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## DISCUSSION & REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- Towards the beginning of the video, Mr. Crowder notes that, “Holidays are a great time to riddle Americans with needless, oppressive guilt. But the one that stands above the rest, is Columbus Day. The day where progressives indoctrinate your children into believing Columbus to be Satan incarnate, the USA to be his evil spawn, and the Native Americans to be pacifists completely foreign to the mere precept of warfare due to their time consuming wind-color painting hobby.” What do you think motivates progressives to attempt to make Americans feel guilty on many holidays? Why do you think that in his tongue-and-cheek comment Mr. Crowder characterizes it as ‘needless’ guilt? Explain. Do you think that progressives should be indoctrinating children at all- about anything? Why or why not? What might be the short and long term consequences of progressives attempting to revise history? Explain.
- Mr. Crowder goes on to explain about progressives that, “...they probably HAVE taught you the tale of Columbus as a villain, usually as a starting point to indict the United States as a whole, often relying on a few key myths and some pivotal lies by omission.” What do you think that progressives want to indict the U.S. for? Why do you think that progressives refuse to accept the truth about history, and why do you think that progressives are so quick to villainize the U.S. rather than start from a more balanced and less-biased viewpoint? Explain.
- After giving some examples to dispel some of the myths spread by progressives about both sides, Mr. Crowder points out that, “None of this is to say that the early settlers were perfect, or that they didn’t carry out their fair share of pretty scummy stuff. But to use America’s mistakes as the brush with which to paint the entirety of its history, while completely ignoring the Indigenous lifestyle of barbarism and evil is inaccurate at best, dishonest at worst.” What do you think Mr. Crowder means by this statement? Do you agree with it? Why or why not?
- At the end of the video, Mr. Crowder concludes that, “Columbus is not the issue and never was. This whole indigenous people’s day charade is about teaching your children to despise Western Civilization and anybody who dares to defend it.” Why do you think that progressives despise Western Civilization so much? Explain. Do you think that so far you have been taught history, especially that of Western Civilization, in an objective, balanced manner? Why or why not?

## EXTEND THE LEARNING:

### CASE STUDY: Indigenous People's Day

INSTRUCTIONS: Read the article "Columbus Day shines light on growing movement to replace holiday," then answer the questions that follow.

- What do the Italian-Americans argue the negative consequences of changing Columbus Day to Indigenous People's Day are? Who is Cliff Matias, and what is his viewpoint on the matter? What happened in Akron, Ohio when the City Council voted to change the name of the holiday? What did Salt Lake City officials do to resolve the problem? What does Puerto Rico do to celebrate Columbus? Who is Ralph Arellanes, and what is his position on the topic?
- Why do you think that the focus of what's supposed to be celebrated on Columbus Day has become so fractured? Considering that people have differing views on what Columbus Day celebrates, the discovery of America, the contributions of Italians to Western Civilization, respect and honor for native peoples, the decimation of native peoples, the spread and oppression of Western Imperialism, etc... what do you think Columbus Day should celebrate? Do you think that changing the name of the holiday has any meaningful impact? Why or why not? Do you think that the holiday should be renamed and refocused? If not, why not? If so, why, and to what?
- Do you think that the writing in the article is biased towards one side or the other? If not, why not? If so, what are some specific examples? In what ways does the article relate to points made in the video? Explain.



# QUIZ

## GOODBYE, COLUMBUS DAY

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1. **Christopher Columbus \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a. committed genocide against Native Americans
  - b. was a villain
  - c. was the first person to cross the Atlantic from the continent of Europe
  - d. was the first person to find Australia
  
2. **The Native Americans were mostly wiped out through \_\_\_\_\_.**
  - a. murderous bands of sailors led by Columbus
  - b. infectious diseases that the settlers had inadvertently brought with them
  - c. harsh winters and starvation
  - d. infighting
  
3. **When Columbus arrived, the islands were inhabited by which two main tribes?**
  - a. Apache and Comanche
  - b. Arawak and Carib
  - c. Sioux and Cheyenne
  - d. Navajo and Aztec
  
4. **This whole “Indigenous Peoples Day” charade is about teaching your children to despise Western civilization and anybody who dare defend it.**
  - a. True
  - b. False
  
5. **Which of the following is true of the Native American tribes pre-Columbus?**
  - a. They lived in harmony with the environment until Columbus arrived.
  - b. European settlers destroyed the land with their evil technology.
  - c. They banded together to try and fight off Columbus.
  - d. They took out entire forests and hunted species to extinction.



# QUIZ - ANSWER KEY

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<https://www.cbsnews.com/news/columbus-day-2017-movement-holiday-indigenous-peoples-day/>

CBS/AP October 9, 2017, 12:19 PM

## Columbus Day shines light on growing movement to replace holiday



A reveller performs during a "pow-wow" celebrating the Indigenous Peoples Day Festival on Randall's Island in New York Oct. 8, 2017. Reuters/Eduardo Munoz

**NEW YORK --** Is it time to say arrivederci to Christopher Columbus?

A movement to abolish Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous Peoples Day has gained momentum in some parts of the U.S., with Los Angeles in August becoming the biggest city yet to decide to stop honoring the Italian explorer and instead recognize victims of colonialism.

