Tiger Prints

November 2024

The Official Newspaper of Pierre Van Cortlandt Middle School

Vol. 1

Snoopy Through Time: A Short Summary

by: Samantha & Isra

Peanuts character Snoopy has been an iconic character throughout television and comic strip history. The character made his debut on October 2, 1950, in the Peanuts comic strip. The Peanuts comic had its so-called "golden age" in the 1960s, gaining popularity due to its creative humor and the comic relief provided by the character's interactions. The beagle loves reading and writing books. While he hates coconut candy, Snoopy loves foods such as root beer, pizza, and coffee.

On March 4, 1966, Snoopy was introduced to his current best friend, Woodstock. Though he did not get a name until June 22, 1970, Woodstock has been characterized as a small, yellow bird who is kind, caring, and gentle. These traits are different from Snoopy, who is perceived as a very mischievous and humorous character.



The cartoon for Peanuts, A Boy Named Charlie Brown, debuted in 1965 featuring Snoopy as the mischievous beagle fans already knew and loved. He quickly skyrocketed in popularity after the cartoon's release. Over the past years, Snoopy has appealed to the latest generation. The beagle is known to be very imaginative, creating scenarios of himself in different times and places. Additionally, Snoopy's attitude and humor resonate with many kids; it is a "masterclass of simplicity," says Charles Schulz, the creator of Peanuts. Snoopy was inspired by his dog, Spike.

After 74 years, Snoopy has seen many changes in the world and has still provided that same sense of nostalgia to many people after so many years.

Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Turns 98!

by: Addie & Marilyn

This year, the much beloved Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade celebrates 98 years of creating magic on the streets of New York City. The first parade was held on Thanksgiving Day 1924 but was not held in 1934, 1942, and 1943 due to World War II and a lack of rubber.) The parade stretches through the streets, all the way from Harlem to Harold Square. However, the parade has dramatically changed thanks to technology and new inventions. There is also an event the day before where lots of people watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade's balloons get inflated up and down from 81st street to 77th, sometimes even 68th!

Here's some fun facts about the parade over the years all the way to the upcoming 2024 celebration!

The original parade was created by Tony Sarg, a well-known marionette artist who was originally hired by Macy's to create a "puppet parade" in their holiday windows. The windows were such a hit that Macy's hired him to help with a special parade for their employees. Many of the employees were immigrants who missed their holiday traditions, including music and dancing, so Macy's saw the parade as the perfect holiday event—and the rest is history!

The first parade featured costumes, animals from the Central Park Zoo, and horse-drawn floats. From giant puppets on sticks to eliminating the live animals after lions and tigers scared children, there have been many versions of the parade over the years. In 1927, the parade evolved to using floats that floated thanks to Tony working with the company in Ohio that created the Goodyear blimps.

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Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade Turns 98!



continued....

According to a Macy's press release about the event, this year's parade will be the largest yet with 5,000 volunteers, 17 character balloons, 22 floats, 15 heritage and novelty balloons, over 700 clowns, 10 marching bands, performances from Broadway shows and music's biggest stars, and, of course, Santa!

"The Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade is a beloved tradition that marks the beginning of the holiday season for millions of live spectators and viewers across the country," said Will Cross, Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade executive producer. "A dedicated team of artisans and production experts at Macy's Studios work year-round to bring this experience to life. This year's 98th Macy's Parade will create awe with unforgettable character balloons, one-of-a-kind floats, and world-class entertainment only Macy's can deliver."

Will you be watching or going?! If not, go to NBC at 8:30 to catch this magical parade! We know we will.

Exotic Animals

by: Lily



Oldest Animal: Ocean Quahog Clam

In 2006, a clam was found off the coast of an island nation part of Iceland. What was so special about it? Scientists examined the yearly growth bands on the animal's shell and found that the clam was 507 years old! Unfortunately, unaware of how delicate the animal was, scientists froze the clam during the process to determine its age and killed it. This ocean quahog is the world's oldest animal whose exact age has been determined as of today. The clam was named Ming, after the Chinese dynasty when this animal was born in 1499.



