

Lesson 5: Did Columbus Really Discover America

Unit 3
Grade 4

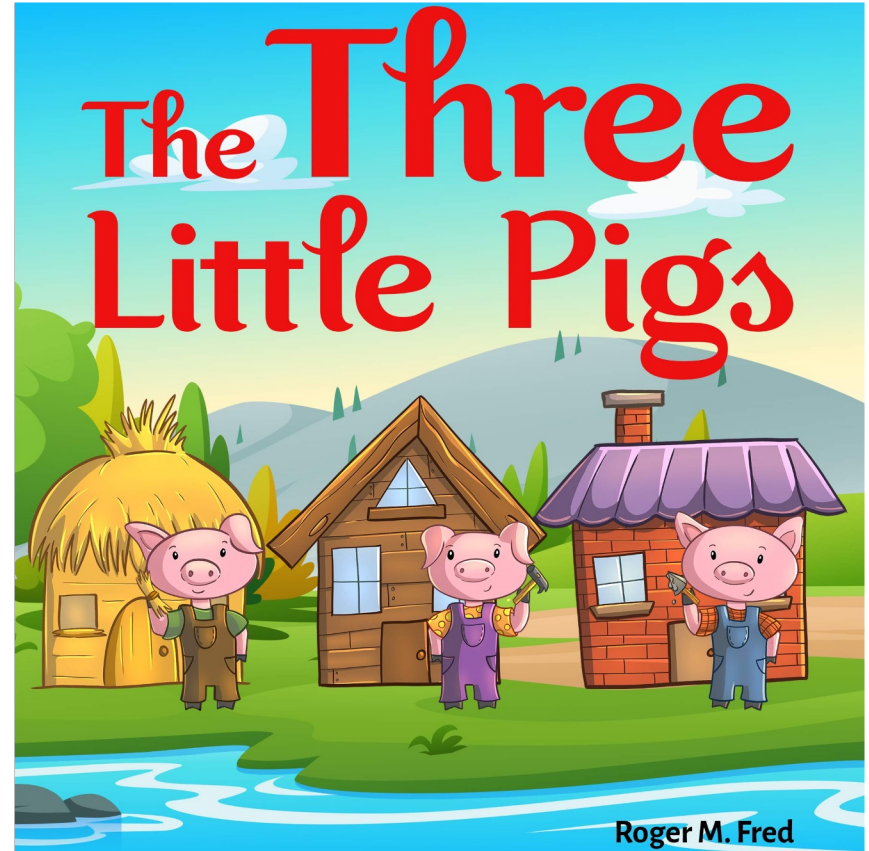
Warm Up

Can you think of any times when there were two different versions of the same event?

Summary of the Three Little Pigs

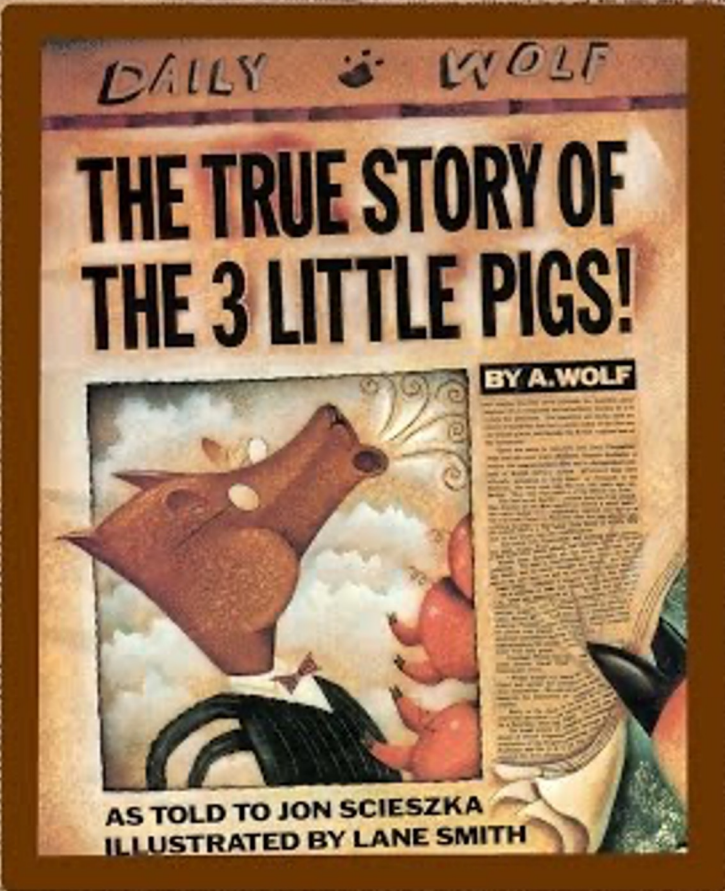
A mother pig sends her THREE LITTLE PIGS out into the world to seek their fortunes, and each builds a house. The first little pig builds a house of straw, but a wolf blows down that house and eats the pig. The second little pig builds a house of sticks, but the same wolf blows it down and eats the pig. The third pig builds a strong house of bricks, so when the wolf comes to the door, he can't blow the house down. The wolf devises several schemes to trick the third pig into leaving his house so the wolf can eat him, but the pig outsmarts the wolf every time. Finally, the wolf tries to sneak down the pig's chimney, but the pig places a pot of water to boil over the fire, and when the wolf falls in, the pig cooks the wolf and eats him for supper.

