIS SHIP WAS DESTROYED, BUT
COLUMBUS WAS ABLE TO GRAB
SOME FLOATING DEBRIS.
INCREDIBLY, HE SWAM SIX MILES
- MAKING IT TO THE SHORES OF
PORTUGAL.



THIS VOYAGE HAD
NEARLY COST
COLUMBUS HIS LIFE,
BUT IT ALSO PUT THE
YOUNG MAN IN A
PLACE WHERE BIG
CHANGES WERE
ABOUT TO HAPPEN
FOR HIM - A SERIES
OF CHANGES THAT
WOULD EVEN AFFECT
THE WHOLE WORLD.

Writing Prompt:
IMAGINE THAT YOU
ARE CHRISTOPHER
COLUMBUS. YOU'VE
JUST SURVIVED A
PIRATE ATTACK BY
SWIMMING 6 MILES TO
THE SHORES OF A
FOREIGN COUNTRY.
WRITE A NARRATIVE
OF WHAT HAPPENS
TO YOU NEXT.