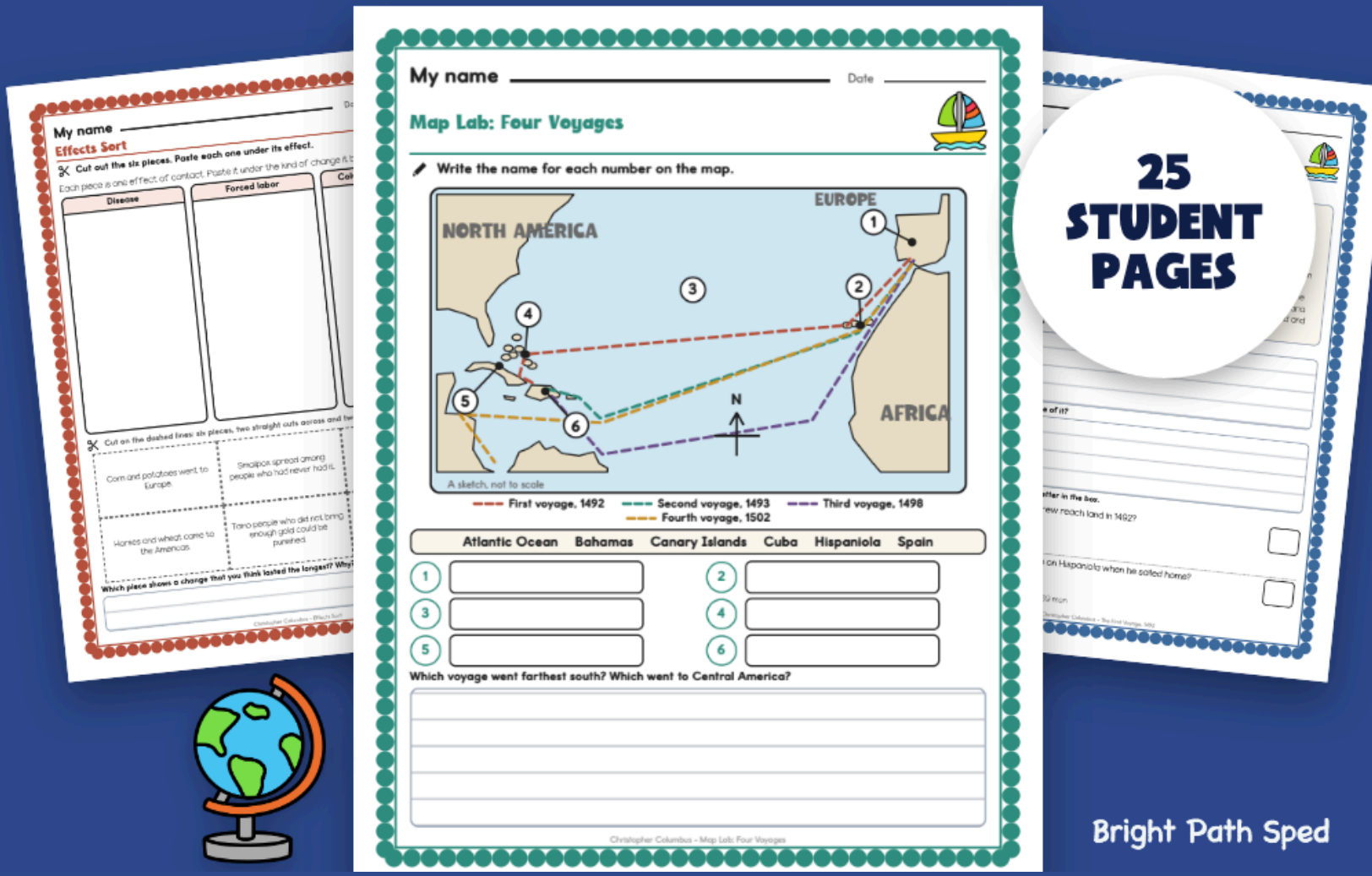
CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS

Worksheets for Grades 5-8



Bright Path Sped

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This is a fillable PDF

- Open it in a PDF reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader, Preview, or your browser), click into a line or a box, type, and Save As.
- The name line, every answer box, every ruled work box and every check box on the student pages are type-in fields, and so are the tracker, class grid, team note and family page. You can also print any page and write by hand.
- It works offline. No account, no subscription, no internet connection needed after you download it.

Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the ruled lines stay 0.34 inch apart. Every student page is black and white inside a colored border, so it still reads when copied in black and white.

Student work

A filled-in tracker, class grid or team note carries a real student's name. Keep it in the data folder, and use a first name only on any page that leaves your hands.

Need help?

If a field will not behave or a page will not print the way you expect, use Ask a Question on the product page. Every question is read, and a fix ships as a free update.

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PREVIEW

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How To Read a Page

The parts of a student page, then the page types in the order they come.

The parts of a page

- **The answer box.** A bordered box for a letter, a year, a number or a name. Click it to type, or print and write in it.
- **The ruled work box.** Lines 0.34 inch apart. A short answer gets 4 lines; the cause and effect boxes get 3 and the paragraph page gets 18. It types and prints.
- **The check box.** True or false, yes or not yet: click or mark one.
- **The reading.** A short passage with the years at the top, then a cause box, an effect box and two checks.
- **The cut line.** Six pieces in a 3 by 2 grid, each 2.4 by 1.25 inches, edge to edge: two cuts across and two down.

Page type	What it looks like	What the student does
Before You Read, Words to Know	2 pages, 12 items	True or false on the big picture; match eight words to their meanings.
6 Readings	12 checks	Read, write the cause and the effect, answer two checks with a letter.
Map Lab	1 page, 6 items	A sketch of the Atlantic with the four voyage routes; write the name for each number.
Timelines	2 pages, 14 items	Write the year for each event; number seven mixed-up events 1 to 7.
Chart, own words, points of view	3 pages	The Spanish and Taino accounts side by side; one sentence per reading; what three different people might say.
Think It Through, claim-evidence-reasoning	9 questions, 2 organizer pages	4 lines per question; a plan and an 18-line paragraph.
Quiz, Cut and Paste	12 items, 18 pieces	A quiz in two parts and three cut-and-paste mats (effects, who said it, order).

Untimed, unscored on the page

No student page has a timer or a score on it. The keys and the tracker are for you. The answer keys are on pages 30 to 34.

A short account, not a full textbook

Each reading is a summary of one part of the story in plain words. It is not a complete history, and it is not tied to any particular standard. Add your own textbook, map or source for more depth, including Taino and other Indigenous sources.

Printing and the type-in fields

Every page prints clean in black and white. The name line, every answer box, every ruled box and every check box are type-in fields in any PDF reader: click one, type, then save. This is a fillable PDF, not a slideshow or a word-processor file.

Open answers

The chart, own words, points of view, short answers and the paragraph are open. The keys give a sample and what to look for. Accept any answer that is true to the readings and explains its reason.

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____



Before You Read

Read the big idea. Then check true or false.

In 1492, ships from Spain reached islands where people already lived. Here is where the story starts.

The people	The Taino lived on the islands of the Caribbean Sea. They had villages, farms and canoes long before 1492.
The sailor	Christopher Columbus sailed from Spain in 1492. He wanted a sea road to Asia, and he reached islands in the Bahamas instead.
The meeting	When the Spanish and the Taino met, life changed for both. Spanish writers and Taino history tell the story from two sides.
The road	Columbus made four voyages between 1492 and 1504. You will read about the Taino world and the voyages, then the effects of contact: six readings in all.

Try it. Is each sentence true or false?

1. Columbus sailed for Spain in 1492. ☐ true ☐ false
2. The islands Columbus reached had no people living on them. ☐ true ☐ false
3. The Taino lived on the islands of the Caribbean before 1492. ☐ true ☐ false
4. Everyone today agrees on how to remember Columbus. ☐ true ☐ false

In your own words: what do you already know about Columbus?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

The First Voyage, 1492



Read the story. Then fill in cause and effect.