In this story, the Wolf is considered the bad character for starting the conflict by blowing down the houses and eating the pigs.



As you listen to the book, *The True Story of the Three Little Pigs*, think about the idea of point of view.

- 1. What was the point of view of the 3 little pigs?
- 2. What was the wolf's point of view?
- 3. According to the text, were the account of the events wrong?
- 4. Is it possible for there to be different version of a story without anyone having lied?



Discover

To find something for the first time

There are 6 scenarios you are going to think about. Your job is to work with your partner/group and decide whether Charlie should be credited with the discovery.

Directions: Discuss each of the following scenarios with your partner and draw a conclusion - Should Charlie be given credit for a discovery?

Scenario 1: Charlie finds a planet but does not tell anyone about it because he does not realize that it is anything new.

Discuss: Should Charlie be given credit for a discovery? Explain why or why not.

Scenario 2: Charlie finds a planet, but no one learns that Charlie found it.

Discuss: Should Charlie be given credit for a discovery? Explain why or why not.

Scenario 3: Charlie finds a planet, but no one hears about it. Then someone else finds that planet and tells everyone about it.

Discuss: Should Charlie be given credit for a discovery? Explain why or why not.

Scenario 4: Charlie finds a planet with intelligent aliens on it. No other person knew about that planet.

Discuss: Should Charlie be given credit for a discovery? Explain why or why not.

Scenario 5: Charlie finds a planet that no other person knew about, but no one is aware that Charlie found it.

Discuss: Should Charlie be given credit for a discovery? Explain why or why not.

Scenario 6: Charlie finds a planet that no other person knew about, and everyone learns that Charlie's found.

Discuss: Should Charlie be given credit for a discovery? Explain why or why not.

Did Columbus Discover America?

Person A Claims Yes	Person B Claims No
Columbus <u>DID</u> discover America.	Columbus <u>did NOT</u> discover America

Tradition has it that Columbus discovered America in 1492. Recently, however, some people argue that he did not discover America. Their main arguments are that...

- there were already millions of Native Americans living in what is now called “America” for thousands of years.
- there is evidence that a European explorer named Leif Erikson landed in what is now called America 500 years before Columbus.

The following information came from the Smithsonian Institute in 2021.

“Artifacts found at Newfoundland’s famed L’Anse aux Meadows site shows that Vikings lived, and felled trees, on North American soil exactly 1,000 years ago—during the year 1021 C.E...Norse seafarers accomplished the earliest known crossing of the Atlantic from Europe to the Americas.

Moving across the frigid waters of the North Atlantic in their legendary longships, a few thousand Vikings colonized Greenland for almost 500 years, building churches and communities, keeping records, and maintaining ties with Europe before mysteriously vanishing for reasons that are still not known. They left behind evidence e.g., —bones, artifacts, cloth, and other remnants.... “

Source: <https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/new-dating-method-shows-vikings-occupied-newfoundland-in-1021-ce-180978903/>



A recreation of Viking structures at L’Anse aux Meadow

You will read some of the arguments for and against the claim that Columbus discovered America. After you have read the arguments, you will be asked to draw a conclusion - did Columbus discover America - yes or know? Be sure to support your conclusion with information found in the texts that you read.

Arguments YES! Columbus DID Discover America	Arguments Columbus did NOT Discover America
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.	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?
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."	There is undisputed physical evidence that Leif Erikson landed in America 500 years before Columbus
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.	Astronomers discover new stars all the time, but those discoveries have no effects. Still, they are credited with the discovery.
On his third voyage to America Columbus wrote, "I have come to believe that this is a mighty continent which was hitherto unknown."	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."
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.	Columbus never set foot in the land that is now part of the United States
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.	The word discoverer is given to the person who finds something first.

Take a Stand

2 students for each side are going to try to convince the students on the other side to switch sides.

You will only have 90 seconds to present their arguments without the other side interrupting. Students can take steps towards the other side without having to switch completely.

Students can move if any arguments from the other side persuaded them to.

Can other students present arguments to try to get those who took a stand to move.

Side 1	Side 2
Columbus <u>DID</u> discover America.	Columbus <u>did NOT</u> discover America

What does point of view mean again?

Talk at your table. How would each of the following people respond to the question: Did Columbus discover America?

1. A Native American
2. A Viking such as Leif Erikson
3. A European such as Christopher Columbus

Now you are going to draw conclusions about a songwriter's point of view after listening to the song. Think about these questions:

- Which is the song writer's point of view?
 - Columbus discovered America, or
 - Columbus did not discover America
- Which words in the lyrics (text) do you find support for your conclusion?

It isn't like it was empty space,
Caribs met him face to face.
Could anyone discover the place
When someone was already here? (Repeat)

Chorus

The Inuit and Cherokee,
The Aztec and Menominee,
Onandaga and the Cree; (Clap, Clap)
Columbus sailed across the sea,
But someone was already here.