Ugliest Animal: Blobfish

Located at the bottom of the Atlantic, Pacific, and Indian Oceans, this little creature lives at depths of 2,000-9,200 feet with pressure up to 100 times stronger than the atmospheric pressure you're feeling right now. In 2013, the blobfish was awarded the title of ugliest animal in the world, and today stands as the mascot of the Ugly Animal Preservation Society. But there is more to this blob than meets the eye. The blobfish has minimal bones or muscles, which helps it survive in a pressured environment. So, when a blobfish is taken out of the water, the light atmospheric pressure you feel on land, which the fish is not used to, causes the fish's skin to relax and turn into a blob with a big nose. After too long above the water's surface, the body tissue becomes damaged and leads to death of this creature. It is best to keep these fish in their high-pressure water, where the blobfish tenses and turns into a perfectly normal-looking, quite pretty fish.

Flightless and Heavy: The Kakapo

Native to New Zealand, the kakapo is the world's heaviest parrot. An adult male weighs nearly 13 pounds, making it the only flightless parrot in the world. Sadly, the kakapo is also endangered, with just 247 left as of 2023.



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Animal of the Issue

by: Adelyn & Emmy

The Frogfish

Frogfish are carnivores; their diets mainly consist of fish and crustaceans. If they are hungry enough, they may also eat each other. Known as ambush predators, frogfish can swallow prey twice as big as themselves—mature frogfish range in size from 5 cm to 50cm. Frogfish can swallow prey up to twice their size. Females will produce between 40,000 – 180,000 eggs at one time during mating. The life expectancy of some species exceeds 20 years! The frogfish is superbly adapted because it tends to eat other frogfish. This fish's head consists of an upturned mouth, and small gill openings that are set behind the pectoral (side) fin so that the outflow of exhaled water will not reveal the fish's presence to potential prey.



Fun Facts

Scientific name: *Antennariidae*
Class: Actinopterygii
Domain: Eukaryota
Family: Antennariidae; Jarocki, 1822
Kingdom: Animalia
Order: Lophiiforme

School Lunch

by: Emma

[Click on this link to fill out an optional vote on our next article.]

School lunch is a topic that all kids know about, but everybody has a different opinion about different foods. And PVC has lots of options to choose from.

My favorite school lunch is nachos, but many of my friends like pizza more. Here is a chart showing what most people like and dislike regarding school lunches.

Food	Votes
Pizza	17
Pasta	4
Chinese food	3
Salad	0
Burgers	0
Grilled cheese sandwich	0
Hot dog	0
nachos	3
Mac n' Cheese	2
Chicken fingers	9

Some of these opinions are scattered, but the most popular ones are pretty obvious: most people like chicken fingers and pizza. But grilled cheese, salad, burgers, or hotdogs are not popular options. Though some people prefer items PVC doesn't offer, I also saw that more people bought their meals.

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Vending Machine Valley

by: Alice & Ally

Here in America, I know you've seen vending machines. Lays. Doritos. Hershey's. But have you ever heard of a fish-in-a-jar vending machine? Well, they exist. Let's learn about the crazy vending machines around the world!

Let's first take a trip to Japan, the land of the vending machines. Japan has 5.5 million vending machines. That would be the equivalent of one for every twenty-three people! That's a lot of vending machines!

At the Michi no Eki rest stop there is a self-serve vending machine. The vending machine serves you ice cream that tastes straight from Carvel. Even crazier, this previously was a noodle vending machine, which was actually pretty popular in 1960. You can still find some at popular tourist attractions. Surprisingly, you can buy an ice cream vending machine on Amazon for only twelve thousand dollars.

Another crazy vending machine is the pizza vending machine. These vending machines are widely popular in the United States, Five-hundred thousand pizzas from these vending machines are sold in the U.S. every year! The fact that the pizza is made hot and fresh within the vending machines is what makes them so unique! Many claim that the pizza is actually really delicious. Locate the nearest pizza vending machine closest to you today and enjoy freshly prepared, hot pizza made by a machine!







Sure, pizza and ice cream vending machines sound crazy, but what about spider vending machines? Yup, you heard me right. Vending machines selling insects sounds crazy, but some people claim they are apparently quite good! Otherwise why would people eat them? Well actually there is a reason. If you aren't a vegetarian or vegan, then you eat meat. Maybe it's cow meat, chicken, or something exotic like an alligator! There are many problems with this, such as illegal hunting and the animals going extinct and the space required to raise the animals is humongous. Raising spiders, snails, and other animals takes up way less space. To some, eating spiders is gross; to others, it's normal and even a solution to environmental issues. So, what do you think?