Austin, Texas, followed suit Thursday. It joined cities including San Francisco, Seattle and Denver, which had previously booted Columbus in favor of Indigenous Peoples Day.

But the gesture to recognize indigenous people rather than the man who opened the Americas to European domination also has prompted howls of outrage from some Italian-Americans, who say eliminating their festival of ethnic pride is culturally insensitive, too.

"We had a very difficult time in this country for well over a hundred years," said Basil Russo, president of the Order Italian Sons and Daughters of America. "Columbus Day is a day that we've chosen to celebrate who we are. And we're entitled to do that just as they are entitled to celebrate who they are."

It's not about taking anything away from Italian-Americans, said Cliff Matias, cultural director of the Redhawk Native American Arts Council, which is hosting a Re-Thinking Columbus Day event Sunday and Monday in New York.

"The conversation is Columbus," he said. "If they're going to celebrate Columbus, we need to celebrate the fact that we survived Columbus."

The debate over Columbus' historical legacy is an old one, but it became emotionally charged after a similar debate in the South over monuments to Confederate generals flared into deadly violence in August at a rally in Charlottesville, Virginia.

In Akron, Ohio, a September vote over whether to dump Columbus opened a racial rift on the city council that was so heated conflict mediators were brought in to sooth tensions.

In New York, where 35,000 people are expected to march in Monday's Columbus Day parade, vandals last month doused the hands of a Christopher Columbus statue in blood-red paint and scrawled the words "hate will not be tolerated." Activists calling for the city to change the parade's name also are expected to hold a demonstration.

On Sunday, three demonstrators briefly interrupted a wreath-laying ceremony at the Columbus statue in Columbus Circle. The protesters, two dressed in fake chains and one wearing a hooded white sheet, spoke out before being escorted away. Police said one person was arrested.

Mayor Bill de Blasio, a Democrat, appointed a committee to evaluate whether monuments to certain historical figures should be removed, prompting a backlash from fellow Italian-Americans who vowed to defend the Columbus statue, which has stood over Columbus Circle for more than a century.

"Happy Columbus Day," tweeted former White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci, who lives in New York. "Honor our heritage. Leave the statues alone."

Happy Columbus Day. Honor our heritage. Leave the statues alone. <https://t.co/cXyMruFuS4>

— Anthony Scaramucci (@Scaramucci) October 9, 2017

Many Italians who migrated to the U.S. initially had a rough time. In 1891, 11 Italians were lynched in New Orleans by a mob that held them responsible for the death of a police official.

At the end of the 1800s, Italians began to link themselves more with Columbus. Italian-American businessman and newspaper owner Generoso Pope was among those who worked to get Columbus Day recognized as a federal holiday in 1937.

"It was one of the things that would allow them to become Americans symbolically," said Fred Gardaphe, a professor of Italian-American studies at Queens College.

Indigenous Peoples Day began to gel as an idea before the 500th anniversary of Columbus' first voyage to the Americas.

South Dakota began celebrating Native American Day on the second Monday of October in 1990. Berkeley, California, got rid of Columbus Day in favor of Indigenous Peoples Day in 1992.

Many places that have adopted Indigenous Peoples Day since then, including Alaska, have sizable Native American populations.

A few cities have compromised. Salt Lake City officials declared they would keep Columbus Day but celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day on the same day.

In Akron, a city with few Native Americans and a large Italian-American community, an attempt to rename Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples Day on Sept. 11 split the all-Democrat city council along racial lines. Five black members voted to rename the holiday, and eight white members voted against it, following a debate that devolved into shouting.

"The first voyage of Columbus to the Americas initiated the trans-Atlantic slave trade. It would lead to the kidnapping, deaths and slavery of tens of millions of African people," said Councilman Russel Neal, who is black.

But Councilman Jeff Fusco, who is Italian-American, said, "It's a celebration of Italian heritage. It's very similar to other days throughout the year that we celebrate for many other cultures."

States and municipalities aren't legally bound to recognize federal holidays, though most do. Columbus Day is already one of the most inconsistently celebrated. Places that choose to replace it with Indigenous Peoples Day may give their own workers or schoolchildren a day off, teach in schools about Native Americans instead of Columbus, issue proclamations or mark it in other ways.

There is no question that Columbus' arrival in the New World under the sponsorship of Spain was bad for the indigenous people of Hispaniola, the island he colonized that is now split between Haiti and the Dominican Republic.

Many of the native people of the island were forced into servitude. Multitudes died of disease. Spain repopulated the workforce with African slaves.

Columbus is celebrated in Latin America, too. A massive monument to the explorer, the Columbus Lighthouse, opened in 1992 in Santo Domingo, in the Dominican Republic. Puerto Rico commemorates Discovery Day on Nov. 19, marking the day Columbus landed there.

Ralph Arellanes, chairman of the activist group Hispano Round Table of New Mexico, said that as a Hispanic he supports Columbus Day.

"It was the marriage of two peoples creating a new people, in a new land," he said.

Though Columbus "wasn't a saint," he said, he believes Anglo-Americans like President Andrew Jackson should be held more responsible than the Spanish for the hardships Native Americans faced.

Arellanes also said he doesn't understand why Italians claim Columbus for themselves when Columbus was sailing for Spain.