# Dates That Made History – 1492: The New World

**ABC ME screening details: Wednesday** 27 May, 2020 at 2:30pm

This episode can also be viewed on [ABC iView](https://iview.abc.net.au/show/dates-that-made-history) after the scheduled screening time.

**Key learning areas:** HSIE (history)

**Level:** secondary, stage 4

**About:** 1492 was officially the year the Americas were 'discovered', marking the end of the Middle Ages. Yet it's possible that Christopher Columbus setting foot on a West Indian beach in October obscures a far more complex story.

## Before the episode

1. What do you already know about Christopher Columbus and his expeditions?
2. What do you think is meant by the expression ‘modern times’? Do you think there is a definite time when ‘modernity’ begins?

## During the episode

1. How did medieval and ancient maps represent the ‘new world’?
2. Explain the significance of the ‘moor’s sigh.’ What had Boabdil (22nd ruler of Granada in Iberia) lost?
3. What are the issues with the ‘log of Christopher Columbus’ and the ‘capitulation of Santa Fe’ for historians studying the events of 1492?

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1. List at least 3 examples of significant events around the world in 1492. Can you see any threads of connection between them?
2. Explain the significance of the ‘microbic unification of the world.’

## After the episode

1. Historical images make up a large part of the source material used in this episode. Why do you think images are such a significant part of the historian’s toolbox when studying events of the past?

**Follow-up activity:** “We can’t just casually walk into history through an open door. We can only approach it through the filter of the memory of an event.” – Patrick Boucheron, historian.

Explain what Patrick Boucheron means by this quote, making a link to the stories and events within the episode you just watched. Are there any events in Australian history that come to mind when you think about the meaning of the quote?

# NSW teacher notes

This is an optional standalone resource that could supplement student learning. The activities align with syllabus outcomes across stages and can be modified to meet the needs of your students. Students can complete the activities while learning at home and in the classroom. All activities can be completed without access to the internet or a device. Teachers could collect student work to offer feedback and as evidence of learning.

This resource is designed to support students in stage 4 history studying depth study 6: expanding contacts – the Spanish conquest of the Americas (c. 1492 – c. 1572).

## Learning intentions

* To explain how and why the Spanish arrived in the Americas in 1492.
* To explain the varying perspectives of the events of 1492.

## NSW History K-10 Syllabus outcomes

* describes and assesses the motives and actions of past individuals and groups in the context of past societies (HT4-3)
* identifies and describes different contexts, perspectives and interpretations of the past (HT4-7)

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