

Reading Passage

After making it back to Spain from his first voyage, Columbus discovered his theory that the world was not flat was right. When he got back to Spain he impressed King Ferdinand & Queen Isabella by showing them jewels, parrots and worst of all, live Natives. On his 2nd voyage they had stopped on land for a rest. Islanders attacked them and many of the crew were killed. Before this happened, they had decided that they were in Asia but were really in what is now called Jamaica. Here Columbus set up a settlement but was immediately disgraced when Spain heard that he had been treating the Natives and Spaniards brutally.

So, Columbus returned to Spain. There he set up plans for a 3rd voyage. On this voyage Columbus planned to sail across the coast of Venezuela. His settlement there was called Hispaniola and the people were getting discontent rapidly. Again Columbus started treating them brutally. And again Spain found out about it and this time sent Francisco Bamilda to put Columbus and his brothers in chains. It is said that as soon as Columbus left the settlement he was followed by 30 ships full of people wanting to return to Spain. As usual Spain after a couple of years gave him permission to sail again. This voyage he called the "High Voyage" for he hoped to accomplish his biggest dream - to find a route to Asia. His son Ferdinand came with him on this voyage and in the end. Columbus succeeded.

Summarize the main points in the listening passage, explaining how they cast doubt on the information presented in the reading passage.

Lecture

The Myth about Christopher Columbus

It is important to know that the idea mentioned in the reading passage that Columbus' theory that the world was not flat is a lie, and it's unfortunate that this idea used to appear in many school textbooks.

Christopher Columbus and his contemporaries knew very well that the earth was round. Medieval science had been built on the precise studies of Greek scholars, and every educated person of Columbus's time knew that the earth is round.

Not only had the ancient Greeks discovered that the earth is round, but the philosopher Eratosthenes accurately calculated the earth's circumference in the third century before Christ. Medieval scholars debated such details as the earth's size and how big are the oceans, but no serious scholar believed the earth to be flat. The great medieval religious scholars, such as the Venerable Bede, Roger Bacon and Thomas Aquinas, added to the Greeks' knowledge with their own calculations.

The myth that people of the 15th century believed that the earth was flat was popularized by 19th century atheists in order to use science in their war against religion. What better way to discredit religion than to attribute an obviously false idea to religious people!

This myth can be traced directly to two very influential 19th century books: *History of the Conflict Between Religion and Science* by John William Draper (a physician) published in 1874 and *History of the Warfare of Science With Theology in Christendom* by Andrew Dickson White (the first president of Cornell University) published in 1896. Both men used the flat-earth myth to help spread their arguments against religion. These books started the false and dangerous ideology that there is a war between science and religion, and that science is the only source of truth. The flat-earth myth did not appear in schoolbooks before 1870, but nearly all textbooks included it after 1880.

The attempt to make Columbus into a hero of the battle between science and religion is particularly ridiculous. Columbus was a deeply committed Christian whose own writings prove that his desire to carry the message of Jesus Christ to faraway lands was the primary motivation of his historic voyage to the New World.

Reading Notes	Lecture Notes
<p>After making it back to Spain from his first voyage, Columbus discovered his theory that the world was not flat was right.</p> <p>Columbus impressed King Ferdinand & Queen Isabella by showing them jewels, parrots and worst of all, live Natives.</p> <p>2nd voyage they had stopped on land for a rest. Islanders attacked them and many of the crew were killed.</p> <p>They had decided that they were in Asia but were really in what is now called Jamaica. Columbus set up a settlement but was immediately disgraced when Spain heard that he had been treating the Natives and Spaniards brutally.</p> <p>On 3rd voyage Columbus planned to sail across the coast of Venezuela.</p> <p>On these voyages, he had a pattern on treating the natives harshly and routinely received reprimands from Spain because of his conduct.</p> <p>Finally, after several failed attempts, Columbus during his "High Voyage" finally succeeded in finding a route to Asia.</p>	<p>The idea that Columbus' theory that the world was not flat is a lie</p> <p>Christopher Columbus and his contemporaries knew very well that the earth was round.</p> <p>Medieval science had been built on the precise studies of Greek scholars, and every educated person of Columbus's time knew that the earth is round.</p> <p>Not only had the ancient Greeks discovered that the earth is round, but the philosopher Eratostenes accurately calculated the earth's circumference in the third century before Christ.</p> <p>The myth that people of the 15th century believed that the earth was flat was popularized by 19th century atheists in order to use science in their war against religion. What better way to discredit religion than to attribute an obviously false idea to religious people!</p> <p>This myth can be traced directly to two very influential 19th century books: History of the Conflict Between Religion and Science by John William Draper (a physician) published in 1874 and History of the Warfare of Science With Theology in Christendom by Andrew Dickson White (the first president of Cornell University) published in 1896. Both men used the flat-earth myth to help spread their arguments against religion. These books started the false and dangerous ideology that there is a war between science and religion, and that science is the only source of truth. The flat-earth myth did not appear in schoolbooks before 1870, but nearly all textbooks included it after 1880.</p> <p>The attempt to make Columbus into a hero of the battle between science and religion is particularly ridiculous. Columbus was a deeply committed Christian whose own writings prove that his desire to carry the</p>

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