Should or Shouldn't We Celebrate Columbus Day?

Reflections on the Simulation

1. Describe in detail what you liked or disliked about the simulation.

2. For what reasons would you like or not like to conduct a simulation again?

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Reflections on the Simulation *(cont.)*

3. React to the following statements after reading them and discussing them with your parents or guardians at home. Some examples from recent history are provided to help in the discussion.

YESTERDAY'S VILLAINS CAN BECOME TODAY'S HEROES.
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- **Menacham Begin:** As leader of the Irgun Zvai Leumi, a guerrilla group, Begin was labeled a terrorist by the British, who put a price on his head. If caught, he would have been hanged. He survived the ordeal and became prime minister of Israel.
- **Yassir Arafat:** Arafat emerged as the leader of the PLO (the Palestinian Liberation Organization) in the late 1960s, and over the past 25 years, Israel labeled him a murderer and terrorist. Today, Yassir Arafat is recognized as the head of the newly emerging Palestinian state.
- **Richard Nixon:** He was elected president of the United States in 1968 and re-elected in 1972 by a landslide. It was discovered that a few Republicans were involved in the Watergate scandal. Nixon covered up the crime, and this resulted in his resignation from office.
- **Joe McCarthy:** A popular senator from Wisconsin, McCarthy made a reputation hunting Communists in important posts in our government. He was very popular until it was discovered that he exaggerated and lied to the American people. He had engaged in a witch hunt that destroyed many reputations and many lives and had no basis in reality.

From these examples, we note that history can be revised. Nothing is chiseled in stone.

4. Now that you have heard many different points of view, for what reasons does Columbus deserve or not deserve an exalted, distinctive place in history?