James W. Loewen’s book *Lies My Teacher Told Me* 1) _________________________ the truth about Christopher Columbus. Historians now claim that Columbus was not the first to come to America. Obviously, Native Americans were already there. Therefore, 2) _________________________ common belief, America was not a dark, unexplored wasteland waiting to be developed. There is evidence that suggests Afro-Phoenicians made it to Central America more than 2,000 years ago, and Columbus was not even the first European to set out on a/an 3) _________________________ to America. Today, historians 4) _________________________ to believe that Vikings sailed to Canada or New England around A.D. 1000. Of course, Columbus’s expedition was important because it marked the beginning of the exploitation of America by European powers. Columbus is also known as the man who “discovered” America. History admires him because he was considered as the 5) _________________________ of an entire nation, just like those of ancient cities who were valued like gods. However, Columbus was not a god. His first mission to America was to find gold or something precious to bring back to the Spanish kingdom. Unfortunately, huge deposits of gold weren’t 6) _________________________ in the Caribbean region for Columbus to bring back to Ferdinand and Isabella. Instead, he captured about a dozen Arawak Indians and brought them back to Spain, institutionalizing the intercontinental slave trade that 7) _________________________ for centuries. Over the next few years, Columbus shipped about 5,000 Native American slaves to Europe. After his initial “success,” Columbus sailed back to the Caribbean, and started the destruction of the Arawak population. The Spanish often cut off the ears and noses of Arawaks who refused all sorts of 8) _________________________ with the Spanish to send a message to the rest of the population. Because the Arawaks were required to work in gold mines, they often could not grow food. Within 25 years, almost the entire Arawak population of Haiti, estimated to be about 3,000,000 people, had been destroyed due to 9) _________________________ conditions, such as diseases, the slave trade and the forced labor policies of the Spanish. Unfortunately, the example set by Columbus led to the great American land take-over by other European powers that were looking forward to expanding their lands for colonization. 10) _________________________, countless Native American cultures were wiped out, and only very few survived because of Columbus and his acts.

*Adapted from ROAD TO READING PROFICIENCY by Ayhan Sezer, 2007*
INTERMEDIATE GROUP
ANSWER KEY

1. describes
2. contrary to
3. voyage
4. tend
5. founder
6. available
7. lasted
8. cooperation
9. harsh
10. Eventually