

Columbian Exchange Activity

Geologists believe that between 280 million and 225 million years ago, the earth's previously separate land areas became welded into a landmass called Pangaea. About 120 million years ago, they believe, this landmass began to separate. As this happened, the Atlantic Ocean formed, dividing the Americas from Africa and Eurasia. Over the course of the next several million years in both the Americas and in Afro-Eurasia, biological evolution followed individual paths, creating two primarily separate biological worlds. However, when Christopher Columbus and his crew made land in the Bahamas in October 1492, these two long-separated worlds were reunited. Columbus' voyage, along with the many voyages that followed, disrupted much of the biological segregation brought about by continental drift.

After Columbus' arrival in the Americas, the animal, plant, and bacterial life of these two worlds began to mix. This process, first studied comprehensively by American historian Alfred Crosby, was called the Columbian Exchange. By reuniting formerly biologically distinct land masses, the Columbian Exchange had dramatic and lasting effects on the world. New diseases were introduced to American populations that had no prior experience of them. The results were devastating. These populations also were introduced to new weeds and pests, livestock, and pets. New food and fiber crops were introduced to Eurasia and Africa, improving diets and fomenting trade there. In addition, the Columbian Exchange vastly expanded the scope of production of some popular drugs, bringing the pleasures — and consequences — of coffee, sugar, and tobacco use to many millions of people. The results of this exchange recast the biology of both regions and altered the history of the world.

	Old World → New World	New World → Old World
Domestic animals	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• horses• cattle• pigs• sheep• goats• chickens	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• turkeys• llamas• alpacas• guinea pigs
Crops	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• rice• wheat• barley• oats• coffee• sugar cane• citrus fruits• bananas• melons• Kentucky bluegrass	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• maize (corn)• potatoes• sweet potatoes• cassava• peanuts• tobacco• squash• peppers• tomatoes• pumpkins• cacao (the source of chocolate)• sunflowers• pineapples• avocados• vanilla
Diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• smallpox• measles• mumps• malaria• yellow fever• influenza• whooping cough• typhus• chicken pox	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• syphilis

- the common cold



Objective: You are going to create a dinner menu that will help you understand the Columbian Exchange. Your menu should consist of 3 meals.

- **Old World Meal:** Create a meal made up of ingredients that you could only have had in the Old World. Be sure to include a meat, vegetable, starch (grain), drink, and dessert.
- **New World Meal:** Create a meal made up of ingredients that you could only have had in the New World. Be sure to include a meat, vegetable, starch (potato), drink, and dessert.
- **Columbian Exchange Meal:** Create a meal made up of ingredients that you could only have had after the **Columbian Exchange** took place and the ingredients from the Old and New Worlds were combined.
- Your menu should also have a name for your restaurant, and be decorated like a menu you'd see if you went out for dinner.

Rubric

New World Meal (10 points)_____

*must only contain food items that existed in New World before the Columbian Exchange

Old World Meal (10 points)_____

*must only contain food items that existed in the Old World before the Columbian Exchange

Columbian Exchange Meal (10 points)_____

*must successfully combine foods that would not have existed until AFTER the Columbian Exchange

Neatness and Creativity (10 points)_____

TOTAL_____