

We are the
Student
Advocates
For
Change



Our Process:

During our inquiry unit in Social Studies, we:

Analyzed primary sources for reliability and credibility

Evaluated Columbus' positive and negative actions

Engaged the whole eighth grade to debate our opinions

Getting the word out

- received support from the Amherst Human Rights Commission
- interviewed by news stations
- presented to Representative Ellen Story, and earned her support
- changed the name of Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day in Amherst's district school calendars

What people were taught

Columbus was a man of his time.

Columbus “discovered” America.

Columbus was the first to prove that the earth was round.

What you didn't know

When he got back from his third voyage he was arrested for his actions.

New evidence dates Native Americans have been living in America for up to 50,000 years, since the first ice age.

Pythagoras had already proposed the idea of the world being round since the 6th century BC.

Questions:

- Why are we protesting Columbus Day?
- Wasn't he just a man of his time?
- Are we ignoring the past?

Answers :

- We believe that we are celebrating genocide.
- Definitely not, he was put in jail for what he did in the new world.
- No, we aren't turning a blind eye to history or ignoring his deeds. We are learning from them.

Indigenous Peoples Day...

will celebrate a very special culture, which has been mistreated and ignored.

will recognize their contribution to America.

will honor the thousands killed by the deeds of Columbus.

will celebrate their history.

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