

The following is a written account from the journal of Christopher Columbus about the people he found on San Salvador. Read the account and then answer the questions that follow.

*I, in order that they might develop a very friendly disposition towards us, (because I knew that they were a people who could better be freed and converted to our Holy Faith by love than by force), gave to some of them red caps and to others glass beads, which they hung on their necks, and many other things of slight value, in which they took much pleasure. They remained so much our [friends] that it was a marvel, later they came swimming to the ships' boats in which we were, and brought us parrots and cotton thread in skeins and darts and many other things, and we swapped them for other things that we gave them, such as little glass beads and hawks' bells. Finally they traded and gave everything they had, with good will; but it appeared to me that these people were very poor in everything...they bear no arms, nor know thereof; for I showed them swords and they grasped them by the blade and cut themselves through ignorance. They have not iron. Their darts are a kind of rod without iron, and some have at the end a fish's tooth and others, other things. [The people] are generally fairly tall and good looking, well built. I saw some who had marks of wounds on their bodies, and made signs to them to ask what it was, and they showed me that people of other islands, which are near, came there and wished to capture them, and they defended themselves. And I believed and believe that people do come here from the mainland to take them as slaves. They ought to be good servants and of good skill, for I believe that they would easily be made Christians, because it seemed to me that they belonged to no religion. I, please Our Lord, will carry off six of them at my departure to Your Highnesses, that they may learn to speak. I saw no animal of any kind in this island, except parrots.*

1. List 5 facts about the native peoples Columbus met on this island.

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2. List 3 opinions Columbus has about the native peoples he encountered.

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3. Does Columbus consider these people to be his equal? Why or why not?

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