



October 11th: Columbus Day and Indigenous Peoples' Day

Columbus Day was originally celebrated on October 12th to commemorate the landing of Christopher Columbus, an Italian explorer sailing under the authority of Spain, on October 12, 1492 in the Americas. This event is a source of pride for many Italian-Americans and Catholics. The Columbus Day holiday was proposed at a time of increased anti-Italian sentiment in the U.S. due to immigration from the 1880s through 1920s (<https://www.loc.gov/classroom-materials/immigration/italian/under-attack/>). In 1934, it was designated a federal holiday falling on October 12th, but was moved to the second Monday in October in 1971. Learn more about Columbus Day at:

<https://www.loc.gov/item/today-in-history/october-12/> or <https://www.history.com/topics/exploration/columbus-day>.

October 11th also commemorates Indigenous Peoples' Day, which acknowledges the pain, suffering, and oppression that indigenous peoples in the Americas experienced as the result of the arrival of European explorers. Indigenous Peoples' Day was first celebrated in 1992 to coincide with the 500th anniversary of Columbus's arrival. Although a number of states and municipalities commemorate Indigenous Peoples' Day, President Joe Biden is the first president to issue a proclamation commemorating it at a federal level while simultaneously acknowledging Columbus Day and the contributions of Italian Americans to U.S. society. [Read the proclamation](#).

Learn more about Indigenous Peoples' Day:

[Columbus Day Myths](#)

[Indigenous People Day Update](#)