Lifelong Learning Programme

EHISTO
European history crossroads as pathways
to intercultural and media education

Christopher Columbus
(Columbus and the "Discovery" of the New World)

Media critical analysis

Making use of information in an appropriate and effective manner is the skill that can decide about success not only at school but also in professional life and many typical everyday situations. This skill consist in: retrieving information from the sources of a different type (the Internet, books, textbooks, newspapers, movies, radio broadcasts, and illustrations) in a fast manner; distinguishing reliable from unreliable, false or misleading information; efficient collection and storage of acquired material in order to be able easy access it at any time; finally using the obtained information in currently realized tasks.

TASKS

1. What can you learn from an article "Christopher Kolumbski, the story of King Władysław on the distant island" on historical research? According to the author, who can be considered a competent historian?

    a. To which group of historians does Rafał Jaworski (author of the article) belong to? How can this be determined?

2. Why, according to the author of the article, should not the book by Manuel Rosa ("Columbus. Unknown history") be regarded as a reliable source of historical information?

3. Based on the article that you have read, point out elements that allow considering the material of a different nature (books, articles, WebPages) as a reliable source of historical information.

4. Take a look at portraits of Christopher Columbus and Wladyslaw of Varna attached to the article. Can they constitute the material that allows confirming kinship between the great explorer and the Polish king? Why?

    a. What elements can be used to assess the usefulness of illustrations (painting, portrait, and drawing) as a reliable source of historical information?

    b. Which of the illustrations included in the article may provide a reliable source of information about Christopher Columbus or Wladyslaw of Varna?

    c. Try to search out the images that can provide a reliable source of information about Christopher Columbus and Władysław of Varna (the images should meet the criteria presented in the previous parts of this module) in the [German](#), [British](#), [Swedish](#), [Spanish](#) articles proposed by the teacher or on the Internet.

    d. Take part in the discussion and justify your opinion: Is it possible to determine any similarities or kinship between Christopher Columbus and Wladyslaw of Varna based on the illustrative material gathered in this task?

5. Present your position in the discussion: After reading the article by Rafał Jaworski, are you interested in reading the book M. Rosa? Why should or should not this book be reached for?