

READING: The Columbian Exchange

SOURCE: NC Digital Textbook

1. How were two biologically separate worlds formed approximately 120 million years ago?
2. What is the difference between the Old World and the New World?
3. What was the result of Christopher Columbus and his crew landing in the Bahamas in October 1492?
4. Describe the Columbian Exchange. How did it have a lasting effect on the world?
5. What were the effects of the Columbian Exchange? Discuss both the positive and negative effects?
6. Contrast the spread of diseases to the New World when people crossed the Bering land bridge versus the coming of Columbus and his crew.
7. Why was the spread of European diseases so deadly to the Native Americans?
8. What were some of the deadly diseases brought to the New World from the Old World?
9. What is considered to be one of the largest demographic disasters in human history? How many people died? What were the effects on the environment? What were the effects on the economy?
10. Besides disease, what else upset the biological and ecological balance in the New and Old Worlds?
11. What were the animals that the Columbian Exchange introduced to the New World?
12. Which animal became the most important and how did it change lives? Why?
13. What disease was transferred from the New World to the Old World?
14. What crops flowed from the Old World to the New World?
15. Which New World crop made the biggest impact in the Old World?
16. What New World plant became China's third biggest food crop after rice and wheat?
17. Which Old World crops were transferred to the New World?
18. Which New World animal made the biggest impact on Europe?
19. Give two examples of how the Columbian Exchange continues to have an effect on the modern world.