

Date: _____

Name: _____

Class: _____

1 Why is Christopher Columbus such an important historical figure?

- A** He proved once and for all that the earth is round
- B** His discovery led to the colonization of the Americas
- C** He opened up a new trade route to Asia
- D** He was the greatest mapmaker of his time

2 Which of the following terms best describes Columbus's relationship with his brother, Bartolomeo?

- A** Archenemies
- B** Friendly rivals
- C** Perfect strangers
- D** Business partners

3 What was Columbus's primary motivation for his voyage across the Atlantic?

- A** The desire for riches and power
- B** A profound devotion to the Spanish royal family
- C** His fervent interest in geography
- D** The potential to chart unexplored territory

4 What area did Columbus explore?

- A** The eastern coast of Asia
- B** The eastern coast of the present-day United States
- C** The western coast of the present-day United States
- D** The Caribbean Sea

5 Which word best describes the Arawak people?

- A** Docile
- B** Hostile
- C** Greedy
- D** Wary

6 When Columbus arrived in the Americas, he called the natives Indians, even though they looked and sounded nothing like people from India. What can you conclude from this fact?

- A** Columbus had problems with his vision and hearing
- B** Columbus was illiterate
- C** Columbus was determined to cover up his mistakes
- D** Columbus knew virtually nothing about Indian culture

7 How did Columbus become the governor of Hispaniola?

- A** He was elected by the island's inhabitants
- B** He inherited the post from the previous governor
- C** He deposed the previous governor and took the post by force
- D** He was given the title in advance by the king and queen of Spain

8 About which of the following attributes of the earth was Columbus mistaken?

- A** Its shape
- B** Its size
- C** Its mass
- D** Its composition

9 Viewed as a trade, the Columbian Exchange was:

- A** Equal, favoring both Europeans and Native Americans
- B** Unequal, favoring Europeans
- C** Unequal, favoring Native Americans
- D** Ambiguous; it's not clear who benefitted more

10 Why do some people object to celebrating Columbus Day?

- A** Because Columbus never reached the contiguous United States
- B** Because historians don't know the exact date when his ships actually made landfall
- C** Because Columbus committed brutal acts and began a period of conquest
- D** Because Columbus was so mistaken about the size of the earth