If you thought the other vending machines were crazy, listen to this. The Carvana Car Vending Machine is a fully automated vending machine for cars. Similar to how a soda can is dispensed through a vending machine once purchased, Carvana's Car Vending Machine dispenses cars originally purchased online to customers. To pick up a purchased vehicle, the customer enters their name and drops a coin into the Car Vending Machine's control panel, which then lights up and initiates the vending process. Of course, this does come with a price; buying a car without a hassle will be more expensive than buying the same model somewhere else.

These crazy vending machines are probably nothing like any vending machine you've ever seen before, but if you look around, you may find these machines aren't as distant as you think they are, like the cupcake ATM in New York City. So next time you're on the go, look for an unusual vending machine hiding in plain sight.

Pathway To Fame

by: Alice & Ally

"Won't you get off your stupid phone already?" my mother yelled,
"You're a twenty-two-year-old high school graduate living with your mother! Don't you have anything better to do?!"
I slam the door behind me, wanting to crumble. I wiped my tears, pulled out my phone, and recorded a song, though I didn't make a music video.
I wasn't even thinking. And, post.
It's always been my dream to become famous, ever since I heard about Olivia Rodrigo's overnight success.
But my mom wants me to become a teacher or something "important" as she says.
Being a YouTube sensation or a singer isn't.
So far, I've had little luck: I have two hundred subscribers on YouTube, which isn't much for someone posting daily for six years.
"What is that stupid sound?!" I hear my mother yell from downstairs.

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Pathway To Fame

continued...



"Mom, it's 2:00 am!" I say checking my alarm, "I'm not supposed to get up for another four hours!"
"Well, shut it off!" mom yells.
I look over at my phone and see my song blowing up.
"Woah!" I say to myself. My song, Wiping My Tears, has gone viral. I scroll through the notifications, shocked.
"Oh my gosh!!" I scream, now wide awake.
"Did you get into Yale?" my mom calls up excitedly.
"No, even better; my song has gone viral!"
I can tell this was not the response my mom was hoping for.
I gasped, as I read one from an account called 'Avid' offering to fly us out to New York. They said that my song would be a hit. I open my phone and look them up. It's the real deal. I didn't tell my mom though, since I figured she wasn't in the best mood.

At about six am, I woke up and headed downstairs feeling giddy.
"So, Mom," I say, trying not to get over-excited.
"What?" She says as she pours milk into my cereal.
"I got a contract for my new song," I say excitedly.
"From whom?" My mom says finally looking up.
"Avid," I say, not even trying to hide my excitement.
"New York?!" My mom exclaims.
"Yeah! I replied, "I researched it, and it's a real thing! They want us on the flight by 5:00!"
"Oh my gosh!" She exclaimed.
"We better pack quickly then!" My mom says.
An hour or so later there is a knock on the door.
"Can you grab the mail?" My mom calls down.
"Sure," I say, still beaming.
I grab a long white crisp envelope.
When I see where it's from, I almost scream! In large bold letters, "Yale" is printed.
"No," I think.
Not now, not when I just got my chance. I look, hoping for a rejection letter but I'm wrong.
"What is it?" My mom calls down.
"Just some junk mail." I lie and stuff it into my pocket.

After a long 45-minute drive, we arrived at the airport.
As we board the plane, we bump into someone.
"Madeline?" They say. Are they referring to me?
"Hello," they say to me, "I am one of Avid's employees. I was sent here to find you. Follow me to your seats." He leads us down the aisle to first class.
"These are our seats?!" My mom exclaims.
The man nods, and I leap into my seat. I almost instantly fell asleep.

Later in New York City, I lay on a comfortable hotel bed wearing pajamas. My clothes lay strewn on the floor.
My mom walks in and picks up my clothes, the white envelope falls out of the back pocket.
She picks it up, turns it over, and her eyes turn the size of saucers.

"You call getting into Yale junk mail?!" she yells later.
"I said I was sorry, okay?" I yell back.
"You got a scholarship!" She yelled back, then sighed.
"Fine, you can be a singer for the summer but as soon as school starts you're going to Yale. It's final."
I sigh, my eyes watering, my dreams flashing before my eyes.
The next day I opened my eyes feeling excited. No matter what happened last night, I'm excited for my first day at the company. I take two hours to get ready, wanting to look nice for my first day.
"This should be it," My mom says to the taxi driver, handing him money.
"Thank you so much."
We had taken a taxi to the looming Avid building. I head to the fifth floor out of forty-two floors! I didn't even think a building could have that many!
I see a calm, smiling man wearing a red hat.
"Ready for your first day?" He asks
"Yes!" I practically scream. He leads me inside the room and I gasp.

