

Resource 2: Did Columbus Discover America - Arguments For and Against

<p style="text-align: center;">Arguments YES! Columbus DID Discover America</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Arguments Columbus did NOT Discover America</p>
<p>Few if any people in the “Old World” [Africa, Asia, Europe] in 1492 knew that the land now called America existed. From their point of view America was a “New World” that Columbus discovered.</p>	<p>Indigenous people - Native Americans - were already here for thousands of years so they are the only ones who could have discovered “America?” How do you discover something if millions of people already knew about it?</p>
<p>Leif Erikson may have been to the continent now called America but there is no evidence that Erikson or anyone in the Old World even knew this. He may not have even known that he was in a “New World.”</p>	<p>There is undisputed physical evidence that Leif Erikson landed in America 500 years before Columbus</p>
<p>Leif Erikson may have landed in North America before Columbus, but his landing had no significant effects. Millions of people came to America after news of Columbus’ accomplishment spread.</p>	<p>Astronomers discover new stars all the time, but those discoveries have no effects. Still, they are credited with the discovery.</p>
<p>On his third voyage to America Columbus wrote, "I have come to believe that this is a mighty continent which was hitherto unknown."</p>	<p>Columbus clearly thought he was in the Indies near China and Japan. This is why he called the people he met “Indians.” He didn’t even know he was in a “New World.”</p>
<p>Even if Columbus did not set foot on what is now the United States, it is a fact that he did set foot on what is now known as the continent of America. He also set foot on Puerto Rico which is not a state but is part of the United States.</p>	<p>Columbus never set foot in the land that is now part of the United States</p>
<p>No one would have even known that Leif Erikson landed in America if archaeologists did not find artifacts from his visit hundreds of years later.</p>	<p>The word discoverer is given to the person who finds something first.</p>