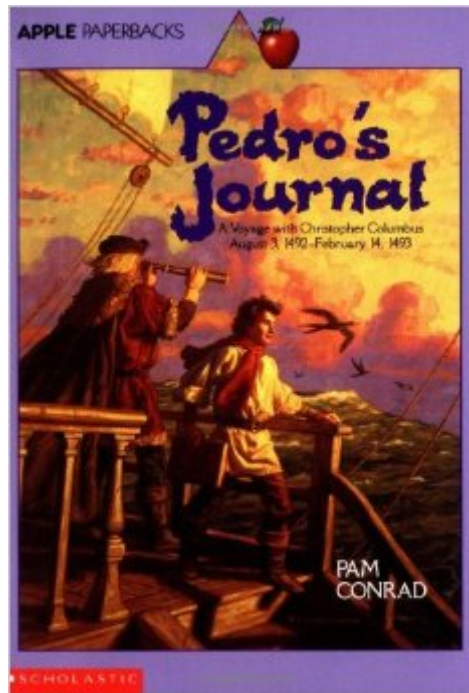


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# Pedro's Journal: A Voyage With Christopher Columbus, August 3, 1492-February 14, 1493



## Synopsis

Pedro de Salcedo could not have known what adventures lay ahead! His incredible voyage as ship's boy aboard Christopher Columbus' Santa Maria would bring both danger and excitement. Pedro captured his experience between the pages of a journal. If he did not return alive perhaps someone, someday would find it and learn of his incredible journey to the New World.

## Book Information

Lexile Measure: 1030L (What's this?)

Paperback: 80 pages

Publisher: Scholastic; 1st edition (September 1992)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0590462067

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Product Dimensions: 0.5 x 5.2 x 7.5 inches

Shipping Weight: 3 ounces (View shipping rates and policies)

Average Customer Review: 4.5 out of 5 starsÂ Â See all reviewsÂ (31 customer reviews)

Best Sellers Rank: #8,698 in Books (See Top 100 in Books) #3 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > Exploration & Discoveries #10 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Literature & Fiction > Historical Fiction > United States > Colonial #621 inÂ Books > Children's Books > Action & Adventure

Age Range: 8 - 12 years

Grade Level: 3 - 7

## Customer Reviews

My son and I just finished reading, "Pedro's Journal." We both enjoyed this book and I took the opportunity to help him map out where Pedro's adventures led him. I have one significant caveat. This is definitely told from the author's perspective. Pam Conrad is admittedly not a historian. Therefore, I found myself telling my son that a boy with Pedro's life experience, perspective and age would most likely not be making such harsh judgements regarding his captain, Christopher Columbus. We will be reading, "Christopher Columbus: Across The Ocean Sea (Heroes of History)" by Geoff and Janet Bengé next.

Great story depicting a "ship's boy" aboard Christopher Columbus's ship. The author provides some very good insight into Columbus's nature and real attitude. Kids will like hearing the thoughts of the

boy throughout the story, and the ending leaves readers with much to talk about after the book is finished.

Pedro's Journal was read by my 5th grade classes to learn more about Christopher Columbus and his journey. It was perfect for a class of mixed ability readers, it's history was well researched, and it engaged the students. We used it for a Literary Circle book. I highly recommend it for Social Studies, Language Arts, or an example of journal writing.

Although presented in an interesting way, the story is extremely biased against Columbus. The author states that she is not a historian so I presume we should not take this as an accurate representation. Columbus is depicted in a consistently negative light with no real redeeming qualities. I would never suggest this book for a child.

Pedro's Journal, written by Pam Conrad, is about a boy who loved the sea. He went out to sea with Christopher Columbus to find the new land. The captain thought he would be useful because he can read and write. He goes back and forth from ship to ship each day. The weather is terrible. The storms are on and off. Finally they get there. They find that the Indians are very useful. So they bring some Indians aboard. It took them longer to get back to Spain. Finally they get back to Spain. The last place Pedro is seen is when he is walking up toward his mother's house. I would recommend this book to a friend.

This is a good summary of the trip to America by Christopher Columbus and his view in 1492-1493. It gives a more realistic picture of Columbus and his men, rather than the somewhat sanitized versions in many history books. And it reveals some intimate moments, like how close the crew was to mutiny, what this particular ship's boy thought of taking natives on board, and the fear of the storm during the return trip. Yet it's not so detailed that it would overwhelm an mid-elementary school child.

Rereading this 8/31/15 with a new crop of youngers: Still love this one. It is a first-person, journal-style account of our fictional ship's boy (Pedro) as he travels on the Santa Maria headed for India. As we know, that is not where he ends up. It is fictional obviously, but a great introduction to traveling to the New World for the youngest readers (2-3rd grade probably) and even younger if you are doing it as a read-aloud. It is short enough to be engaging but not exhausting, and the

first-person through the eyes of a child helps reach the audience. I love using this one as a lead-in to the nonfiction parts of this era of history, as well as talking about diary or journal style writing. Other reviewers mentioned portraying Columbus in a negative light, and that is pretty true. My philosophy is presenting a wide array of fictional and nonfiction accounts from different perspectives and talking about them. Especially as you go back further and further in time, you are left with subjective assessments of what really happened, and especially of the personality of those portrayed (well, that is true even today).

I used this book with my 10 yr old homeschooler. It really helped her to understand how different things were back then. It's hard to imagine things different with all the technology we have today. It was an easy read and enjoyable for both us. We read it over Columbus Day and had a search for "land" right afterwards.

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