

Rethinking Columbus's Legacy

For centuries, Christopher Columbus was praised as a hero who “discovered” the New World. However, modern historians now take a closer look at what his voyages really meant. While his journeys did connect Europe and the Americas in a new way, they also led to colonization, slavery, and the deaths of millions of Indigenous people. Columbus did not “discover” empty land—there were thriving civilizations already present. Many Indigenous groups view Columbus Day as a day of mourning, and some places in the U.S. have changed the holiday to Indigenous Peoples’ Day to honor the native people who were affected by European arrival.

Multiple Choice:

1. What is one reason why some people no longer celebrate Columbus Day?
 - a) Columbus didn't reach North America
 - b) He got lost and failed his mission
 - c) His actions led to harm for Indigenous people
 - d) He only sailed one ship
2. What have some U.S. cities done in response to these concerns?
 - a) Canceled all holidays
 - b) Replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples’ Day
 - c) Made Columbus Day longer
 - d) Built statues of Columbus
3. How does the passage describe the people living in the Americas when Columbus arrived?
 - a) They were explorers
 - b) They had no homes
 - c) They had advanced civilizations
 - d) They were all travelers



Short Answer:

4. Why do some people consider Columbus's voyages harmful instead of heroic?
5. What does the passage suggest about how historical events are viewed over time?
6. Why might Indigenous Peoples' Day be important to Native communities?
7. How did Columbus's actions affect the native civilizations?
8. What does the term "legacy" mean in this passage?