

American Myths: Christopher Columbus



The story of Christopher Columbus—how much of it is story? Throughout the growth of Columbus into a near-mythological figure, additions and subtractions have been made to and from his life, accompanied by shifts in how he is perceived and memorialized. Decide whether these statements about Columbus (and his holiday) are true or false.

1. Columbus set sail to prove the world was round.
 True False
2. Columbus was the first to discover America in 1492.
 True False
3. Columbus was motivated by money and economic benefit.
 True False
4. Columbus was motivated by religion.
 True False
5. Columbus died a penniless man.
 True False
6. Columbus Day was first celebrated in 1892 as part of the World's Columbian Exposition.
 True False

Sources:

Rick Beyer, *The Greatest Stories Never Told: 100 Tales from History to Astonish, Bewilder, and Stupefy*. New York: Harper, 2003, 22.

(2) James W. Loewen, *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything the American History Textbook Got Wrong*. New York: Simon & Schuster, 2007, 33-37

<http://teachinghistory.org/history-content/quiz>