

Virtual History Teacher
Christopher Columbus Test

Name: _____

Instructions: You are playing the role of a history teacher who is grading the test below. See the questions and your “student’s” answers. Grade the quality of the answers on a scale of 1-4, “1” being a poor answer and “4” being a great answer. For each answer you grade, use your knowledge of Christopher Columbus, or, reference the mrnussbaum.com online biography, to add the missing pieces.

Question 1: How did hard work finally pay off for Columbus?	Score:
Student Answer: He sailed across the Atlantic Ocean.	
Your Response:	

Question 2: Do you think Christopher Columbus deserves as much credit as he gets? Why or why not?	Score:
Student Answer: No. He was really mean.	
Your Response:	

Question 3: What was the EFFECT of Columbus’s travels?	Score:
Student Answer: He became very famous.	
Your Response:	

Answers:

Question 1: How did hard work finally pay off for Columbus?	Score:
Student Answer: He sailed across the Atlantic Ocean.	
Your Response: Your answer is incomplete. Columbus tried for ten years to get monarchs from four different nations to finance his westward trip across the ocean. He was so sure that he could reach Asia by sailing west that he never gave up. Finally, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain took a chance on him by giving him a crew and three ships in the hopes of obtaining great wealth.	

Question 2: Do you think Christopher Columbus deserves as much credit as he gets? Why or why not?	Score:
Student Answer: No. He was really mean.	
Your Response: Answers vary here, but Columbus does sometimes get credit for “discovering” the New World. Despite his voyage, he couldn’t have been more wrong about where he ended up. Columbus believed until the day he died that he had indeed found the shortcut to the Indies. He never realized he had sailed to the “New World.” With his own national American holiday, and his violence and cruelty toward the natives he encountered, perhaps he does get too much credit, considering he didn’t even know what he had found.	

Question 3: What was the EFFECT of Columbus’s travels?	Score:
Student Answer: He became very famous.	
Your Response: Columbus did become a hero, but the effects of his travels were far more important. Columbus’s journeys formed the basis for Spanish claims in the New World. Because of Columbus, Spain was able to colonize the New World and grow into one of the world’s largest and richest empires.	