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| Three Worlds Meet: Where Is Christopher Columbus? |
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| AP Photo/Cristina Quicler  *Some scientists believe that the remains of explorer Christopher Columbus are housed in this church in Seville, Spain. Others say his remains are in the Dominican Republic. Who's right?*  **MADRID, Spain** (Achieve3000, May 19, 2006). Where is Christopher Columbus buried? Historians have debated this question for over 100 years. After Columbus died in 1506, his remains were moved several times. Both Spain and the Dominican Republic claim to possess the bones. Scientists are now saying that at least some of Christopher Columbus' remains are in Spain. How do they know? They tested the bones' DNA.  The bones were found buried in a church in Seville, Spain. Columbus' brother, Diego, was also buried in Seville. Spanish scientists compared the DNA of the bones in the church with DNA taken from Diego's remains. The DNA was a match.  Marcial Castro, a scientist and teacher in Seville, began the DNA project in 2002. He says the DNA tests prove that the explorer was buried in Spain. "There is an absolute match-up between the . . . DNA we have studied from Columbus' brother and Christopher Columbus," Castro said.  Juan Bautista Mieses runs the Columbus Lighthouse in the Dominican Republic. He insists that Columbus is buried in a monument there. "The remains have never left Dominican territory," Mieses said.  Castro and his team want the Dominican Republic to open the monument at the Columbus Lighthouse. They want to compare the remains housed there to those of Diego Columbus. Castro explains that while the Seville bones certainly belong to Columbus, this does not mean the ones in the Dominican Republic do not. Columbus' remains were moved several times. Some of them might be left in the lighthouse monument. "We don't know what is in there," Castro said. But the Dominicans will not allow scientists to open the monument and test the remains.  Christopher Columbus first arrived in the New World in 1492. He has been praised for opening the New World to Europeans. He has also been criticized for bringing disease and hardship to those already living there. He first arrived at the island of Hispaniola. Today, the island is made up of the Dominican Republic and Haiti. Columbus was first buried in Spain in 1506, but his remains were sent to Hispaniola in 1537. They remained there until 1795, when Hispaniola was taken by France. At that point, Columbus' remains were sent to Havana, Cuba, to keep them in Spanish hands.  However, it is possible that the Spanish sent the wrong body to Cuba in 1795. In 1877, workers digging in the Dominican Republic unearthed a box. It contained bones. Words written on the box said that it contained the remains of Christopher Columbus. Many people believe that these are the real remains.  *The Associated Press contributed to this story.*  **Dig Deeper**  Many skeletons look the same at first glance. But the truth is that there are differences. Scientists have many ways of studying a skeleton and telling who those bones belonged to.  In the article "Where is Christopher Columbus?", scientists used DNA to figure out if remains were those of Christopher Columbus. DNA is a set of instructions for the cells that make up our bodies. Suppose you're going to build a house. You have all the lumber, but you don't know what the house is supposed to look like. So you look at a blueprint, or design. DNA is like a blueprint, but it isn't on paper. It's in each of our cells, in a curved ladder shape. This shape is called a double helix.  Each person's DNA has a code that tells each cell what its job is. Some cells help us see. Others help us digest our food. Each person's DNA code is just slightly different from everyone else's. However, brothers and sisters share more DNA than people who are not in the same family. This is why the DNA of Columbus' brother was used to find out if the remains in Spain belonged to Columbus.  Without the help of DNA studies, there are other ways to learn about bones. Take the parts of a skeleton. If certain cracks in the skull have joined together, the person probably died after age 40. If the surface of the pelvis bone is uneven, the person likely lived a fairly long life. If the teeth are rotten, the person may not have eaten well or may have been old at death. If the wrist bones look worn, the person might have had a job that used the hands, like sewing.  So skeletons aren't the same at all. Each one has special qualities, and each of those qualities can tell us a great deal.  **Dictionary**   |  | | --- | | **absolute** *(adjective)*    complete | | **criticize** *(verb)*    to say that something or someone is wrong or bad | | **debate** *(verb)*    to argue about something | | **monument** *(noun)*    a famous place or building | |

Week 3, Day 3: Read, Annotate (mini main idea for each paragraph in the margins), and Summarize the article.

Week 3, Day 4: Re-read the article, Annotate using a new color, and Cite evidence from the article to support you answer. Use R.A.C.E.S. Both Spain and the Dominican Republic say they possess the remains of Christopher Columbus. Which country do you think provides the most compelling reasons and evidence to support its claim? What specific evidence did you find that was believable and convincing?