

Structured Academic Controversy-Columbus Day

Objectives:

1. Students will understand how Christopher Columbus, conquistadors, and early Spanish Colonization impacted the European Age of Discovery (VA Standards of Learning WHII 4a.).
2. Students will learn the components of the Columbian Exchange and the triangular trade between Europe, Africa, and the New World.
3. By exploring Columbus Day's cultural and historic issues, students will demonstrate they know how to form reasoned judgments and present structured arguments (National Council for the Social Studies 1g.).
4. The class will demonstrate they have learned the ability to support an argument for both sides of the issue by writing a letter to an editor.