1492 to 1493

Christopher Columbus was an Italian sailor from Genoa. He believed he could reach Asia by sailing west across the Atlantic Ocean. After years of asking, he won support from King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain. On August 3, 1492, he sailed from Palos, Spain, with three ships, the Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria. The ships stopped at the Canary Islands and then sailed west for about five weeks. On October 12, 1492, the crew reached an island in the Bahamas that the Taino people called Guanahani. Columbus named it San Salvador. He believed he had reached the Indies, so he called the people he met Indians. The Taino met the crew on the shore. The ships then visited Cuba and Hispaniola. On Christmas, the Santa Maria ran aground off Hispaniola. Columbus left about 39 men in a small fort called La Navidad and sailed for home in early 1493.

Cause: Why did this happen?

Effect: What happened because of it?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. On what date did the crew reach land in 1492? ☐
   - **A** August 3, 1492
   - **B** October 12, 1492
   - **C** December 25, 1492

2. What did Columbus leave on Hispaniola when he sailed home? ☐
   - **A** A map of the islands
   - **B** Three ships
   - **C** A small fort with about 39 men

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

The Third Voyage, 1498



Read the story. Then fill in cause and effect.

1498 to 1500

In May 1498, Columbus sailed again with six ships. He stopped at the Cape Verde Islands off Africa and took a more southern route. In July, he reached the island of Trinidad. A few weeks later he saw the coast of South America near the mouth of the Orinoco River. He did not know it was a new continent. He believed it was a very large land. Then he sailed to Hispaniola, where the Spanish had set up a town called Santo Domingo. He found the colony in trouble. Settlers had rebelled against his rule, and complaints about him had reached Spain. In 1500, the king and queen sent a royal official named Francisco de Bobadilla to look into the problems. Bobadilla arrested Columbus and his brothers and sent them back to Spain in chains. The king and queen freed Columbus, but they took away his power as governor of the lands he had found.

Cause: Why did this happen?

Effect: What happened because of it?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. What did Columbus see near the Orinoco River in 1498? ☐
   - **A** The coast of South America
   - **B** The coast of Spain
   - **C** The island of La Navidad

2. Who arrested Columbus in 1500? ☐
   - **A** King Ferdinand
   - **B** Queen Isabella
   - **C** Francisco de Bobadilla

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

What Contact Changed



Read the story. Then fill in cause and effect.

After 1492

The meeting of the Americas and Europe changed life on both sides of the Atlantic. For the Taino, the changes were terrible. Europeans carried diseases such as smallpox, measles and influenza. The Taino had never been exposed to them, so many people died. The Spanish also forced Taino people to work in mines and on farms, and many more died from overwork and violence. Within about fifty years, the Taino population of Hispaniola had dropped sharply, though historians disagree about the exact numbers. Some Taino people escaped to the hills, and Taino ancestry and traditions did not disappear. For Europe, the voyages opened a long age of exploration and colonies. Foods, plants and animals crossed the ocean in both directions. Corn, potatoes and tomatoes went to Europe, and horses, cattle and wheat came to the Americas. Historians call this the Columbian Exchange. Today people still debate how to remember Columbus, and many communities honor Indigenous Peoples Day.

Cause: Why did this happen?

Effect: What happened because of it?

Check what you read. Write the letter in the box.

1. Why were new diseases so deadly for the Taino? ☐
   - **A** The Taino had never been exposed to them.
   - **B** The Taino refused all medicine.
   - **C** The diseases were new to Europe too.

