

THE HISPANIC MUSEUM & LIBRARY



MAPS LESSON PLAN II PEOPLE OF THE LAND

After listening to the presentation, would you be brave enough to complete these activities?

1. Can you image how difficult it was for Columbus and his crew to embark themselves in the adventure of navigating into the unknown Atlantic Ocean? It can be compared to getting on a rocket and heading to an unknown planet. Would you be willing to do it? If so, what would you take with you on that trip?
2. Why do you think the Spanish and Portuguese wanted to explore in the first place? What kinds of people do you think came to the Americas at the end of the fifteenth and beginning of the sixteenth centuries?

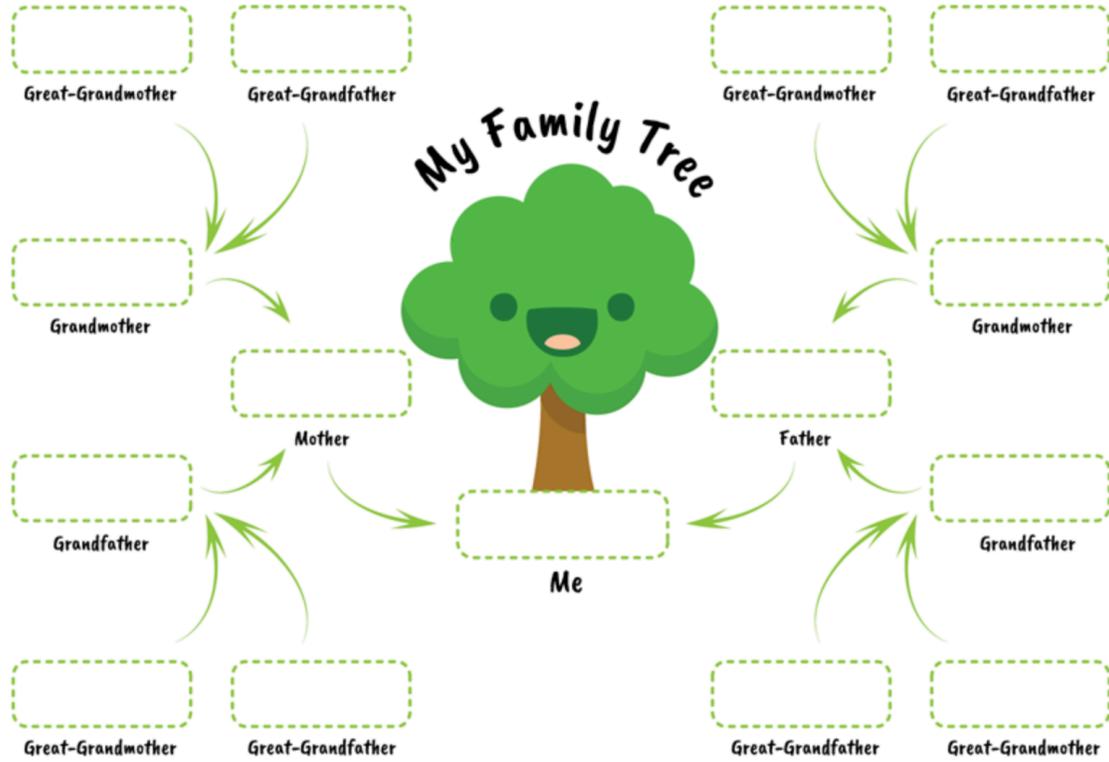
3. Columbus and his people first arrived in the Caribbean. Did they realize that they arrived at a continent unknown to them? Did Columbus misread the maps? Was it all a big mistake? Have you ever made a mistake that turned out to be a good thing?

4. Columbus traveled under the law of the Doctrine of Discovery. Under this doctrine, the Europeans gave themselves the right to conquer all of the lands and all of the people that were not already governed by a Christian king. What do you think about this doctrine? Do you agree or disagree? Explain why.

5. The diseases brought by the Europeans, such as smallpox and measles, killed a large number of people. Why do you think the Taínos died from the diseases imported by the Europeans? Can you find a current example of people dying because of a new virus for which they are not immunized?

6. Even today Columbus is seen as a hero to many people. Yet in the U.S., he is seen differently because of how he mistreated the native people. When you think about Columbus, do you imagine him as a hero or a villain? What about Fray Bartolomé? Who are heroes in your life, your community, your country? Why are they important?

7. Have you looked into your own family heritage? Can you fill out your family tree by showing nationalities or ethnicities other than American?



8. Do you know someone from the Caribbean? If so, why don't you interview this person about his/her feelings about his/her country? Do they miss it? What do they think about the Spanish conquest of their territories?