

Lesson 4: Columbian Exchange Simulation

Unit 3
Grade 4

In today's lesson we are going to discuss the interaction that happened after Columbus came to America. This involved an encounter between two worlds - the "Old World" and the "New World." One effect of this encounter was the exchange of goods and resources between the two worlds.

There were things that existed in the Old World that did not exist in the New World and vice versa. This lesson will help you understand what is known as the "Columbian Exchange." In the end, you will draw conclusions - who benefited most from the exchange? Who was hurt most by the encounter?

Columbian Exchange Simulation

1. Half our class will be New World consumers and the other half will be Old World consumer.
2. You will receive 2 food cards.

Round 1

1. You will get five minutes to trade your food cards within your own group
 - a. New World trades with New World;
Old World trades with Old World.
2. You may choose not to trade if you prefer the food cards you were given over the cards that other students have.
3. After trading ends, how many consider yourself better off as a result of their trades.

Better Off	Not Better Off

Round 2

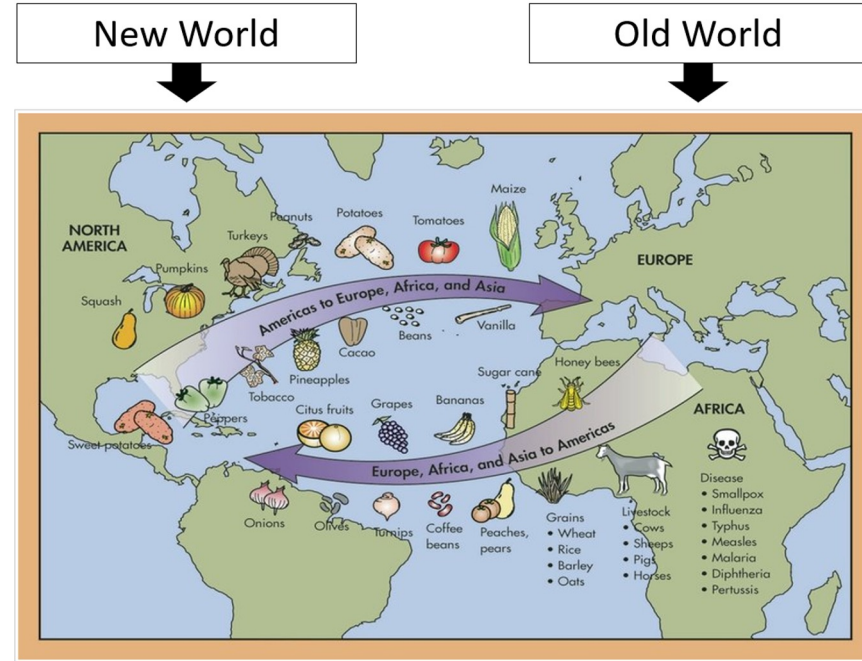
1. You will get five minutes to trade your food with anyone.
2. Uh oh! Some New World consumers have been exposed and you have no immunity. To figure out which consumer were affected, look at your cards. If you have a dot after the number (1.), you have been impacted by the virus/germ.
3. After trading ends, how many consider yourself better off as a result of their trades.

Better Off	Not Better Off

Before 1492, the New World was cut off from the rest of the world. The voyages of Christopher Columbus and other Old World European explorers introduced new animals, plants, ideas, and diseases to the New World and, conversely, to the Old World. Many of these exchanges had positive impacts, but the impacts of some exchanges were negative, even deadly. This transfer of animals, plants, ideas, and diseases is called **“The Columbian Exchange.”**

Answer the following questions analyzing the illustration on the right.

1. Who got what - Old World and New World?
2. What were some of the resources that benefited each “World?”
3. What were some of the resources that brought harm to each “World?”



Use The Columbian Exchange illustration to answer the questions on your sheet.

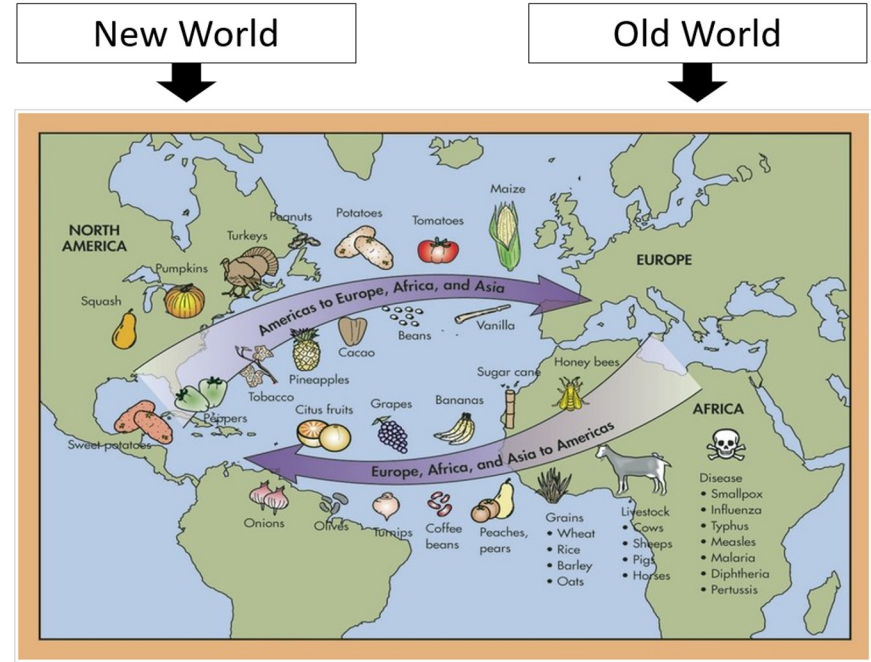
Resource 3b: Drawing and Supporting Conclusions

Name _____

Directions: use the map on Resource 3a to answer questions 1 and 2 below.

1. Whose people **benefited most** from the Columbian Exchange - Old World or New World? Support your answer with information/evidence from the map above.

2. Whose people were **hurt the most** by the Columbian Exchange - Old World or New World? Support your answer with information/evidence from the map above.



Show me what you know!

Two conclusions about the Columbian Exchange appear below.

Conclusion 1

Columbus' encounter with the New World in 1492 did more harm than good for people in the New World.

Conclusion 2

Although people who lived in the New World were hurt by their encounter with people from the Old World, people in the New World benefited much more than they were hurt.

1. Why might there be two different conclusions about the Columbian Exchange? Be sure to explain your answer.

Two conclusions about Presidents of the United States appear below.

Conclusion 1

Abraham Lincoln was the greatest President of the United States ever. He led our country through the Civil War and helped end slavery in the United States.

Conclusion 2

George Washington led our country to victory over the most powerful nation on earth and helped us win our independence. He has to be considered our best President.

2. Why might there be two different conclusions about Presidents of the United States? Be sure to explain your answer.

The Columbian Exchange

Introduction



People around the world today are easily connected by phone, email, and air travel. We can send packages overnight from one part of the world to another, or travel ourselves in a matter of hours. But in 1492, when Columbus landed in the Americas—the region that includes North, Central, and South America and the Caribbean—this was not the case.

What happened when Columbus landed in America, and connected it by ship to Europe?