2. What do historians call the crossing of foods, plants and animals? ☐
   - **A** The Taino Trade
   - **B** The Columbian Exchange
   - **C** The Spanish Voyage

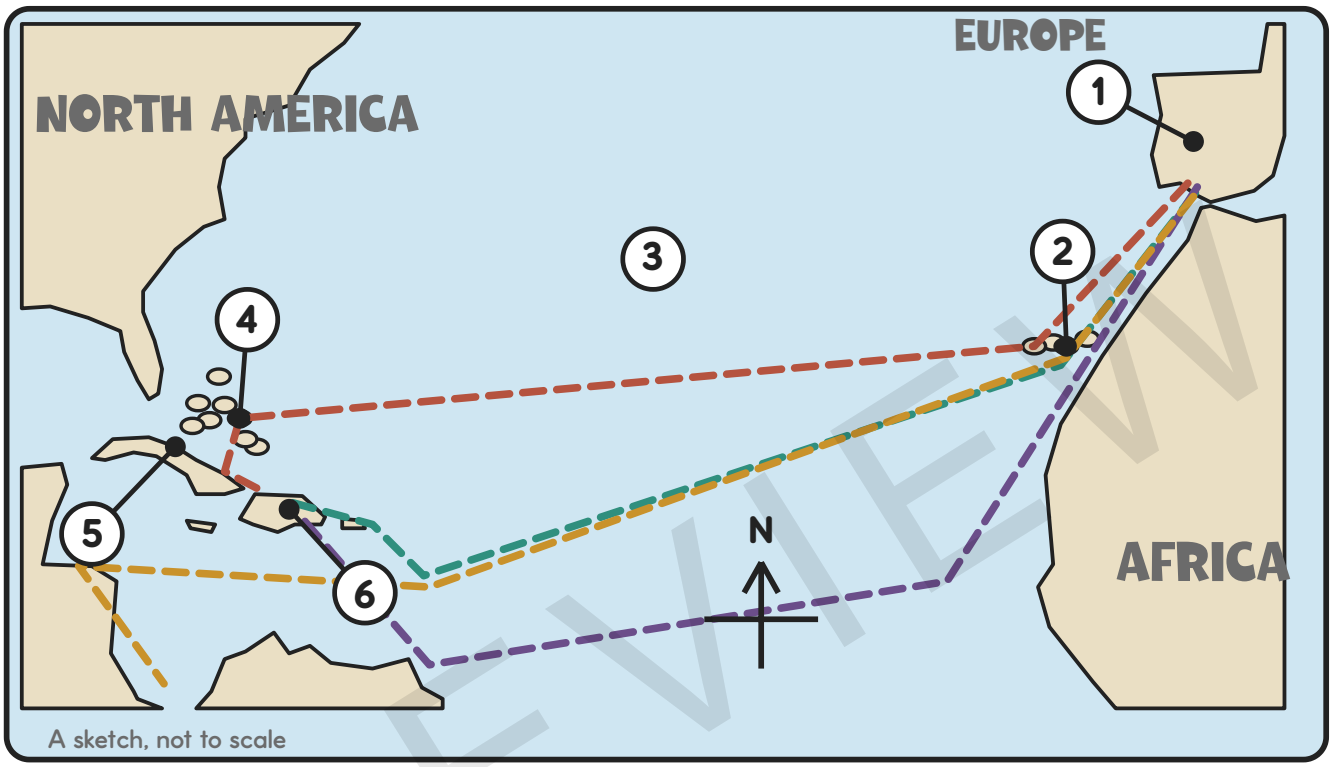
PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____

Map Lab: Four Voyages

Write the name for each number on the map.



First voyage, 1492 — Second voyage, 1493 — Third voyage, 1498 — Fourth voyage, 1502

Atlantic Ocean	Bahamas	Canary Islands	Cuba	Hispaniola	Spain

1 _____ 2 _____

3 _____ 4 _____

5 _____ 6 _____

Which voyage went farthest south? Which went to Central America?

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ezee Shop

My name _____ Date _____

Timeline: Order

Number the events from 1 to 7.

These seven events from 1492 to 1504 are mixed up. Write 1 for the one that happened first, and 7 for the one that happened last.

1. Columbus sees the coast of South America. ☐
2. Columbus sails from Palos, Spain. ☐
3. The crew is rescued and Columbus returns to Spain. ☐
4. Columbus sails home to tell Spain's rulers. ☐
5. Columbus is stranded on Jamaica. ☐
6. The Santa Maria runs aground off Hispaniola. ☐
7. The Spanish build La Isabela on Hispaniola. ☐

Why does the order matter? Tell how one event led to the next.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Ezee Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Two Points of View



Write what each person might say.

