

# *The People vs. Columbus*

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS



## **The Charges**

The people of the Americas have formally brought charges against Christopher Columbus concerning the events of four separate voyages to the "New World." The specific charges against Mr. Columbus are as follows:

- 1. Multiple counts of murder.**
- 2. Multiple counts of grand larceny.**
- 3. One count of genocide.**
- 4. Multiple counts of torture.**
- 5. One count of destruction of culture.**

## *Trial Participants*

### Witnesses for the Defense

Christopher Columbus  
The Pope  
Queen Isabella  
King Ferdinand

### The Prosecution Witnesses

Taino/Arawak Native (male)  
Taino/Arawak Native (female)  
Member of Columbus' Crew  
Bartolome de Las Casas

# Evaluation

## Social Studies Learning Standards

### **Critical Thinking**

- Student demonstrates ability to identify bias, point of view, fact, opinion, purpose, and audience in a reading.
- Student is able to articulate a Christian response/interpretation/critique of historical events.

### **Communication**

- Student can clearly and accurately present historical information to an audience.
- Student follows writing/presentation guidelines for individual assignments.

### **Content**

- Student is able to cite events, ideas, and individuals accurately and appropriately to support a point, or make an observation.

## Assignment Checklist

- Completed 6 Lawyer Sheets, filled out according to expectations
- Acted as a Lawyer during the trial at least twice

### **Extra Credit Possibilities**

1. Dress up for each day of the trial
2. Become a character in the trial
3. Act as a lawyer more than twice
4. Write and deliver an Opening or Closing Statement
5. Have an objection sustained