Read the next issue of Tiger Prints for part two!

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How Fifth Graders Feel About PVC

by: Jacob & Zach

Dear fellow PVC students, we are the authors of this article Jacob and Zachary. We will be interviewing 5th graders to see how they like PVC so far. We will also be asking them the following questions:

How do you like PVC? **What is your favorite part of PVC?** **Are you used to your schedule?**

First Fifth Grader: Leo

Jacob: How are you liking PVC so far?
Leo: I like it but it's hard.
Zach: What is the main flaw in PVC?
Leo: Getting the consequence you don't deserve.
Jacob: What is your favorite part of PVC?
Leo: The way they teach is just better.
Zach: How is the teaching better than CET?
Leo: I like how satisfying writing in a notebook is.
Jacob: Are you used to your schedule?
Leo: Yes, I am very used to it.
Zach: Do you think the independence at PVC is a pro or a con?
Leo: It is in the middle because it is harder because they put more tasks on hand and it's easier because you wanted independence at CET you are prepared for it at PVC.

Second Fifth Grader: Remy

Jacob: How are you liking PVC?
Remy: I think it is much better than CET.
Jacob: What is your favorite part of PVC?
Remy: Lunch!
Jacob: Are you used to your schedule?
Remy: Sometimes I am kind of confused and sometimes I know what is happening.
Jacob: What is your favorite place at PVC?
Remy: The playground.

Third Fifth Grader: Vizu

Zach: How are you liking PVC?
Vizu: PVC is definitely better than CET.
Zach: Is the independence at PVC a pro or a con?
Vizu: Definitely a pro.
Zach: Why?
Vizu: There are more people playing soccer.

Fourth Fifth Grader: Louis

Jacob: How are you liking PVC?
Louis: I love it.
Jacob: What is your favorite part of PVC?
Louis: The freedom.
Jacob: Are you used to the schedule?
Louis: Yes.
Jacob: Do you think the independence at PVC is a pro or con?
Louis: A big pro.
Jacob: Why is it a pro?
Louis: At least for me, we can go to recess when we want.

Final Fifth Grader: Shane

Zach: Do you like PVC or CET better?
Shane: PVC obviously.
Zach: What is the main con of PVC?
Shane: More time in between periods.
Zach: Are you used to your schedule?
Shane: Yes.
Zach: What is your favorite part of PVC?
Shane: The staff.
Zach: What do you want in PVC?
Shane: Stop motion premium.

Kirby Discovers Thanksgiving!

by: Layla, Mackenzie & Remy

One fall day...

Kirby fell into a big pile of leaves.
And then he found the most miraculous thing ever… a turkey leg! He brought it everywhere with him and he fell in love with it. But one day, he grew hungry and ate the turkey leg! However, as time passed, he became lonely and missed his dear turkey leg. He wished he hadn't eaten his most beloved friend.

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Anonymously Asking a Teacher a Question

by: Aidan

"The most important part of Thanksgiving is the people you spend it with. Like most things in life, who you are surrounded by makes or breaks the moment. So, when you look at all that wonderful food on your table this Holiday Season, remember these foods taste better when they are shared with the family and friends who love you and whom you love."

Mr. Plotkin - Principal of PVC Middle School

"The most important thing about Thanksgiving is being with loved ones and sharing a meal. For me Thanksgiving represents caring, kindness and gratitude. It is one of my favorite holidays."

Mme. Barnes - 6th, 7th, 8th Grade French Teacher

"The most important things about Thanksgiving are my stuffing muffins and sweet potato pie. Great food with people you love heals the soul!"

Mrs. Bartley - 7th & 8th Grade English Teacher

"I think the most important part of Thanksgiving is spending time with family and friends without the pressure of gift exchanges. My family and I look forward to socializing, playing board games and reconnecting during Thanksgiving because we have limited time to do that on a regular basis."

Mrs. Butts - 6th Grade Wellness & Fitness Teacher, 7th, 8th Health Teacher

"The most important part of Thanksgiving is taking some time to do what the day says and give thanks. Being grateful for what you have is the key to happiness! Celebrating together with family is always fun too."

