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