

THE COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE



Two Worlds Meet

Big Ideas

European explorations of the Americas led to exchanges with **Native Americans**.

As a result of these encounters, **Native American** empires, cities, **and groups** were destroyed.

Disease and **slavery** seriously reduced the American Indian populations. Spanish began **to force** enslaved Africans **to work** in their mines and on their plantations.

The Columbian Exchange was the exchange **of plants**, animals, and **diseases** between what Europeans called the “Old World” and the **“New World.”**

Vocabulary

- 1) **Old World:** Refers to all lands in the Eastern Hemisphere (except Australia). The known world to Europeans in 1492.
- 2) **New World:** Refers to the land in the Western Hemisphere including North America, the Caribbean, and South America. (Land unknown to the Europeans before 1492.)
- 3) **Columbian Exchange:** The exchange of food, animals, people and diseases between the Old and New Worlds



Columbus

Once Columbus returned to Europe, many expeditions soon followed. Although Columbus died believing he had reached the Indies, it was soon determined that the land he reached was a new world to the Europeans.

The widespread exchange of plants, animals, diseases and people that took place between the “Old World” and the “New World” became known as the Columbian Exchange.



Animals to the “New World”

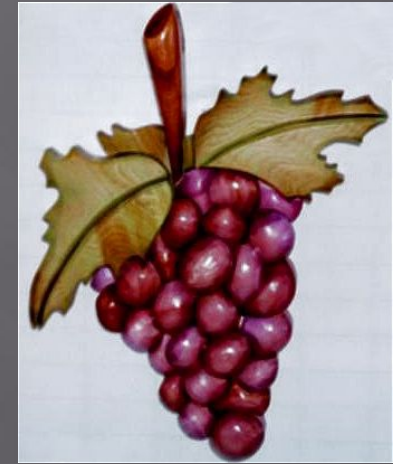
- ▣ Horse
- ▣ Cow
- ▣ Pig
- ▣ Chicken
- ▣ Rats
- ▣ Bees



The introduction of beasts of burden to the Americas was a significant development from the Columbian Exchange. The introduction of the **horse** provided people in the Americas with a new source of **labor and transportation**.

Plants to the “New World”

- ▣ Sugarcane
- ▣ Grapes
- ▣ Wheat
- ▣ Bananas
- ▣ Coconut Palms
- ▣ Coffee
- ▣ Dandelions



Plants to the “Old World”

- ▣ Potato
- ▣ Corn
- ▣ Tomato
- ▣ Sweet Potato
- ▣ Cacao (Cocoa)
- ▣ Pineapples
- ▣ Pumpkins
- Exchange of foods, animals had dramatic impact on later societies
- Over time crops native to Americas became staples in diets of Europeans
- Foods provided substantial nutrition, helped people live longer and European population grew
- Until contact with Americas, Europeans had never tried tomatoes
- Most Europeans thought tomatoes poisonous
- By late 1600s, tomatoes had begun to be included in Italian cookbooks



