

- What do you already know- *or think you know-* about Columbus?

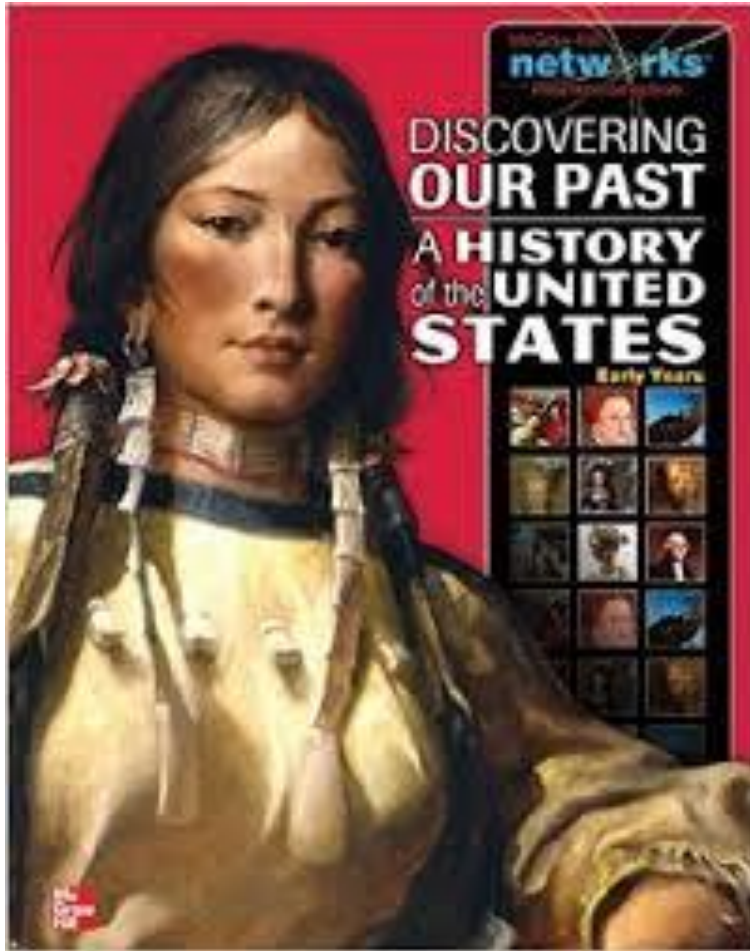


In Fourteen-hundred and Ninety-two

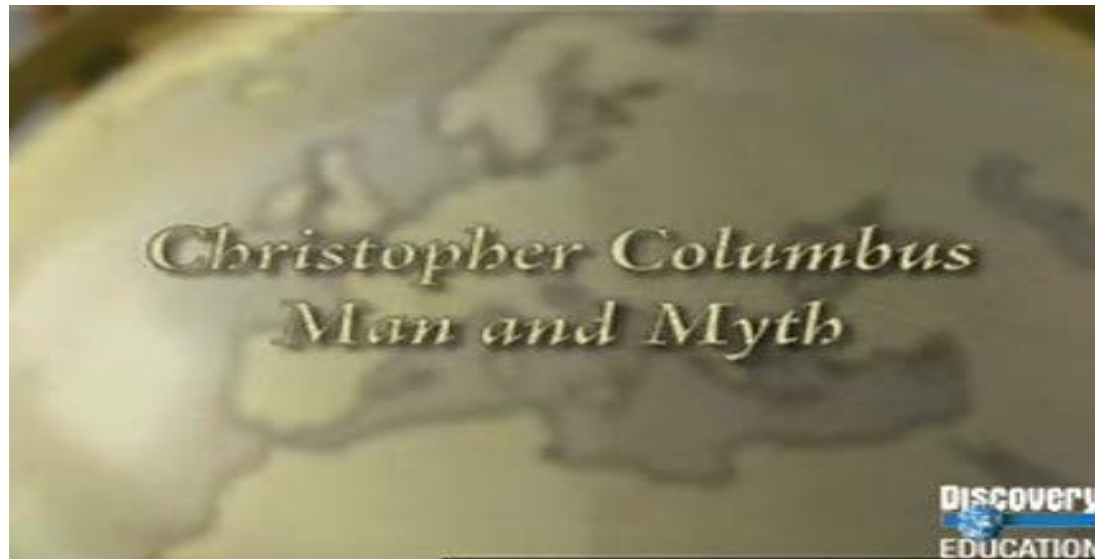


Columbus Sailed the Ocean Blue

What does the textbook tell us about Columbus?

