Macy Carter

Mr. Johnson

American History

09 September 2024

Report on Christopher Columbus

Today I am reporting on one of the most famous explorers, Christopher Columbus who was known for his “discovery” of the Americas. He was a navigator, colonizer, & an explorer. He was also a governor, but his governor skills were questionable. He took four voyages to the New World and thought it was India the entire time.

Cristoforo Colombo or Christopher Columbus, was born in 1451 in Genoa, Italy. His father was Domenico Columbus, who was a wool weaver. His mother was Susanna Fontanarossa and he had four siblings. He first went to sea when he was a teen. He had two wives, Felipa Moniz Perestrelo, who died while giving birth to their son, Diego. His second wife was Beatriz Enriquezde who had his son Fernando (“Christopher Columbus Facts for Kids”).

In 1476 he moved to Lisbon, Portugal. He wanted to find a new trade route to India, but was having a hard time trying to find sponsors (“Christopher Columbus”). Finally, King Ferdinand & Queen Isabella of Spain agreed to sponsor him. In 1492, he set sail for India with his three ships the Nina, the Pinta, and the Santa Maria. He started in Spain, crossed the Atlantic Ocean & landed on an island in the Caribbean. He and his crew met the Natives and called them Indians because they thought they were in India, but they were not, they were in the Americas. He went back to Spain to show all the good resources that he got from “India” to the King and Queen of Spain. They agreed to sponsor the rest of Columbus’ voyages (Davidson et al. 40-41).

Since the first voyage to the Americas was so successful Christopher Columbus went three more times. In 1493, he established the colony of Santo Domingo on the island of Hispaniola. He claimed Cuba, Jamaica, the coast of Central America, and parts of northern South America for Spain. Spain got very wealthy because of the voyages to the new world (Davidson et al. 41). Columbus was also governor of Hispaniola, but he wasn’t a good one. The citizens of Hispaniola complained that he was a terrible governor and enforced harsh laws. After some investigating he was arrested and then brought back to Spain (Davidson et al. 41).

Columbus died in 1506 at the age of 55. He became very wealthy from his voyages (History.com). He died thinking he traveled to India but it was really the Americas. He wasn’t even the first European to voyage to the Americas, that belonged to a Viking named Leif Eriksion. So Columbus was a good explorer but a very bad governor.

Works Cited

“Christopher Columbus.” *Royal Museums Greenwich*, https://www.rmg.co.uk/stories/topics/christopher-columbus. Accessed 15 September 2024.

“Christopher Columbus Facts for Kids.” *Kids encyclopedia facts*, 31 August 2024, https://kids.kiddle.co/Christopher\_Columbus. Accessed 15 September 2024.

Davidson, James West, et al. *My World Interactive: American history. beginnings to 1877*. Pearson, 2018.

Eldridge, Alison, and Adam Augustyn. “5 Unbelievable Facts About Christopher Columbus.” *Britannica*, https://www.britannica.com/list/5-unbelievable-facts-about-christopher-columbus. Accessed 15 September 2024.

History.com, Editors. “Christopher Columbus.” *Christopher Columbus ‑ Facts, Voyage & Discovery | HISTORY*, A&E Television Networks, 9 November 2009, https://www.history.com/topics/exploration/christopher-columbus. Accessed 15 September 2024.