People did not all see 1492 the same way. Write what each person might have said. These are your own words, not real quotations.

A Spanish sailor on the first voyage might say...

A Taino villager who saw the ships arrive might say...

A student today who has read both accounts might say...

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____

Think It Through B

Answer each question in full sentences.

Use facts from the readings to answer.

4 How did the Spanish treat the Taino during the second voyage?

5 Why was Columbus arrested in 1500?

6 How did the moon help Columbus get food on Jamaica?

PREVIEW

My name _____ Date _____

Claim, Evidence, Reasoning



Plan your answer. Write a claim, evidence and reasoning.

Question: Did Columbus's voyages change life more for the people of Europe or for the Taino?

Pick one side. Use the readings, pages 6 to 11.

I believe the voyages changed life more for ____. For example, ____.
This shows that ____ because ____.

Claim: Which group do you pick?

Evidence: Give two facts from the readings.

Reasoning: Explain how your facts prove your claim.

PREVIEW

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Quiz, Part A

Read each one. Write the letter of the best answer.

Write the letter of the best answer in the box.

1. Which people lived on the islands of the Caribbean Sea before 1492?
   - **A** The Vikings
   - **B** The Taino
   - **C** The Romans

2. Who ruled a Taino village?
   - **A** A governor
   - **B** A sailor
   - **C** A cacique

3. Which country paid for Columbus's first voyage?
   - **A** Italy
   - **B** Spain
   - **C** Portugal

4. What were the three ships on the first voyage?
   - **A** The Nina, the Pinta and the Santa Maria
   - **B** The Mayflower, the Pinta and the Nina
   - **C** The Santa Maria, the Victoria and the Pinta

5. In October 1492, the ships reached land in which place?
   - **A** Florida
   - **B** The Bahamas
   - **C** Central America

6. What did Columbus believe about the land he reached?
   - **A** He had found a land with no people.
   - **B** He had reached the Indies in Asia.
   - **C** He had come back to Europe.

PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____

Effects Sort

Cut out the six pieces. Paste each one under its effect.

Each piece is one effect of contact. Paste it under the kind of change it belongs to.

Disease	Forced labor	Columbian Exchange

PREVIEW

Cut on the dashed lines: six pieces, two straight cuts across and two down.

Corn and potatoes went to Europe.	Smallpox spread among people who had never had it.	The Spanish made Taino people work in mines and on farms.
Horses and wheat came to the Americas.	Taino people who did not bring enough gold could be punished.	Measles and influenza made many Taino people sick.

Which piece shows a change that you think lasted the longest? Why?

My name _____ Date _____

Check My Own Work

Check your own work. Mark yes or not yet.

1	I can say how the Taino lived before 1492.	☐ yes	☐ not yet
2	I can tell what happened on the first voyage.	☐ yes	☐ not yet
3	I can find Spain, the Bahamas and Hispaniola on a map.	☐ yes	☐ not yet
4	I can put the main events in order.	☐ yes	☐ not yet
5	I can tell a cause from an effect.	☐ yes	☐ not yet
6	I know what colony, tribute and perspective mean.	☐ yes	☐ not yet
7	I can use a fact from a reading to back up my claim.	☐ yes	☐ not yet
8	I can say how the Spanish and the Taino saw the same events.	☐ yes	☐ not yet

The part I understand best is...

One thing I still want to know is...

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Timelines, Quiz, Sorts

The timeline pages, the quiz and the three cut-and-paste mats.