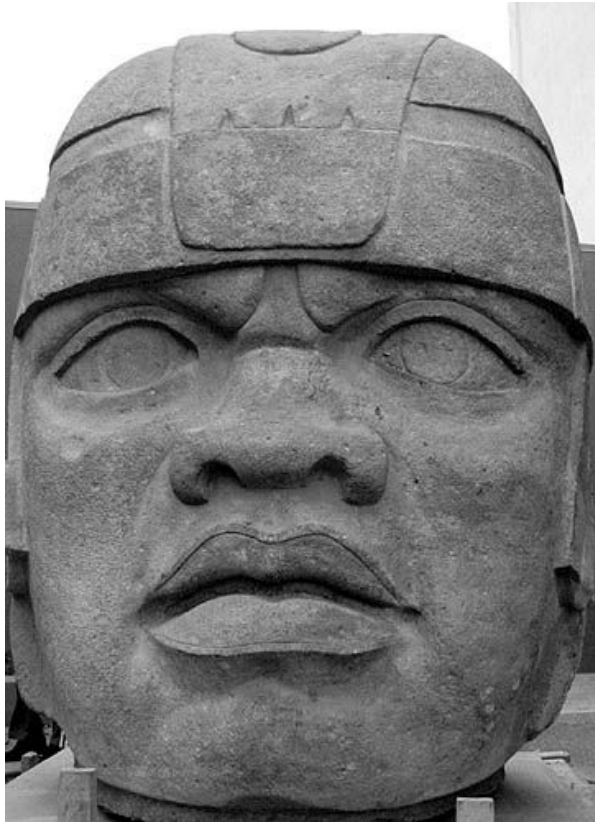


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Popular myths credit Christopher Columbus with discovering that the world is round, and with being the first European to set foot in America. However, neither is true. Centuries before Columbus set sail, navigators were well aware of the spherical shape of the earth. Also, evidence unearthed in Newfoundland in the 1960's indicates that the Scandinavians (Vikings) arrived on the shores of the New World in around 1000 A.D.

Olmec Heads



Located in Central America, they provide good evidence that Africans/ Phoenicians (Egypt) traveled to Central America well before Columbus ever did.

And.....

- The Nina, Pinta and Santa Maria were perfectly fine ships for their time.
- The voyage lasted one month.
- It was clear sailing.
- Columbus soon knew it was a “new” continent he had “found”.
- He died wealthy, with the title “Admiral of the Ocean Sea.”

THE LIFE AND VOYAGES OF
**CHRISTOPHER
COLUMBUS**

WASHINGTON IRVING



WORDSWORTH CLASSICS OF WORLD LITERATURE

Much of the Columbus
“story” came from
Washington Irving’s
book, written in 1828.

Columbus: The Dark Side?



1492

The Arawaks inhabited much of the Caribbean Islands, where Columbus first landed. He wrote that their canoes were “large enough to contain 40 or 45 men”.

On this first voyage he kidnapped about twenty Native Americans to return with him to Spain. Only seven or eight survived.

1493

King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella sent Columbus back with seventeen ships, almost fifteen hundred men, cannons, crossbows, guns, cavalry, and attack dogs for his second voyage.

What do you think were their intentions?

“When Columbus and his men returned to Haiti in 1493, they demanded food, gold, spun cotton.....To ensure cooperation , Columbus used punishment by example. When an Indian committed even a minor offense, the Spanish cut off his ears or nose.”

Lies My Teacher Told Me
James Loewen

1495

In March of that year, the Arawaks attempt to resist. Columbus responded:

“For this he chose 200 foot soldiers and 20 cavalry, with many crossbows and small cannon. Lances, and swords, and still a more terrible weapon against the Indians, in addition to the horses: this was 20 hunting dogs, who were turned loose and immediately tore the Indians apart.”

Lies My Teacher Told Me

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Tribute System

The Indians were forced to pay tribute every three months.... “where the gold mines were, every person of 14 years of age or upward was to pay a large hawk’s bell of gold dust; all others were each to pay 25 pounds of cotton. Whenever an Indian delivered his tribute, he was to receive a brass or copper token which he must wear about his neck as proof....Any Indian found without such a token was to be punished.”

-Ferdinand Columbus

Turn and Talk

What new information did you learn about Columbus that surprised you?

Does this information change the way you once viewed Columbus?

Should we turn historical figures into “heroes,” celebrating them with statues or holidays? Why or why not?

Columbus Day vs Indigenous Peoples Day

COLUMBUS DAY HOLIDAY DEBATE

***What is the debate about?**

***What is the argument to keep it Columbus Day?**

***What is the argument to change it to Indigenous Peoples Day?**

