



The Columbian Exchange

What was the Columbian Exchange?

- The explorers created contact between Europe & the Americas.
- Interaction with Native Americans led to big cultural changes.
- Exchange of physical elements: animals, plants, diseases, weapons, etc.



The Columbian Exchange



Animals

- Llamas were the only domesticated animals in Latin America.
 - Europeans brought horses, pigs, cattle, sheep.
- changed the use of the land

Plants

- Europeans brought cash crops to the Americas: sugar, rice, wheat, coffee, bananas, & grapes.
 - New crops flourished in the Americas.
- Europeans adopt crops found in the Americas: maize, tomatoes, potatoes, tobacco, cacao, beans, & cotton.

THE COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE

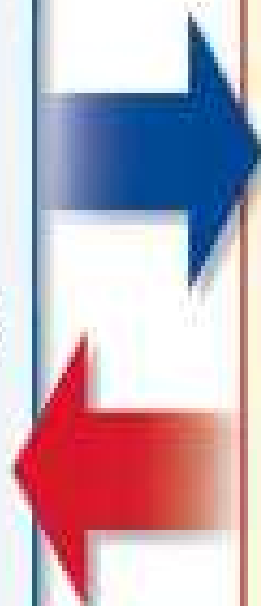
From the Americas

Animals

- guinea pigs
- llamas
- turkeys

Plants

- avocados
- beans
- cashews
- chili peppers
- chocolate
- corn
- papayas
- peanuts
- pecans
- pineapples
- potatoes
- rubber
- squash
- strawberries
- sweet potatoes
- tobacco
- tomatoes
- vanilla



From Europe, Africa, and Asia

Animals

- cattle
- chickens
- donkeys
- goats
- horses
- housecats
- mice and rats
- pigs
- rabbits
- sheep

Plants

- bananas
- black pepper
- citrus fruits
- coffee
- garlic and onions
- lettuce
- peaches and pears
- sugar
- wheat, rye, and oats

Diseases

- cholera
- influenza
- malaria
- measles
- smallpox

The Introduction of New Diseases

- Nearly all of the European diseases were communicable by air & touch.
- Smallpox, measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, chicken pox, bubonic plague, scarlet fever and influenza were the most common diseases exchanged.
- Illness in Europe was considered to be the consequence of sin.
 - Indians, who were largely “heathen” or non-Christian were regarded as sinners and therefore subject to illness as a punishment.

Devastating Impact of Diseases

- Native Americans had no natural resistance to European diseases .
 - 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.

Smallpox



- Central Mexico - 25 million in 1519 to less than one million in 1605
- Hispaniola - One million in 1492 to 46,000 in 1512
- North America - 90% of Native Americans gone within 100 years of Plymouth landing

Effects of Diseases

- Native American population dramatically decreases
- Europeans need labor to cultivate new crops in the Americas, but there aren't many natives left.
- Europeans look to Africa & begin to import African slaves to the Americas.

Impact of the Columbian Exchange

● Different Foods

- Exchange of foods & animals had a dramatic impact on later societies.
- Over time, crops native to the Americas became staples in the diets of Europeans.
- Foods provided nutrition, helped people live longer.
- Until contact with Americas, Europeans had never tried tomatoes--by 1600s, tomatoes were included in Italian cookbooks.

● Economics

- Activities like cattle ranching and coffee growing were not possible without Columbian Exchange.
- Traditional cuisines changed because of Columbian Exchange.

Effects Around the Globe

- The Columbian Exchange not only impacted Europe & the Americas, but also...
- China:
 - Arrival of easy-to-grow, nutritious corn helped the population grow tremendously.
- Africa:
 - two native crops of Americas--corn, peanuts--still among most widely grown
- Scholars estimate one-third of all food crops grown in the world are of American origin.