Mrs. Kelly - Assistant Principal of PVC Middle School

"Personally, I value Thanksgiving deeply. The holiday is open to all people regardless of faith or heritage, and most importantly provides people with time to stop and focus on what we have that is most important. We tend to live with our minds in the future, or thinking back to events in the past. Often these thoughts create stress and anxiety over things we have little control over. Being present, here and now, is incredibly important. Placing value on being grateful reinforces the calm joy that comes from being present. Taking time to be truly thankful that we have loved ones in our lives and food to share grounds us and helps us maintain focus on what truly matters. For these reasons, selflessness, gratuity, and love, I find Thanksgiving to be a truly valuable holiday."

Mr. Molloy - 5th, 6th, 7th INDE Teacher

What do you think the most important part of Thanksgiving is and why?

"I love Thanksgiving! It's a chance to stop and think about all the things I'm grateful for (including my pet turkey)."

Mrs. Rescigno - 6th Grade Math Teacher

"I believe the most important part of Thanksgiving is spending time with family. It's a chance to come together, reflect on what we're grateful for, and strengthen our connections. Our time together allows my family to share stories, traditions, and food. In this fast-paced life, these moments of family gathering remind us of the value of family and traditions and the importance of expressing gratitude for the people in our lives."

Mrs. Fontana - 6th, 7th, 8th HACS Teacher

"I think the most important part of Thanksgiving is the feast! It's such a good feeling when family and friends gather together, not just to eat, but to share the experience of cooking and giving. I love when everyone brings their own dish because it adds something personal to the table, and each dish tells a story about the person who made it. Whether it's an old family recipe or something new, everyone gets to taste a little bit of each other's traditions and creativity."

Ms. Lella - Flex Teacher

"I think the most important part of Thanksgiving is the time spent with family. Always in my family American Thanksgiving, and Canadian Thanksgiving, focused on coming together as a family and being grateful for everything we had. (The food is also pretty amazing-but even then we were thankful for the ability to have that big dinner, and everyone there to be a part of it)"

Ms. Wellman - Split Team Social Studies Teacher

"Spending time with family and sharing what you are grateful for."

Mrs. Birdsall - 7th Grade Science & 8th Grade Living Environment Teacher

Kirby Discovers Thanksgiving!

continued...





But then he soon discovered something related to food called “Thanksgiving;” it was just 5 days away! Maybe he could be reunited with his old pal!

So, Kirby went into action. He called all his family and told them to bring their refrigerators [literally] and food, in addition to this so-called “turkey” that everyone loves. He called his family over for Thanksgiving. He called his brother Keeby and his girlfriend, Susie. His BFF Bandana Waddle Dee [Dee for short], his uncle Meta Knight, his mother Morpho Knight, and his dad Galacta Knight also got calls. The whole family came and did as Kirby said—they brought their refrigerators full of food.

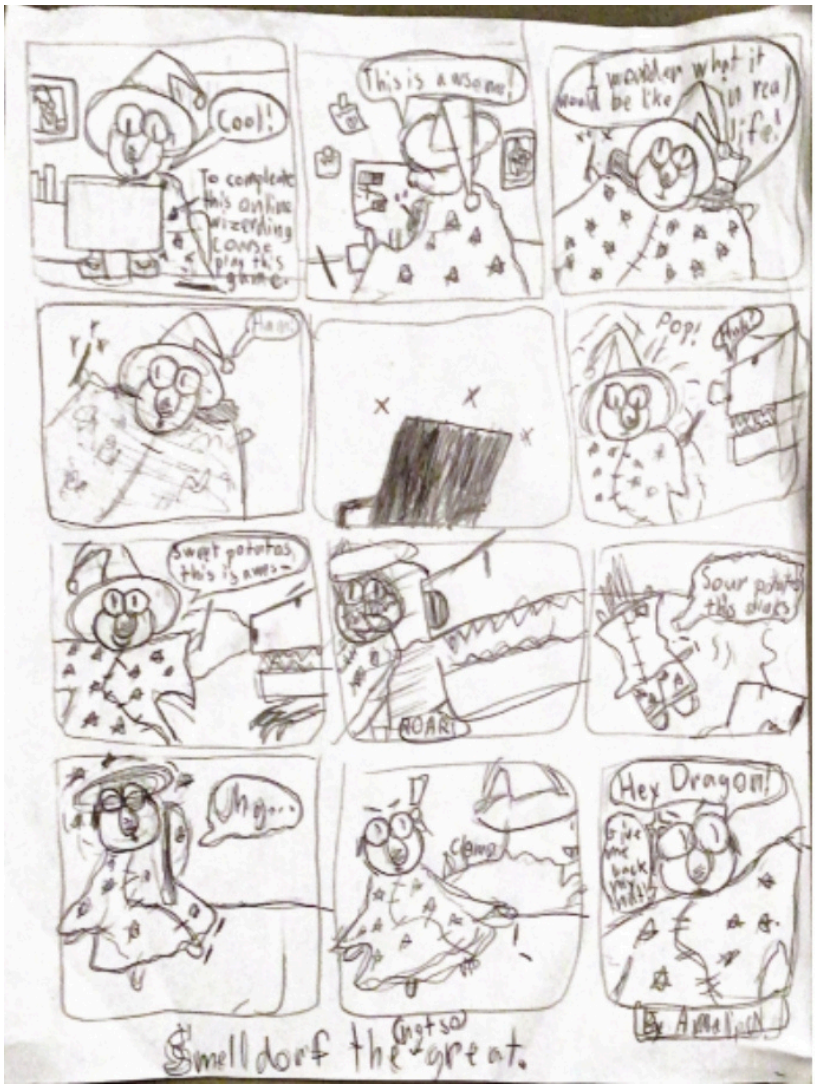
Kirby was eager to eat the food. And then he noticed the most beautiful object in Nintendo: a turkey! It was in the center of the table, giving off wafts of crispy, delectable turkey. Kirby could not resist—he ate the entire turkey!

