

Name : _____ Date : _____

COLUMBUS DAY

Columbus Day is celebrated in the United States on the second Monday in October. It remembers the voyages of Christopher Columbus across the Atlantic Ocean in 1492. Columbus sailed for Spain, hoping to find a new route to Asia. Instead, he reached islands in the Caribbean.

For many years, people celebrated Columbus as the "discoverer" of America. Today, historians explain that millions of Indigenous people already lived throughout North and South America long before Columbus arrived. Because of this, many people believe it is important to recognize both Columbus's voyages and the experiences of Native peoples.

Columbus's arrival led to lasting changes between Europe and the Americas. New plants, animals, goods, ideas, and diseases moved between the two regions. This exchange changed farming, trade, and daily life around the world. However, European exploration also brought conflict, loss of land, and suffering for many Indigenous communities.

Today, some communities continue to celebrate Columbus Day, while others observe Indigenous Peoples' Day. Learning about different viewpoints helps us better understand history and its effects on people.

Answer in complete sentences.

Why did Columbus sail across the Atlantic Ocean?

What are two changes that happened after Columbus's voyages?

Why do some communities celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day instead of Columbus Day?