Timeline: Years page 14

#	Event	Year
1	Columbus is sent back to Spain in chains	1500
2	Columbus's first voyage reaches the Bahamas	1492
3	Columbus dies	1506
4	Columbus begins his third voyage	1498
5	A rescue ship reaches Columbus on Jamaica	1504
6	Columbus sails on his second voyage	1493
7	Columbus begins his fourth voyage	1502

Timeline: Order page 15

#	Starts with	Number
1	Columbus sees the coast of …	5
2	Columbus sails from Palos, Spain.	1
3	The crew is rescued and …	7
4	Columbus sails home to tell …	3
5	Columbus is stranded on Jamaica.	6
6	The Santa Maria runs aground …	2
7	The Spanish build La Isabela …	4

Quiz pages 24, 25

#	Starts with	Answer
1	Which people lived on the …	B. The Taino
2	Who ruled a Taino village?	C. A cacique
3	Which country paid for Columbus's …	B. Spain
4	What were the three ships …	A. The Nina, the Pinta …
5	In October 1492, the ships …	B. The Bahamas
6	What did Columbus believe about …	B. He had reached the …
7	How many ships sailed on …	A. 17
8	Which official arrested Columbus in …	A. Francisco de Bobadilla
9	What word names the movement …	C. The Columbian Exchange
10	What happened to the Taino …	B. It fell sharply.
11	Which of these did Europeans …	B. Smallpox
12	Which statement about the Taino …	C. They left no written …

Effects Sort page 26

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: Corn and potatoes went …	Columbian Exchange
r1 c2: Smallpox spread among people …	Disease
r1 c3: The Spanish made Taino …	Forced labor
r2 c1: Horses and wheat came …	Columbian Exchange
r2 c2: Taino people who did …	Forced labor
r2 c3: Measles and influenza made …	Disease

Who Would Say It? page 27

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: These islands were our …	The Taino account
r1 c2: We sailed west to …	The Spanish account
r1 c3: The strangers asked for …	The Taino account
r2 c1: These islands now belong …	The Spanish account
r2 c2: Our new settlement needs …	The Spanish account
r2 c3: Sickness and forced work …	The Taino account

Timeline Cut and Paste page 28

Piece (row, column)	Box
r1 c1: Bobadilla arrests Columbus.	Fourth
r1 c2: Columbus wins support from …	First
r1 c3: Columbus dies in Spain …	Sixth
r2 c1: The second voyage sails …	Third
r2 c2: A rescue ship reaches …	Fifth
r2 c3: The crew sees land …	Second

Reading the sort keys

Read each strip left to right, top row first. On the timeline sort the boxes are first to sixth, so the box is the event's place in time.

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Written Answers

Think It Through A to C (pages 19, 20, 21) and the paragraph plan. These are samples, not the only right answers.

Think It Through

#	Starts with	A good answer includes
1	Why did Columbus sail west in …	He wanted a sea route to Asia, and the king and queen of Spain supported the trip.
2	Describe how the Taino lived before …	Any three true details: villages led by caciques, farming cassava and corn, fishing, canoes, hammocks, a ball game.
3	Why did Columbus call the people …	He believed he had reached the Indies in Asia.
4	How did the Spanish treat the …	They demanded gold, punished those who did not bring enough, and captured some people to be sold as enslaved; some Taino leaders fought back.
5	Why was Columbus arrested in 1500?	The colony was in trouble and settlers complained, so the king and queen sent Bobadilla, who arrested him; he lost his power as governor.
6	How did the moon help Columbus …	He told the Taino leaders the moon would darken; when it did, they began bringing food again.
7	Name two effects of contact on …	Disease and forced labor cut the population sharply; Taino descendants and traditions continue.
8	What crossed the ocean in the …	Plants, animals, people and diseases, such as corn, potatoes and tomatoes going east and horses, cattle and wheat going west.
9	Why do people remember Columbus in …	Open answer. Look for the voyages that changed the world, the harm to the Taino, and a reason that connects the two.

Sample: Claim, Evidence, Reasoning (page 22)

- **Claim:** Columbus's voyages changed life more for the Taino.
- **Evidence:** Disease and forced labor cut the Taino population sharply in about fifty years. Europe gained foods such as corn, potatoes and tomatoes and a long age of colonies.
- **Reasoning:** Europe changed, but the Taino lost many lives and their independence. Losing people and control of your own islands is a bigger change than gaining new foods, which is why the Taino were changed more.
- Either group is a fair claim if the evidence is true to the readings and the reasoning explains why the change mattered.

