

The Truth about the First Thanksgiving
from *Lies My Teacher Told Me* by James Loewen

1. What were the “furious debates of the 1960s and early 1970s” all about (11)?
2. What is “dominance through mentioning” (12)?
3. Explain the controversy around the landing of the *Mayflower* at Plymouth.
4. According to Loewen, why do traditional histories emphasize the settlers in Plymouth, and not the Spanish settlers, or the settlers at Jamestown?
5. According to Bessie Pierce, what is the political use of Thanksgiving?
6. According to Loewen, why is it problematic that there is a prevalent idea that “we advanced peoples provided for the Indians” (21)?

Chapter 1: Columbus, The Indians, and Human Progress
from *People’s History of the United States* by Howard Zinn

1. Write down the five most important things Zinn says about Columbus (include page numbers). Write down the two most important things he says about the writing of history.
2. Was Columbus responsible for the behavior of his men?
 - (a) Identify what the soldiers did.
 - (b) Determine what Columbus could or could not have done to alter their behavior.
3. Compare Columbus’s log entries with Las Casas’s journal entries.
 - (a) Identify similarities and differences.
 - (b) Identify topics in each writing that the other did not discuss.
 - (c) What accounts for the differences and similarities (personality, goals, job functions, status)?
4. For each of the phrases below that completes the sentence, identify a passage in the chapter that *either* supports *or* challenges each assertion. Identify irrelevant phrases with NP (“no passage” applies). When quoting the relevant passages, note the whether the passage supports or challenges the statement.

Zinn thinks that Morison...

- (a) omits the truth
- (b) writes the kids of history that allows atrocities to continue to b e committed
- (c) is critical of Columbus
- (d) idealizes Columbus

- (e) is as accurate as a mapmaker
- (f) buries the negative facts with positive facts

Chapter 2: Drawing the Color Line

from *People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn

1. Why did Virginians massacre Indians instead of enslaving them?
2. How does the answer to the above question explain the choice to import black slaves?
3. Why were Africans vulnerable to enslavement?
4. Page 27: "... where whites and blacks found themselves with common problems, common work, a common enemy in their master, they behaved toward one another as equals." Explain this phenomenon in your own words.
5. How do we know that slaves resisted their enslavement?
6. How do we know that indentured servants resisted their indentured condition?
7. How did the Virginia ruling class begin to drive a wedge between the white indentured servants and enslaved blacks?