Columbus Day
Trivia Questions

Multiple Choice Questions:

1. In what year did Columbus Day become a Federal Holiday?
   a) It isn’t a Federal Holiday
   b) 1937
   c) 1957
   d) 1897

2. How many times did Columbus sail to what he thought was Asia?
   a) Seven
   b) Twelve
   c) One
   d) Three

3. Which U.S. state has replaced Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day?
   a) Alaska
   b) New York
   c) Texas
   d) Florida

4. Which U.S. state was the first to adopt Columbus Day as a legal holiday?
   a) California
   b) South Carolina
   c) Colorado
   d) Virginia

5. Approximately how long did it take Columbus’ crew to reach the “New World?”
   a) Six months
   b) Fourteen days
   c) One year
   d) Ten weeks
6. How many U.S. states give employees Columbus Day as a paid holiday?
   a) 42
   b) 15
   c) 50
   d) 23

7. Which of Columbus’ ships did not make the return trip to Spain after the initial landing?
   a) Santa Maria
   b) Nina
   c) Pinta
   d) Mayflower

8. Which city hosts the largest Columbus Day parade?
   a) Chicago
   b) Philadelphia
   c) New York City
   d) Miami

9. How Old was Columbus when he landed in what he thought were the Indies?
   a) 41
   b) 23
   c) 52
   d) 19

10. What percent of his spoils from the discovery voyage was Columbus permitted to keep?
    a) 75%
    b) 10%
    c) 1%
    d) 50%

11. Which native group did Columbus encounter when he landed?
    a) Aztec
    b) Sioux
    c) Taino
    d) Makah

12. In what year was Columbus stripped of his title of Governor of the land he “discovered?”
    a) 1499
    b) 1515
    c) 1525
    d) 1493

13. Which country declined to fund Columbus’ journey?
    a) France
    b) England
    c) Portugal
    d) All of the above
1. Most educated Europeans in the 1490's still believed the world was flat.

2. In 2002 Venezuela renamed the holiday marking Columbus' landing in Hispaniola as the “Day of Indigenous Resistance.”

3. The first recorded celebration of Columbus Day commemorated the 300th anniversary of his landing.

4. When Columbus first landed in the Caribbean he named the island San Salvador.

5. Columbus Day is celebrated every year on October 12th.

6. Fewer than half of Americans believe Columbus should have a holiday named after him.

7. Washington D.C. is named after Christopher Columbus.

8. Columbus Day is one of the most consistently celebrated holidays in the U.S.

9. Christopher Columbus started sailing when he was around 15 years old.

10. When he died, Columbus was buried in the spot where he first “discovered the New World.”

11. Christopher Columbus is the explorer's real name.

12. Columbus died believing he had found a new route to India.

13. Columbus' favorite ship was the Nina.

True or False Questions:

1. Most educated Europeans in the 1490's still believed the world was flat.

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Columbus Day Trivia Answers

Multiple Choice Answers:

1. b) Although some locations celebrated it decades earlier, it became a Federal holiday in 1937.

2. d) He made three trips.

3. a) Hawaii, Oregon, and South Dakota also have.

4. c) Colorado declared it in 1907.

5. d) The three ships with a crew of 90 sailed for ten weeks.

6. d) Just under half of U.S. states do.

7. a) The Santa Maria ran aground around Christmas and couldn't make the trip.

8. c) NYC.

9. a) He was 41.

10. b) His contract included terms that gave him 10%.

11. c) The Taino were native to the area.

12. a) He was arrested and stripped of his title because of his mistreatment of the natives in 1499.

13. d) In his initial pleas to all three countries, their experts believed he was not correctly calculating the distance.
True or False Answers:

1. False. Most actually thought the world was round.

2. True. Many Latin Cultures use this day to mark the diverse routes of Hispanic culture rather than a celebration of Columbus’ discovery.

3. True. According to the Library of Congress it was hosted by the Society of St. Tammany.

4. True. The island was part of the modern day Bahamas.

5. False. When it became a legal holiday it was changed to the second Monday in October.

6. False. A 2017 survey reports more than half believe he should have a holiday.

7. True. The District of Columbia is meant in reference to the explorer.

8. False. It is one of the most inconsistently celebrated.

9. True. Life expectancies were shorter back then so it’s no surprise he started so young.

10 False. No one knows for sure where he’s buried as his body was reburied in different places around the world.

11. False. This is the Anglicized version of his real name, Cristoforo Colombo.

12. True. He thought the world was shaped like a pear because of his discovery.

13. True. He liked it best because it was small and fast.