

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

**Bell Ringer: Exploration and Colonization Continues: Columbus**

**Instructions:** Examine the picture. Read the background information. Answer the questions.



**Background:** An Italian, Christopher Columbus (1451-1506), sought to find a new trade route to Asia for spices and other goods. Spain paid for his endeavor in 1492. Utilizing a map made by Paolo Toscanelli (1397-1482), Columbus theorized he could bypass going around Africa simply by sailing west. His plan, based on Toscanelli's map, would have worked, but the Americas stood in his way, something he was unaware of at the start of his travels. Eventually, Europe realized Columbus had discovered an entire New World and many nations began to colonize the new area. Colonization is when a powerful nation controls a weaker area. Columbus discovery led to massive European colonization in the Americas.

1. What was Columbus hoping to do on his voyage in 1492?

2. Why did Toscanelli's map prove problematic for Columbus?

3. How did Columbus' discovery of the Americas change the world?

**Answers:**

1. What was Columbus hoping to do on his voyage in 1492?

Find a new trade route to Asia.

2. Why did Toscanelli's map prove problematic for Columbus?

It would have worked, but nobody knew of the Americas, which stood right in the way of the direction Columbus wanted to travel.

3. How did Columbus' discovery of the Americas change the world?

It led to massive colonization by European powers.