

The Columbian Exchange

Name: _____ **Date:** _____

LEARNING OBJECTIVE

Students will sort and diagram items exchanged between the Old World and New World.

MATERIALS NEEDED

- 12-15 small paper cards (cut from index cards or notebook paper)
- pen or pencil
- paper for a diagram
- colored pencils

HANDS-ON ACTIVITY

1. Write each of these items on its own small card: horses, wheat, cattle, sugar, coffee, smallpox, corn/maize, potatoes, tomatoes, tobacco, turkeys, chili peppers, cacao/chocolate.
2. Sort the cards into two piles: items that originated in the 'Old World' (Europe/Africa/Asia) and items that originated in the 'New World' (the Americas).
3. On paper, draw two large circles labeled 'Old World' and 'New World' with an arrow between them, and glue or write each item into the correct circle, then draw an arrow showing which direction it traveled.
4. Circle in red the one item on your diagram that you think caused the most harm, and circle in green the one you think caused the most positive change, with a one-sentence note by each.

QUESTIONS

1. Name 3 items that traveled from the New World to the Old World.

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2. Name 3 items that traveled from the Old World to the New World.

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3. Which item did you mark as causing the most harm, and why?
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4. What is the Columbian Exchange, and why is it considered one of the most important events in world history?
