

Задача об открытии Америки

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Предмет: Английский язык.

Класс: 6.

Тема: Изучение мира и открытия.

Профиль: Общеобразовательный.

Уровень: Общий.

Текст задачи: Всем известно, что Колумб открыл Америку. Но существуют мнения, что до путешествия Колумба этот континент был открыт другими исследователями и не единожды.

Выясните, кто были первыми «гостями» на этом материке, как они называли этот материк и почему Америка называется Америкой.

а) Выделите ключевые слова для информационного поиска.

б) Найдите и соберите необходимую информацию.

в) Обсудите и проанализируйте собранную информацию.

г) Сделайте выводы.

д) Сравните ваши выводы с выводами известных людей.

Возможные информационные источники

Книги:

Nesterchuk G.V., Ivanova V.M. The USA and the Americans. Минск: Вышэйшая школа, 1999.

Мурашова Н.В. The USA. From Columbus until Nowadays. М.: Менеджер, 2002.

Web-сайты:

<http://www.uhmc.sunysb.edu/surgery/america.html>

<http://www.usa-people-search.com/content-leif-ericson-and-the-discovery-of-america.aspx>

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Vespucci>

<http://www.columbusnavigation.com/discover.shtml>

Культурный образец

<http://www.historic-uk.com/HistoryUK/Wales-History/DiscoveryofAmerica.htm> Registered Office: Historic UK Ltd, Clifford House, 38 – 44 Binley Road, Coventry CV3 1JA

The discovery of America

In fourteen hundred and ninety-two Columbus sailed the ocean blue.

Whilst it was generally believed that Columbus was the first European to discover America in 1492, it is now well known that Viking explorers reached

parts of the east coast of Canada around 1100 and that Norwegian Leif Erikson's Vinland may have been an area that is now part of the United States. What is less known is that a Welshman may have followed in Erikson's footsteps, this time bringing settlers with him.

According to Welsh legend, that man was Prince Madog ab Owain Gwynedd.

A Welsh poem of the 15th century tells how Prince Madoc sailed away in 10 ships and discovered America. The account of the discovery of America by a Welsh prince, whether truth or myth, was apparently used by Queen Elizabeth I as evidence to the British claim to America during its territorial struggles with Spain. So who was this Welsh Prince and did he really discover America before Columbus?

Owain Gwynedd, king of Gwynedd in the 12th century, had nineteen children, only six of whom were legitimate. Madog (Madoc), one of the bastard sons, was born at Dolwyddelan Castle in the Lledr valley between Betws-y-Coed and Blaenau Ffestiniog.

On the death of the King in December 1169, the brothers fought amongst themselves for the right to rule Gwynedd. Madog was a man of peace. In 1170 he and his brother, Riryd, sailed from Aber-Kerrik-Gwynan on the North Wales Coast in two ships. They sailed west and landed in what is now Alabama in the USA.

Prince Madog then returned to Wales with great tales of his adventures and persuaded others to return to America with him. They sailed from Lundy Island in 1171 and were never heard of again.

They are believed to have landed at Mobile Bay, Alabama and then travelled

up the Alabama River along which there are several stone forts, said by the local Cherokee Indians to have been constructed by «White People». These structures have been dated to several hundred years before Columbus and are of a similar design to Dolwyddelan Castle in North Wales. Were they built by Madog and his fellow settlers?

Early explorers and pioneers found evidence of Welsh influence among the tribes of Indians along the Tennessee and Missouri Rivers. In the 18th century an Indian tribe was discovered that seemed different to all the others that had been encountered before. Called the Mandans this tribe was described as white men with forts, towns and permanent villages laid out in streets and squares. They claimed ancestry with the Welsh and spoke a language remarkably similar to it. They fished with coracles, a type of boat still used in Wales today. It was also observed that unlike members of other tribes, these people grew white-haired with age. In addition, in 1799 Governor John Sevier of Tennessee wrote a report in which he mentioned the discovery of six skeletons encased in brass armour bearing the Welsh coat of arms.

Unfortunately the tribe was virtually wiped out by a smallpox epidemic introduced by traders in 1837. But the belief in their Welsh heritage still persists and is celebrated by a plaque placed alongside Mobile Bay in 1953 by the Daughters of the American Revolution.

«In memory of Prince Madog,» the inscription reads, «a Welsh explorer who landed on the shores of Mobile Bay in 1170 and left behind, with the Indians, the Welsh language.»

Enough about Columbus, his day is past and he treated the natives poorly.

РЕСУРСЫ

He even tried to introduce them as slaves to Spain.

The continent that celebrates Columbus Day is actually named after Amerigo Vespucci, another Italian navigator who explored the northern coast of South America between 1499 and 1500, and told the world that they had discovered a new continent.

Методический комментарий

В процессе решения данной задачи учащиеся прежде всего учатся применять Интернет в собственной образовательной деятельности, активизируется их познавательная деятельность, расширяется кругозор и используются знания, полученные на уроках по другим предме-

там. В процессе работы учащиеся 6 класса активизируют и отрабатывают лексику по теме «Открытия», совершенствуют навыки монологической речи.

В результате совместной работы учащиеся должны найти и систематизировать информацию о посещении Америки представителями других материков до 1492 года, а также попытаться объяснить, почему материк получил такое название и как он назывался в «доколумбовые» времена. Коллективные формы работы позволят каждому ученику проявить свою активность и творчество, осознать ценности совместного труда и коллективного решения познавательных задач и проанализировать результаты.