“Kirby! I was going to have some of that! It’s the main course; everyone eats it!” Keeby said.

“Sorry, wait—everyone eats it?!” Kirby asked, stunned.

“Yeah, it’s the—” Susie began. But Kirby was already running. He took all the turkey legs and then left Nintendo with all of his turkey legs in his hiding spot. Then Kirby sat there eating his delicious turkey legs. He forgot to keep one as his friend. Oops.

“Hmm,” said Kirby, “I should probably get more turkey legs.”



Smelldorf the Not-So-Great

by: Amelia

(comic; see left)

Autumn *(haiku)*

by: Emma

Crisp golden leaves drown
Thanksgiving whispers of home
Hearts gather around

What is a haiku?

A haiku is a type of short poetry that originates from Japan. The poem consists of 3 lines containing 17 syllables, which are meant to be read in one breath. Syllables are arranged in a pattern of 5 in the first line, 7 in the second, and 5 in the last.

Editorial

As October begins, the controversy of Columbus and Indigenous Peoples Day debate reemerges. These two holidays appear to honor the same historical event—the anniversary of Christopher Columbus' landing in the Americas. But when we dig deeper, it becomes clear that these holidays reflect two different perspectives on history: one celebrating European exploration, the other honoring the civilizations before Columbus' landing in 1492. Columbus has been seen as a hero who began an era of global expansion after his journey to the Americas. Schools recognize his story as an example of heroism in history. Statues and displays stand in public areas celebrating his achievements; schools acknowledge his story as an example of heroism in history. However, in recent times, there has been a growing urge to reevaluate this story and recognize Indigenous Peoples Day instead.



Before Columbus reached the so-called "New World," the Indigenous people thrived there for years. They had created tribes, shelters, hunting techniques, and more. They had formed an entire civilization—one that European expansion would wipe out. Through diseases and violence in hopes of riches, the Indigenous people were killed off and the land occupied by those of European decent.

The heroic story we like to celebrate might not be accurate. Columbus found a new civilization and took control of it. People who had formed their way of living and found a way to thrive in their homes were forced out. And, most times, they're not even in the storyline. We hear about Columbus and his journey across the sea, and the Indigenous aren't mentioned once.

It tells us a lot about our country. America has done some great things but has failed many times. It's not just the Indigenous that we've judged, harmed, and killed. It's not just the Indigenous who have been removed by history books and replaced by someone like Columbus.

The rising celebration of Indigenous Peoples Day also shows immense growth. People have slowly realized this error. More attention has been given to Indigenous people- the things that have happened to them (the things Europeans & their decedents have done) and their struggles even to this day. People have gradually begun to utilize this holiday to challenge Columbus' story.



Popular belief about the European and Indigenous encounter is deeply flawed and divorced from historical fact. And it's difficult to fix at this stage. However, it's crucial to learn from history and shape our future. This holiday, try to do a bit more research. Learn more about some Indigenous tribes, their discovery and use of this land. You're going to find a complex and more troubling story; one we need to start learning about and telling.

Editors Avery & Emma
All pieces edited by Avery & Emma
Newspaper designed by Emma