

Books vs. The Real Story and Motive behind Columbus.



- Why did Columbus sail to the Indies?
- To get rich



- Who funded the trips?
- King and Queen of Spain



- Did Columbus discover America?
- No



- Who was living on the land already?
- Native Americans



- After the first journey what horrible things followed?
- Slavery
- Mass murders



- What did Columbus do if the Indians did not find gold?
- Cut off their hands



- Name one horrible thing that Columbus did to the Native Americans besides cutting off their hands.
- Sold them as slaves
- Raped women
- Used attack dogs
- Hung them



The Deceit Of Books

- The books downplay the quest for wealth in favor of adventure.
- Most books favor religion, curiosity, and adventure...not gold, greed, or slavery.
- Books encourage children to root for Columbus.
- Books use religion as his focus, which does not allow children to criticize Columbus
- Books do not mention the Indians believing in Gods.
- Books blame the crew for murder, slavery, and bad happenings...
- Books focus on the hardships of Columbus- when in reality the men worked and slept in horrible conditions
- Books say Columbus discovered America and some don't even mention any other people already living on the lands.
- Books don't question why it is okay for Columbus to claim already claimed land, in the name of Spain.
- Books don't question why it is okay to steal property that is already taken.
- The lives of the Indians are not viewed as significant in most books.
- Most books stop the story after the 1st journey and proclaim Columbus as a hero when he comes back to Spain, but he lies about gold mines and spices so the King and Queen will fund more trips.



Remember...

- In two years a quarter of a million people died through torture because of Columbus.
- Some major historical events that actually happened and started due to the voyages of Christopher Columbus:
 - Genocide of natives in the Caribbean
 - Initiation of the Atlantic slave trade between Africa and America.
 - Human value was measured in monetary terms.
 - The new world was cherished for wealth rather than beauty and it led to the start of capitalism in Europe.



As An Educator...

- Ask Children...

- Did Columbus have a right to claim Indian land in the name of the Spanish crown?
- Were those Indians who resisted violently justified in doing so?
- Why does the United States commemorate a Columbus Day instead of Genocide Day?
- Children need to think...and we want to use these badly written books and have the children find what is missing, why it is missing, and write their own biographies about the real Columbus.

