

RAISING IMHOTEP SCHOLARS OF  
EXCELLENCE PRESENTS

# INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

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...BECAUSE WE DON'T  
CELEBRATE COLONIZERS.

If you're a student enrolled in our  
virtual Educational Empowerment  
program, join us for Rituals on  
Indigenous People's Day.



# INDIGENOUS PEOPLE'S DAY

## Agenda



- Answer the QOTD in your journal: **Should we celebrate Columbus Day or Indigenous People's Day? Why?**
- Discuss the Taino of Hispaniola (DR & Haiti) and the Lucayan of The Bahamas (They were also Taino) after viewing the following video.  
[https://youtu.be/aF\\_unlvjccA](https://youtu.be/aF_unlvjccA)
- Answer questions listed from the Video.
- Share Your Voices in Writing from the QOTD. (See sample)
- Discuss the history of Columbus Day vs Indigenous People's Day.
- Complete "Stretch Your Vocabulary" Sheet.
- Discuss the crops of fall and their usage. Complete Food & Products Sheet on your own paper. Use one of the products we gained from our Native American brothers and sisters in your own family recipe. Our cultures are connected.
- **Stretching Activities: Choose one famous Indigenous Person and find 3 facts about them. Write them on plain paper.**







# Discussion Questions

What country paid for Christopher Columbus's voyage to the New World?

What were the names of the 3 ships Christopher Columbus used to sail to the New World?

Where did Christopher Columbus first land?

What was the name of the people in what Christopher Columbus called "Hispaniola?"

What was the name of the people in The Bahamas?



# Discussion

## Questions

What country paid for Christopher Columbus's voyage to the New World?  
**Spain**

What were the names of the 3 ships Christopher Columbus used to sail to the New World? **Nina, Pinta, Santa Maria**

Where did Christopher Columbus first land? **Some say Hispaniola, but it was really The Bahamas on October 12, 1492.**

What was the name of the people in what Christopher Columbus called "Hispaniola?" **The Taino**

What was the name of the people in The Bahamas? **The Lucayan**

In my opinion, Christopher Columbus should not be celebrated because he was a colonizer who tortured the indigenous people of the Caribbean islands. He was not a hero. The Indigenous People who sacrificed their lives to defend their way of life should be celebrated instead.



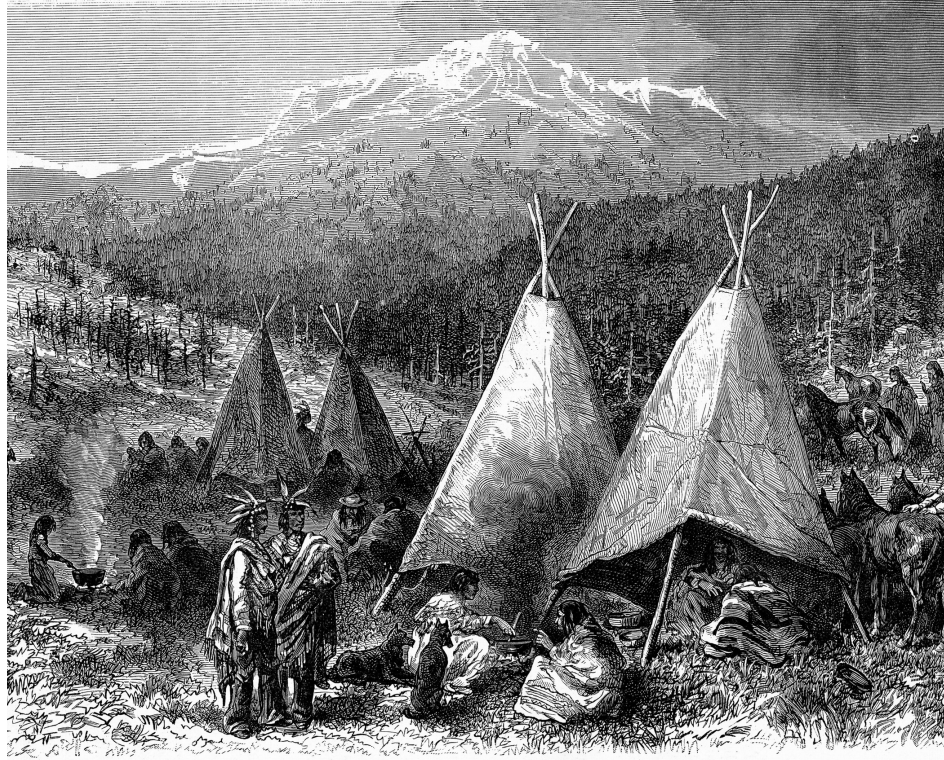


# LESSON

## Should Columbus Day be celebrated?

In my opinion, Christopher Columbus should not be celebrated. Columbus was a **colonizer** who tortured the indigenous people of the Caribbean islands, stole their land for European gain, and was the **catalyst** for the **TransAtlantic Slave Trade (The Maafa)**.

