



## ***Student Activity***

### **The Discovery: Columbus & the New World** **Drive Thru History/American History**

#### **Vocabulary:**

privateering, piazza, confluence of events, contiguous

#### **Pre-Viewing Discussion:**

In 1492, who left the small seaside town of Palos, Spain, on an expedition to find a trade route to India and China?

How successful was this Italian explorer? Did he ever find the trade route he sought?

What motivated Columbus to sail west to find the East? Why didn't he just sail east?

Who financed Columbus' three expeditions to the New World?

#### **Post-Viewing Discussion:**

What historical events made Spanish and Italian explorers anxious to find alternative trade routes to Indian and China?

Why was Columbus able to persevere for 20 years before he could make his journey? Who paved the way for him at the Spanish court? Why did Ferdinand and Isabella fund Columbus' journeys?

What are the origins of the name, "America"?

#### **Further Activities:**

Further investigate the discoveries made by Vespucci. Determine how native cultures in South America were forever changed because of his discoveries.

Find first-hand accounts of Christopher Columbus' treatment of native populations in the Bahamas.

Speculate on what might have happened if King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella had not supported Columbus and his expeditions to the New World.