

# Was Columbus the first to discover America?

*great news spreads fast and is shouted from the mountain tops*

Historians and archeologists are always finding stuff in the ground and make all sorts of claims about what they think happened hundreds (or a thousand) years ago. Hence, historians are always adding to an ever-growing list of people who discovered America before Columbus. (It's also a great way to get a research grant.) However, if all these other people (e.g., Vikings, Polynesians, etc.) discovered America before Columbus, how come not a single one of them told anyone else about it?

If someone traveled so far away, and on such a dangerous voyage, why did they not tell anyone else about what they found such that others could find America? However, we do know Columbus told other people, and also returned on other voyages. Thus, Columbus was the first to discover America as he also made return voyages and shared with many others on how to get to America.