

Colonialism and imperialism

An analysis of the legacy of Columbus

Columbus "discovery of the New World" was a vital part of European colonialism. To examine the legacy of Columbus we suggest that you individually, in pair or in small groups answer questions below.

Further readings and questions on Columbus can be found in the links above labeled "Multinational Comparison" and "The Historiography of Columbus".

Tasks (students' view):

What is colonialism and imperialism?

1

Look in your textbook and compare definitions with what you can find on internet.

Colonizers and colonized, 'us' and 'the other'

Look at the images in the [Swedish](#) and the [British](#) popular history article.

2

a. How are colonizers and the colonized depicted in the images?

b. Relate the images to definitions of colonization and imperialism.

c. How do the images relate to headlines and captions?

d. Why can it be problematic to call Columbus' deed a discovery?

Columbus and the British Empire

3

Read the text British text ["The impact of Imperialism"](#) and consider in what ways the history of Columbus is linked to the history of the British Empire?

4

How can you see that the article is written in England?

How is Columbus remembered today?

5

a. Google "Columbus day in Chile", "Columbus day in USA" and "Columbus day in Venezuela" to find out how this day is celebrated and criticized. What groups are

celebrating and what groups are critical?

b. Make a list of Columbus' life and deeds similar to that in the article "Empire" and assess his historic effort as a positive or negative one. Use articles, textbook and internet to list different perspectives.

c. Should Columbus' journey be celebrated or mourned in the region labeled Latin America or elsewhere?