Scoring the open answers

Look for a true fact from the readings, a reason that connects it to the question, and the student's own wording. Count a short answer as right when it has the fact and the reason; a missing reason is a next step, not a wrong answer.

PREVIEW

Columbus Unit Tracker

One student, every scored page. Filled example: page 39.

Student _____ Teacher _____ Month _____

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
5	Before You Read	4			
6	The Taino World Before 1492	2			
7	The First Voyage, 1492	2			
8	The Second Voyage, 1493	2			
9	The Third Voyage, 1498	2			
10	The Fourth Voyage, 1502	2			
11	What Contact Changed	2			
12	Words to Know	8			
13	Map Lab: Four Voyages	6			
14	Timeline: Years	7			
15	Timeline: Order	7			
24	Quiz, Part A	6			
25	Quiz, Part B	6			
26	Effects Sort	6			
27	Who Would Say It?	6			
28	Timeline Cut and Paste	6			

PREVIEW

How to fill this in

Write how many items the student got right with no prompt, and the date. A blank means not tried yet, never wrong. There are 74 items on the 16 scored pages. Answer keys: pages 30 to 34. Filled example: page 39.

This month we are working on (your own standard or wording)

Team Note

Use this page between team meetings or when a student moves classes, to hand off what changed without writing a note from scratch. Everything below is observable, with a blank for the number or the wording your team already uses.

Student _____ Team member _____ Date _____

Page type	Covered since last note (Y/N)	Items right	Still blank
Before You Read			
Readings			
Words to Know			
Map Lab			
Timelines			
Quiz			
Cut and paste			

What I saw (observable, not a conclusion)

- Named the cause and the effect of ___ of ___ events without a prompt.
- Put the events in order on ___ of ___ (page 15).
- Used a fact from a reading in the claim, evidence and reasoning pages (22, 23): yes / no / with a reminder.
- Labeled ___ of ___ items on the map (page 13).

Next step

- Next page or set: ___, because ___ (what you saw).
- What to try in another class or at home: ___.
- What to keep doing because it is working: ___.
- Anything for the team meeting to decide: ___ (this page records what happened, never a label or a plan).

Summary, in one or two sentences, for whoever reads this next

A filled-in line, for reference

"Matched 6 of 8 words on Words to Know with no prompt on 10/3. Next step: use the map page to show where a colony was built." That is the level of detail this page is built for. It matches the filled example on page 39.

PREVIEW

Dana's Tracker (Invented Student)

Dana R. is invented; nothing on this page describes a real student. The blank tracker is on page 35.

Student	Teacher	Month
Dana R. (an invented student)	Mr. Hale (invented)	September to October

Page	Page type and set	Items	Right	Date	Notes
5	Before You Read	4	3	9/22	Missed the question about who lived there
6	The Taino World Before 1492	2	2	9/24	-
7	The First Voyage, 1492	2	2	9/25	-
8	The Second Voyage, 1493	2	1	9/29	Mixed up the second and third voyages
9	The Third Voyage, 1498	2	2	10/1	-
10	The Fourth Voyage, 1502	2	-	-	-
11	What Contact Changed	2	-	-	-
12	Words to Know	8	6	10/3	Mixed up colony and tribute
13	Map Lab: Four Voyages	6	4	10/6	Swapped Cuba and Hispaniola
14	Timeline: Years	7	5	10/8	Swapped 1498 and 1500
15	Timeline: Order	7	-	-	-
24	Quiz, Part A	6	-	-	-
25	Quiz, Part B	6	-	-	-
26	Effects Sort	6	-	-	-
27	Who Would Say It?	6	-	-	-
28	Timeline Cut and Paste	6	-	-	-

How to read it

Dana R. has done **8 of 16** scored pages and got **25 of 33** items right with no prompt. **3** pages were all right and **5** carry a note. Every number comes from the table.

What the table points to

The lowest page is The Second Voyage, 1493 (1 of 2). That is where the next practice goes. The 8 pages left blank are not tried yet, never wrong.

PREVIEW