

## *Media critical questions*

### **Columbus as a media phenomenon**

Previous questions should be considered to be critical of media. However, the following questions put more emphasis on how the media shapes the information that is presented. In addition, a German magazine is used as an example of how the media can be used in another European country. Articles to analyze are the Swedish article "[Columbus colony was a disaster](#)" and the German article "[Dreamland Ahoy!](#)".

#### Questions

#### **How do the authors describe men, women, Spanish and Indians?**

- 1 a. How are they depicted in the images?  
b. Discuss in what ways this is a problem in the texts and in historical writing.
- 2 **What sources are used in the texts to describe Columbus' deeds?**
- 3 **How can one see that the texts are written for popular historical magazines? (Please compare with your text books to see how Columbus is described there. Discuss similarities and differences in language, content and image selection dialog etc.)**
- 4 **How trustworthy do you consider the text to be?**
- 5 **What theoretical position (bias) do you think the author has?**

#### **Working with the timeline**

- 6 Using the [time line](#), you can discover more about the illustrations of the [GEO-Epoche article "Beyond the horizon" \(2007\)](#). In addition, you can find pictures

from the German magazine "G-Geschichte" and from an English magazine.

Arrange the pictures on the timeline according to their time of origin and try to answer the following questions with the help of the enclosed information:

- a. Is it a picture from an eyewitness?
- b. When were most of the selected pictures created?
- c. On what are the pictures from the 19th century and their depiction of Columbus as well as the scenes from the crossing of the Atlantic Ocean based?
- d. Discuss: Can the pictures from the 19th century be considered as historical documents for Columbus and his time?

7 **See, and test, how Columbus has been painted in different centuries in this [quiz](#)**