

Reading Week 10 - w/c Monday 17th November

Christopher Columbus was an Italian explorer born in Genoa in 1451. He is best known for his voyages across the Atlantic Ocean, which led to the European discovery of the Americas. Although he was not the first person to reach the Americas, his expeditions opened the way for widespread exploration and colonization.

Columbus believed he could reach Asia by sailing west from Europe. In 1492, he received support from Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain, who provided ships and funding for his journey. Columbus set sail with three ships: the Niña, the Pinta, and the Santa María.

After weeks at sea, Columbus and his crew landed in what is now known as the Bahamas. He believed he had reached the East Indies, and called the native people "Indians." Columbus made three more voyages to the New World, exploring parts of the Caribbean and Central and South America.

Although Columbus's journeys were significant, they also had negative consequences. His arrival marked the beginning of European colonization, which led to the displacement and suffering of many Indigenous peoples.

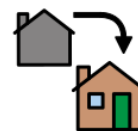
Today, Columbus is a controversial figure. Some view him as a brave explorer who changed history, while others criticize his treatment of native populations and question the celebration of his legacy.



expeditions



explorer



displacement



indigenous



1. What was Columbus hoping to find by sailing west from Europe?

- A. A new continent
- B. A faster route to Asia
- C. Gold and silver
- D. The North Pole

2. Columbus was the first person to discover the Americas.

- ☐ True
- ☐ False

3. Name the three ships Columbus used on his first voyage.

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4. Why do you think Columbus believed he had reached the East Indies when he landed in the Bahamas?
