



In fourteen hundred and ninety-two,  
Columbus sailed the ocean blue.

In fourteen hundred and ninety-three,  
Columbus started slavery.

## C o n s i d e r

For 15 years prior to 1492 Columbus sailed the coast of Africa, where the slave trade to Europe was building from its beginning in 1452. The first time he set ashore in the Americas Columbus kidnapped six people. He returned to

Spain with several more kidnapped people. In 1495 Columbus enslaved and shipped 500 people back to Spain for sale, thus founding the transatlantic slave trade.

- Altogether, Columbus personally enslaved and shipped 5,000 people from the Americas to Europe.
- The Spanish throne was reluctant to accept slavery, but Columbus and his supporters prevailed.
- Under Columbus and his family, land in the Americas was worked by a system of slave labor.

○ Columbus used sexual slavery to reward his men. In 1500 he wrote in a letter "A hundred castellanoes are as easily obtained for a woman as for a farm, and it is very general and there are plenty of dealers who go about looking for girls; those from nine to ten are now in demand." See *Lies My Teacher Told Me* by James Loewen.

○ By royal decision, Columbus got 2% of the take from the Carribean. He died leaving his family wealthy.



*It's not what you learned in high school.*

### Here's some things to do:

#### 1. Get the whole story

Read through the articles available at:

<http://www.transformcolumbusday.org/articles.html>

2. Ask yourself, do we really want to celebrate the founding proponent of slavery, conquest, and genocide in the western hemisphere?

3. Support the move to transform Columbus Day from a holiday that celebrates conquest and domination to a respectful celebration that calls for a future for the Americas without racism, exploitation, or state/corporate domination. Read more at [www.transformcolumbusday.org](http://www.transformcolumbusday.org)

4. Hand this flyer out to your friends and family. Make copies. Please do not litter.

This flyer brought to you by the White Anti-racist Community Action Network, [www.wacan.org](http://www.wacan.org). WACAN is a member of the Transform Columbus Day Alliance.