**Document 1: Excerpted from the book, *Indians are Use*, by Ward Churchill:**

In 1493 Columbus returned with an invasion force of seventeen ships, and was appointed by the Spanish Crown as “governor of the Caribbean islands and the mainland” of America, a position he held until 1500. Setting up shop on the large island he called Espanola (today Haiti and the Dominican Republic), he quickly developed policies of slavery (encomienda) and organized slaughter against the native Taino population. Columbus’s programs reduced Taino numbers from as many as eight million at the beginning of his rule to about three million in 1496. Perhaps 100,000 were left by the time of his departure. His policies remained and by 1514 the Spanish census (population count) of the island showed barely 22,000 Indians remaining alive. **In 1542, only two hundred were recorded. Thereafter, they were considered extinct, as were Indians throughout the Caribbean Basin,** a total population which totaled more than fifteen million at the point of first contact with Columbus was now gone.

1. What did Columbus do once he arrived in the New World for a second time in 1493?
2. What were the results of his policies? Be specific! Give exact numbers!

**Document 2: Excerpt from *Columbus, Hero or Villain* by Michael Pucci (1997)**

Contrary to what some say, Columbus was a courageous man. He challenged popular opinion when nobody else believed him. He did what no other explorer dared to do. He was determined to find the route to Asia when everybody else was afraid to. **American Indian activists criticize Columbus for bringing disease to America and act as if that was his entire goal when setting sail from Europe. It is ridiculous to claim that he knowingly brought over these sicknesses and purposely infected people with it.**  Columbus is also slammed for owning slaves. What leader in 1492 did not own slaves? The fact that Columbus did own them is irrelevant to any issue. Columbus did not cause environmental destruction either. He paved the path for the settlement of America. Columbus was not on a mission of destruction. Rather, he was on a quest for paradise.

1. How does the author describe Columbus?
2. Does the author think Columbus should be blamed for bringing disease to America? Explain.

3.Why does the author say that Columbus should not be looked down upon for owning slaves?

**Document 3: Excerpt from Kirkpatrick Sale’s book *Conquest of Paradise***

Every Taino over the age of fourteen had to supply the rulers with a hawk’s bell of gold every three months (or in areas with no gold, twenty-five pounds of spun cotton); those who did were given a token to wear around their necks as proof that they had made their payment; **those who did not pay were, as Columbus’s brother Fernando said “punished”- by having their hands cut off and left to bleed to death.**

1. What were the Taino forced to do for Columbus?

2. What was their consequence if they did not do this?