Columbus – Myths and Realities

Columbus claims the New World

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President of the Flat Earth society dies—departs laterally to the hereafter.
Background

- Born Genoa, Italy
- Idea – sail west to get to India
- By 1485 he begins to seek funding for his trip . . . Portugal, Genoa, Venice, England . . . unsuccessful
- Finally by 1492 King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain agree to fund
The Voyage

- Set off Aug. 3rd 1492
- Nina, Pinta, and Santa Maria
- Land sighted - 2 AM October 12th 1492
- Columbus calls the island San Salvador
Meet natives who called themselves the Taino

The first two days relations were good

“They are friendly and well-dispositioned people who bear no arms... They traded and gave everything they had with good will.”

-Christopher Columbus
But 2 days later he writes . . .

“It would be unnecessary to build . . . (a fort) here because these people are so simple in deeds of arms . . . If Your Highness order either to bring all of them to Castille or to hold them as captivos (slaves) on their own land it could easily be done, because . . .

. . . with about fifty men you could control and subjugate them all, making them do whatever you want”
Colonization and Conquest

- Priest Bartolomé de Las Casas recorded the tragedies
- Disease spreads rampantly
- Natives being: murdered, raped, enslaved, feed to dogs, burned alive
What should be Columbus’ Legacy?

- Hero?
- Washington, DC: Union Station
- Waterfront Park - Boston
Villain?

NO MORE GENOCIDE!

ABOLISH COLUMBUS DAY

AMERICAN INDIAN MOVEMENT OF COLORADO

Columbus Also Discovered GENOCIDE

WANTED

RETHINKING COLUMBUS

The Next 500 Years

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Grand Theft, Genocide, Racism,
Initiating the Destruction of a Culture,
Rape, Torture, and Maiming of
Indigenous People and
instigator of the Big Lie.
Popular children’s about Columbus

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Christopher Columbus, with three ships and crew,
Discovered America in fourteen ninety two.
Ferdinand and Isabella, the rulers of Spain
Financed the journey...with hope of wealth and fame.

CHORUS

Christopher Columbus, admiral of the sea.
Sailed west to the Indies...made a great discovery.
A new continent which came to be
This land of America, land of America,
Home for you and me!

With compass to guide them, they sailed Westerly.
Courageous men ventured into unknown seas.
Thirty-three days they traveled...imagine their joy
A watchful sailor shouted, ‘there's land ahoy!'

CHORUS (repeat twice)
Columbus Sailed the Ocean Blue

(to the tune of "Old MacDonald Had a Farm")

Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492.
Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492.
With three tall ships, 120 men,
sailing on, sailing on, sailing on, on, on, on --
Columbus sailed the ocean blue in 1492.

He proved the earth was round, not flat, in 1492.
He proved the earth was round, not flat, in 1492.
With three tall ships, 120 men,
sailing on, sailing on, sailing on, on, on, on --
He proved the earth was round, not flat in 1492.