

Resource 2: One Event and One Big Change

Word Box

- Indigenous people - people who were born and grew up in a place
- Continent - a very large area of land
- Significant - great or important enough to be worthy of attention

Read the two paragraphs below.

Historians often make up terms to help people understand the past. When they write about the time before Columbus discovered America many describe Africa, Asia, and Europe as the “Old World.” Why? Because it was the only world that people who lived long ago in Africa, Asia, and Europe knew existed. After Columbus landed in what would later be named “America,” that area of the world became known as the “New World.” Even though people who we now call “indigenous people”, or Native Americans had been living in America for a very long time, the people of the “Old World” did not know that the land or people who made up the “New World” even existed. And there is very little evidence to suggest that the people of the “New World” knew that the people of the “Old World” existed.

How amazing would it be if someone today discovered a new continent that no other person living today knew about?

When Columbus “discovered” America, it was a very significant event, and he has gone down in history as a very significant person. His discovery led to many changes. Hopefully, you now understand that one of those really important changes involved maps of the world. Over time as more people from the Old World explored parts of the New World, the people who made maps started drawing the New World on their maps. Before 1492, maps looked more like Map 1. After 1492, maps began to look like Map 2. Maps and what people knew about the world became more accurate.

ReaDiWrite

Read the two paragraphs above

Discuss questions 1 and 2 below.

1. According to the reading, what changed over time?
2. Why did it change over time?

Write: How did people’s understanding of the world change after 1492 and why?