



Christopher Columbus: What Really Happened

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M.S. in Education

History
Grades 3-5



Introduction

Children have been taught that Christopher Columbus discovered America in 1492. However, this video writing prompt explores what really happened during Christopher Columbus' voyage. After viewing the video, have students choose between the three writing prompts. Students will choose between three writing prompts about Christopher Columbus.

Learning Objectives

Students will learn what really happened when Christopher Columbus sailed the ocean blue by watching a short video. Then they will have to choose between three writing prompts.

Materials Needed

- [Video](#) of Christopher Columbus: What Really Happened

Procedure

Prompt one

In the video Christopher Columbus crashed the Santa Maria on Hispaniola before he left his men to go to Spain. Pretend you are one of the 39 men that had to build a colony. Write about what life was like when you were on the reef.

Prompt two

In the video you saw Christopher Columbus go on multiple voyages. Imagine if you had to go on a voyage. Write about who you would take with you and all the places you had to stop and things you did while you were away.

Prompt three

In the video you saw that Christopher Columbus killed three men and took gold from their chief. He also started a slave trade and killed many men. How has this new information changed your mind about Christopher Columbus? Discuss if you think he should still be considered a hero today. Be sure to list reasons for or against your choice.

Evaluation

Students will be assessed on how well they followed the guidelines for the writing prompt they have chosen.