Discussion Questions:
Christopher Columbus: “Journal of the First Voyage of Columbus, 1492”

1. Columbus speaks of Moors and Jews being “turned out” from Spain as this excerpt begins. What 1492 event is Columbus speaking of?

2. What does Columbus say about the natives that might attract the attention of Christian missionaries?

3. What does Columbus say that might attract the economic ambitions of Ferdinand and Isabella?

4. Why do you think Columbus begins this letter by speaking of Spain’s previous triumphs and ends it with descriptions of docile natives and abundant natural resources?

What is Columbus’ motive in writing this letter? What does he hope the Spanish monarchs will do?