



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: US History/Ms. Brown

Homeroom:



7<sup>th</sup> Grade US History  
Standard # – Do Now – Day #21

**Aims:** SWBAT identify the purpose of Columbus’ voyage and its effects  
SWBAT compare and contrast the traditional story of Columbus with the reality

**Do Now**

**Directions:** Choose the letter that best answers the question. Once you have made your choice, write the answer in clear, complete sentences.

1) Why did the earliest explorers begin the Age of Exploration?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- a) find a more economical route to Asia
- b) discover the Americas

2) Early European explorers left Europe for the Americas to accomplish three main goals: What were they?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

- a) prove the world was round    b) begin trade with North America
- c) explore the Great Lakes        d) find an improved trade route to Asia

3) Why was the Age of Exploration significant [important]?

I think:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



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## Daily Debrief

Brainiacs,

As we learned yesterday, European explorers had different reasons for embarking (setting out) on voyages. Today, we are going to identify the purpose of Columbus' voyage. We are also going to identify the effects of this voyage. Before we begin, what do you think some of the lasting effects of an exploration could be?

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### Stop & Jot

1. What are 3 adjectives we can use to replace discovery to describe what Columbus did in the Americas?
  - a.
  - b.
  - c.
2. How does describing Columbus' journey to America a discovery represent the point of view of the "winners". Think about who are the winners and who are the losers in the story.

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**Actual Facts: An excerpt from a textbook**

Christopher Columbus was an Italian-born Spanish navigator who sailed west across the Atlantic Ocean in search of a route to Asia but achieved fame by landing in the Americas instead.

While on a voyage for Spain in search of a direct sea route from Europe to Asia, Christopher Columbus unintentionally [\_\_\_\_\_] encountered the Americas. However, in four separate voyages to the Caribbean from 1492 to 1504, he remained convinced that he had found the lands that Marco Polo reached in his overland travels to China at the end of the 13th century. To Columbus it was only a matter of time before a passage was found through the Caribbean islands to the fabled [\_\_\_\_\_] cities of Asia.

Columbus was not the first European to reach the Americas—\_\_\_\_\_ from Scandinavia had briefly settled on the North American coast, in what is now \_\_\_\_\_, Canada, in the late 10th or early 11th century.

However, Columbus's explorations had a profound impact on the world. They led directly to the opening of the western hemisphere to European colonization; to large-scale exchanges of plants, animals, cultures, and ideas between the two worlds; and, on a darker note, to the deaths of millions of indigenous American peoples from war, forced labor, and disease.

1. Who was Christopher Columbus sailing for?

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2. What was he looking for?

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3. Why was his "discovery" significant?

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### What Story Do We Tell?

**Historiography is** \_\_\_\_\_.

Read the following accounts of Christopher Columbus and then answer then complete the questions below.

In elementary school, we all learned a story about Columbus:

*Columbus was brave and intelligent and persistent. Everyone thought that the world was flat, but Columbus knew otherwise. He finally convinced King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella to give him money to set sail. He faced rough winds and rougher waters but remained brave. Finally, his ships reached safe harbor in what is now known as Haiti. With his arrival, the old and new World met, and both would learn from each other.*

That's not exactly what happened. Historians today have discovered how this story is flawed. This is the story of Columbus according to Howard Zinn.

*Arawak men and women, naked, tawny, and full of wonder, emerged from their villages onto the island's beaches and swam out to get a closer look at the strange big boat. When Columbus and his sailors came ashore, carrying swords, speaking oddly, the Arawaks ran to greet them, brought them food, water, gifts. He later wrote of this in his log:*

*"They... brought us parrots and balls of cotton and spears and many other things, which they exchanged for the glass beads and hawks' bells. They willingly traded everything they owned.... They were well-built, with good bodies and handsome features.... They do not bear arms, and do not know them, for I showed them a sword, they took it by the edge and cut themselves out of ignorance... They would make fine servants.... With fifty men we could subjugate them all and make them do whatever we want."*

*Because of Columbus's exaggerated report and promises, his second expedition was given seventeen ships and more than twelve hundred men. The aim was clear: slaves and gold. They found no gold fields, but had to fill up the ships returning to Spain with some kind of dividend. In the year 1495, they went on a great slave raid, rounded up fifteen hundred Arawak men, women, and children, put them in pens guarded by Spaniards and dogs, then picked the five hundred best to load onto ships. Of those five hundred, two hundred died en route. The rest arrived alive in Spain and were put up for sale.*

*Too many of the slaves died in captivity. And so Columbus, desperate to pay back dividends to those who had invested, had to make good his promise to fill the ships with gold. In the province of Cicao on Haiti, where he and his men imagined huge gold fields to exist, they ordered all persons fourteen years or older to collect a certain quantity of gold every three months. When they brought it, they were given copper tokens to hang around their necks. Indians found without a copper token had their hands cut off and bled to death.*



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*The Indians had been given an impossible task. The only gold around was bits of dust garnered from the streams. So they fled, were hunted down with dogs, and were killed.*

*Trying to put together an army of resistance, the Arawaks faced Spaniards who had armor, muskets, swords, horses. When the Spaniards took prisoners they hanged them or burned them to death. Among the Arawaks, mass suicides began, with cassava poison. Infants were killed to save them from the Spaniards. In two years, through murder, mutilation, or suicide, half of the 250,000 Indians on Haiti were dead.*

**1. Compare and contrast the first account of Columbus’ voyage with Howard Zinn’s account. Use as much detail as you can. (At least 2 bullets each).**

<b><u>First Account</u></b>	<b><u>Howard Zinn’s Account</u></b>

**2. Why was Christopher Columbus’ account so much different from Howard Zinn’s account?**

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**Why do you think history is told differently by different sources? Why do you think most textbooks fail to include the graphic details that Zinn uses?**

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# Homework

\_\_\_\_\_/10 Mastered/Passing/Not Mastered

Base your answers on the map below and your knowledge of Christopher Columbus. Remember to write in complete sentences.



1) In what year did Columbus' first journey begin?

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2) Where is one location that Columbus landed?

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3) Where did Columbus begin his first voyage?

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4) Did Christopher Columbus *discover* the Americas? Why or why not?

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5) What was the significance [importance] of Columbus' voyage in history?

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\_\_\_\_\_/5 Mastered/Passing/Not Mastered

### Exit Ticket

- 1) Columbus was originally trying to reach
  - a) Brazil
  - b) Spain
  - c) Italy
  - d) Asia
  
- 2) Which country was Columbus exploring for?
  - a) Spain
  - b) Portugal
  - c) Italy
  - d) England
  
- 3) Columbus actually landed in
  - a) Present day United States
  - b) Present day Canada
  - c) Present day Haiti
  - d) Present day Mexico
  
- 4) Christopher Columbus' voyage was most significant because
  - a) It improved relationships between Europeans and Natives
  - b) It opened the door to the New World for colonization
  - c) It improved trade between Europe and Asia
  - d) He discovered the Northwest Passage