**Comparing Sources: Will the Real Christopher Columbus Please Stand Up?**

**The following passages are both quotes by Christopher Columbus, however, the first passage is an excerpt from your class text book, the second is an excerpt from a book written by historian, Howard Zinn.**

*- “I presented them with some red caps, and strings of glass beads to wear upon the neck, and many other trifles of small value, wherewith they were much delighted, and became wonderfully attached to us. Afterwards they came swimming to the boats where we were, bringing parrots, balls of cotton thread, javelins, and many other things which they exchanged for articles we game them…in fact they accepted anything and gave what they had with the utmost good will.”*

*- “They…brought us parrots and balls of cotton and spears and many other things, which they exchanged for the glass beads and hawks bells. They willingly traded everything they owned…They were well-built, with good bodies and handsome features…They do not bear arms, and do not know them, for I showed them a sword, they took it by the edge and cut themselves out of ignorance. They have no iron. Their spears are made of cane…They would make fine servants…With fifty men we could subjugate them all and make them do whatever we want.”*

What are the major differences between the two passages?

**Read the following passages and answer the corresponding questions in the space provided.**

*“As soon as I arrived in the Indies, on the first Island which I found, I took some of the natives by force in order that they might learn and might give me information of whatever there is in these parts.”*

*“Hispaniola is a miracle. Mountains and hills, plains and pastures, are both fertile and beautiful…the harbors are unbelievable good and there are many wide rivers of which the majority contain gold…There are many spices, and great mines of gold and other metals…”* -**Christopher Columbus**

1. Based on the passages above, explain Columbus’ intentions and goals after landing in the Bahamas and meeting the natives.

*“as much gold as they need…and as many slaves as they ask…The eternal God, our Lord, gives victory to those who follow His way over apparent impossibilities.”*

*“Let us in the name of the Holy Trinity go on sending all the saves that can be sold.”*

- **Christopher Columbus**

1. Compare what is said in the above passages to what you learned about the 3G’s.

*“Thus husbands and wives were together only once every eight or ten months and when they met they were so exhausted and depressed on both sides…they ceased to procreate. As for the newly born, they died early because their mothers, overworked and famished, had no milk to nurse them, and for this reason, while I was in Cuba, 7000 children died in three months. Some mothers even drowned their babies from sheer desperation….In this way, husbands died in the mines, wives died at work, and children died from lack of milk…and in short time this land which was so great, so powerful and fertile…was depopulated…My eyes have seen these acts so foreign to human nature, and now I tremble as I write…* -**Las Casas**

1. After reading the passage above, what is your opinion towards Christopher Columbus and early colonization?
2. Explain why multiple sources are necessary when understanding a particular event or individual.
3. Now that you’ve read multiple quotes about early colonization, predict the future of European and Native relationships.