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Talking point

Discuss the questions below in pairs or small groups.

1. Some people say that Columbus found America by mistake. Do you know any other explorers or scientists who discovered an important thing when they were looking for something different? Has this ever happened to you?
2. Columbus' voyage was probably the second European visit to the Americas. Can you think of any other famous second-place winners – athletes, politicians or musicians, for example?
3. What do you call Columbus in your language? Can you think of other famous historical people who have different names in different languages?
4. How do you think we should remember Columbus today – positively or negatively? Why?
5. What would you ask Columbus if you could meet him?

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Optional extension/homework

1. Europeans wanted to get rich by **t**_____ with China.
2. Columbus **w**_____ if there was another way to reach the Indies.
3. Columbus made a plan to **s**_____ west across the Atlantic Ocean.
4. Columbus brought back turkeys, pineapples and Indian **p**_____.
5. Columbus always believed that the lands that he **d**_____ were part of Asia.
6. Columbus made four **v**_____ to the New World during his life.
7. Columbus brought Spanish **c**_____ to live in America.
8. Columbus became governor but he was not a good **l**_____.
9. Columbus **e**_____ the Indians that he met.
10. The Europeans brought many new **d**_____ to the Americas.
11. The Vikings **e**_____ the Canadian coast further north almost 500 years before Columbus.