

Name: _____

Date: _____

A New World

On October 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus landed on a small island he called San Salvador. Columbus believed he had reached the Indies, or the islands southwest of India that include Indonesia and Malaysia. Columbus died believing he had reached the east by sailing west, but instead he had discovered a “new world.”

San Salvador was one of the islands in the Caribbean Sea, a body of water between North America and South America. The islands of the Caribbean are part of the West Indies. The West Indies received its name because Columbus believed the native people of the Caribbean Islands were Indians.

The Caribbean Sea is named for the Carib, nomadic sea-faring warriors who lived in the region when Columbus arrived. The Carib drove out their enemies, the Arawaks. Only men spoke the Carib

language, the women spoke Arawak. The Carib killed the men, but would keep the women as slaves. The Carib were believed to have eaten the flesh of the people they defeated. The word cannibal derives from an Arawak term for the Carib.

Once word of a “new world” reached Europe, the British, French and Dutch joined the Spaniards in the Caribbean. The newcomers brought with them diseases like measles and smallpox. The Europeans had been exposed to the diseases, so their bodies developed a protection similar to a vaccine. When you receive a vaccine, a small portion of a virus is injected into your body. Your immune system then learns the disease and prepares for future infections. The native people of the Caribbean had no immunity from the European diseases, so outbreaks of measles and smallpox decimated their population.

Fill in the Blanks

On October 12, 14____, the *s_____ aboard the *N_____, the *P_____, and the *S_____ M_____ were thrilled. They found land after many weeks at sea. The sailors and their captain, Christopher *C_____, believed they had reached the i_____ southwest of I_____ that include I_____ and M_____. In fact they had discovered a “n___ world.”

Columbus believed he was in the I_____, so he named the n_____ people “I_____.” We refer to the islands of the C_____ Sea as the W_____ Indies to distinguish them from the islands Columbus thought he reached.

The C_____ is named for the n_____, sea-faring C_____, who dominated the *i_____ when the *E_r_p_n_ arrived. The Carib drove out their e_____, the A_____. The C_____ were believed to have e_____ the f_____ of the Arawak m____, but the kept the w_____ as s_____. The word c_____ is derived from an A_____ word for the C_____.

The British, D_____, and F_____ joined the S_____ in the “n___ world.” They brought with them d_____ like s_____ and m_____. The Europeans had been e_____ to the d_____, so they developed an *i_n_y from them. The n_____ people had no immunity, so most people d_____ from the diseases.

Answer in complete sentences

*Why do you think the Caribbean Sea was named for the Carib instead of the Arawak?

*This is a higher order learning question. You must answer the question to the best of your ability, but any reasonable answer will be graded as correct.