Columbus, an Italian **conquistador**, explored the Pacific Ocean mistakenly thinking that he could travel west and reach Asia. He was completely unaware of the continent of North America, as were most Europeans.



He was funded by Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand of Spain in 1492 to ignorantly set out on his **voyage** to seek spices and gold in Asia, thinking the world was much smaller than it was. He had not learned of the travels of Leif Eriksson, a Viking who actually landed in the Americas 500 years before Columbus, and of Asian and African sea travelers who had made settlements in a "New World" during the Ice Age. Columbus was actually the last to "discover" a land that was already **inhabited**.



# LESSON

## Should Columbus Day be celebrated?

Columbus's voyage first landed in The Bahamas at Guanahani, which he later renamed, San Salvador on October 12, 1492. He mistakenly thought he landed in India, which is why it was referred to as West India. There, he met the **Lucayan Taino** people. They shared crops like corn, potatoes, tobacco, avocado, cacao (chocolate), and so much more. They taught the Europeans how to hunt and survive in a tropical climate. They shared their ancient healing practices and shared their communal way of life. Columbus and his crew of European colonizers shared diseases that the Taino people had never experienced like small pox, killing many of them in the coming months.



The European invaders also kidnapped many of them and killed others, claiming their land and gold. They fought back mightily, but Columbus traveled back to Spain for more **resources** like guns and more ships of European men to enslave the Taino, conquer neighboring islands like Hispaniola (DR and Haiti), and claim their land for Spain. (That is why Spanish is spoken in many Caribbean countries. They robbed them of their language.)



# LESSON

## Should Columbus Day be celebrated?

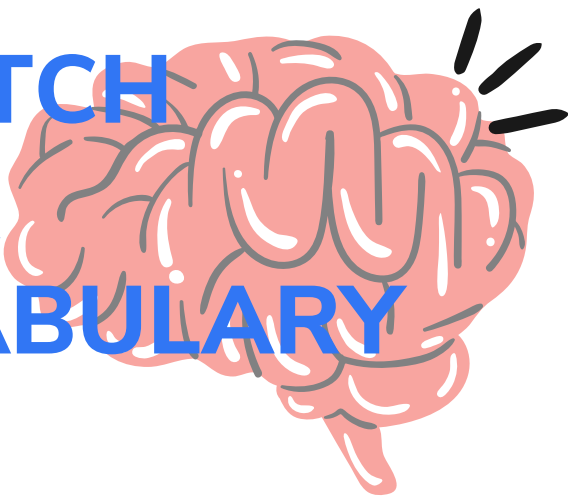
Columbus would later travel between "The New World," which was later named The Americas (that's another lesson), several times. Other European countries like Britain, France, Portugal, etc also began to colonize the land throughout The Americas (including what is now the United States.)

Once they began to see the potential for the wealth of their conquests and noticed that the Native Americans and present Africans in the New World were dying due to their bringing of diseases, they **sinisterly collaborated** to begin the TransAtlantic Slave Trade to kidnap African warriors, architects, agriculturalists, scientists, and enslave them to build European societies on Native American soil.

Columbus, an Italian conquistador who lost his way at sea and stumbled upon a thriving civilization that had been in existence for centuries, is not a hero and should not be celebrated. The Indigenous People who sacrificed their lives to defend their communities should be honored instead.



# STRETCH YOUR VOCABULARY



Circle the words that have  
Native American origin.  
Which group has more?  
Can you guess their  
meaning?

## Group A

- 1.skunk
- 2.examples
- 3.helpful
- 4.powwow
- 5.plans
- 6.chipmunk
- 7.moccasin
- 8.upset

## Group B

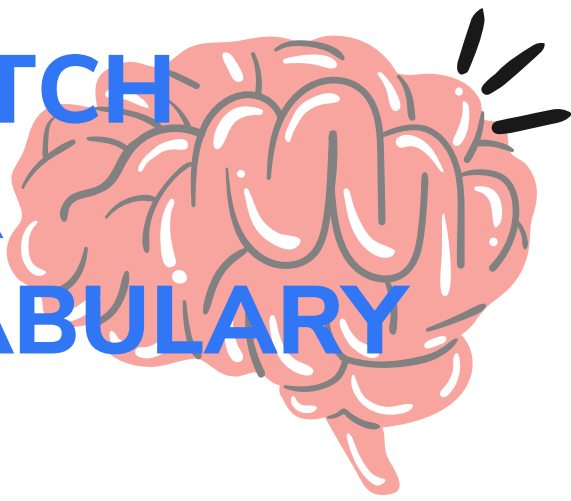
- 1.sky
- 2.bayou
- 3.across
- 4.addition
- 5.advice
- 6.against
- 7.toboggan
- 8.alert
- 9.among
- 10.amount

