Columbus’ expedition landed on a Caribbean island he named San Salvador on October 12, 1492. He returned to Spain and sent this letter describing his first voyage.

The seaports there are incredibly fine, as also the magnificent rivers, most of which bear gold . . . . There are many spices and vast mines of gold and other metals in this island. They have no iron, nor steel, nor weapons, nor are they fit for them, because although they are well-made men of commanding stature, they appear extraordinarily timid. The only arms they have are sticks of cane, cut when in seed, with a sharpened stick at the end, and they are afraid to use these. . . . [I] gave a thousand good and pretty things that I had to win their love, and to induce them to become Christians, and to love and serve their Highnesses and the whole Castilian nation, and help to get for us things they have in abundance, which are necessary to us. . . . They firmly believed that I, with my ships and men, came from heaven, and with this idea I have been received everywhere, since they lost fear of me. They are, however, far from being ignorant.

-Christopher Columbus to Luis de Santangel, February 15, 1493

1. **Explain how the cultural practices and belief systems of Europeans affected American Indians.**

Standing, there, identified with the American bondman, making his wrongs mine, I do not hesitate to declare, with all my soul, that the character and conduct of this nation never looked blacker to me than on this 4th of July! Whether we turn to the declarations of the past, or to the professions of the present, the conduct of the nation seems equally hideous and revolting. America is false to the past, false to the present, and solemnly binds herself to be false to the future. Standing with God and the crushed and bleeding slave on this occasion, I will, in the name of humanity which is outraged, in the name of liberty which is fettered, in the name of the constitution and the Bible, which are disregarded and trampled upon, dare to call in question and to denounce, with all the emphasis I can command, everything that serves to perpetuate slavery—the great sin and shame of America!

-Frederick Douglass, “The Meaning of July Fourth for the Negro,” July 5, 1852

**2. How effective was Douglass as an abolitionist speaker? Give two examples from the speech above.**

**3. How can personal financial choices affect a person’s quality of life? Give three examples.**