Effects of Columbian Exchange felt not only in Europe, Americas

China

Arrival of easy-to-grow, nutritious corn helped population grow tremendously

Also a main consumer of silver mined in Americas

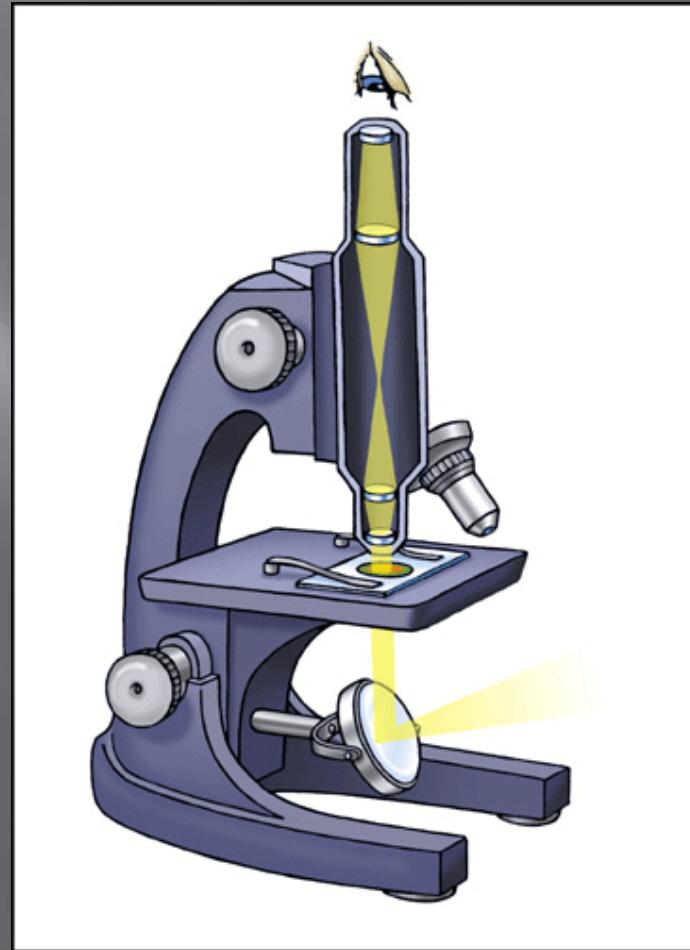
Africa

Two native crops of Americas—corn, peanuts—still among most widely grown

Scholars estimate one-third of all food crops grown in world are of American origin

“Old World” Diseases

- ▣ Smallpox
- ▣ Measles
- ▣ Diphtheria
- ▣ Chicken Pox
- ▣ Bubonic Plague
- ▣ Influenza
- ▣ Cholera
- ▣ Malaria



The Introduction of New Diseases

- Native Americans had no natural resistance to European diseases
- Smallpox, measles, influenza, malaria killed millions
- Population of central Mexico may have decreased by more than 30 percent in the 10 years following first contact with Europeans

Devastating Impact

- Native American population continued to decline for centuries
- Inca Empire decreased from 13 million in 1492 to 2 million in 1600
- North American population fell from 2 million in 1492 to 500,000 in 1900—but disease not only factor in decrease of population
- Intermittent warfare, other violence also contributed

“New World” Diseases

- ▣ Syphilis
- ▣ Hepatitis
- ▣ Polio
- ▣ Tuberculosis

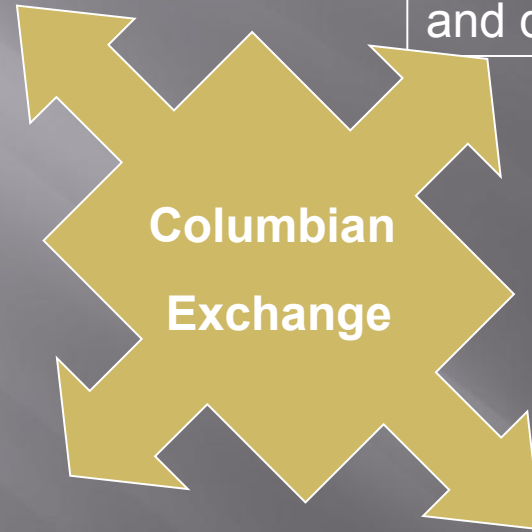


Long Term Causes:

- God
- Gold
- Glory

Immediate Causes:

- Europeans arrive in the Americas
- Europeans bring new plants, animals and diseases to the Americas



Immediate Effects:

- Spanish conquer Aztecs and Incas
- Native Americans die of European diseases
- Enslaved Africans are brought to the Americas
- American foods are introduced to other parts of the world

Long Term Effects:

- Spread of products all around the world
- Population growth in Europe, Asia, and Africa
- Cultural diffusion
- Migration from Europe to the Americas
- Growth of Capitalism