## Group C

- 1.squash
- 2.achieve
- 3.hickory
- 4.tepee
- 5.activity
- 6.hurricane
- 7.aftermath
- 8.hammock
- 9.afterthought
- 10.anoint



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7. toboggan
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## Group C

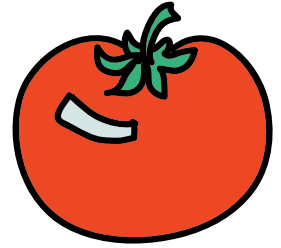
1. squash
2. achieve
3. hickory
4. tepee
5. activity
6. hurricane
7. aftermath
8. hammock

# NAME THAT FOOD

Match the name of the Native American crop with its picture. Select one or more and incorporate it in a family recipe. Our cultures are connected through our ancestors.



**papaya**



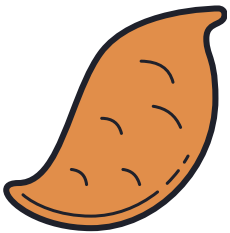
**cacao**



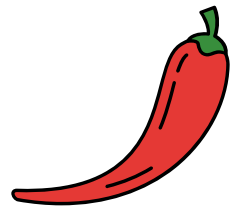
**corn**



**tomatoes**



**squash**

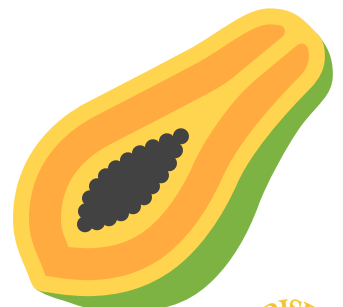


**avocado**

**peppers**



**cacao**



**sweet potatoes**

# NAME THAT FOOD

Match the name of the Native American crop with its picture. Select one or more and incorporate it in a family recipe. Our cultures are connected through our ancestors.

**papaya**

**cacao**

**corn**

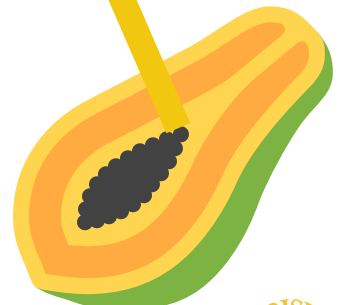
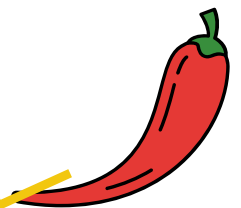
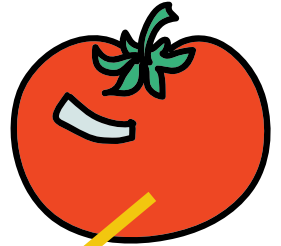
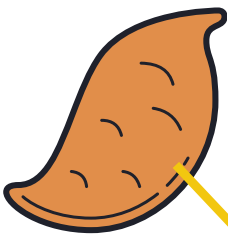
**tomatoes**

**squash**

**avocado**

**peppers**

**sweet potatoes**





# LEARN MORE

Choose one of the Native American activists below and find at least three facts about them. Look further than what you've been told in the past. Write those three facts as one word, in three sentences, or a paragraph depending on your level of understanding.



**Squanto**



**Sitting Bull**



**Sacajawea**



**Pocahontas**



# STRETCH YOUR UNDERSTANDING

## EXPECTATIONS



- Choose one famous Indigenous Person and find 3 facts about them. Write them on plain paper.
- Complete "Stretch Your Vocabulary."
- Use a crop we learned of from our Native American sisters and brothers in one of your family recipes.
- Write your own opinion essay about whether we should celebrate Columbus Day or Indigenous People's Day. Share your opinion in a brief video with the hashtag #riseindigenouspeople

**DO YOU HAVE  
ANY QUESTIONS?**



Do you have all the tools you need to be  
successful? How can I help?



FREE  
EXPRESS  
YOURSELF  
FREELY IN YOUR  
WRITING!

Use your journal and freely write about whatever you're thinking or feeling.