

# THE COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE

**PART 1.** Before 1492, the Americas and Afro-Eurasia had no contact. Write the names of the continents in each region.



The Americas	1. <u>North America</u> 2. <u>South America</u>
Afro-Eurasia	1. <u>Africa</u> 2. <u>Asia</u> 3. <u>Europe</u>

**PART 2.** Answer the questions below.

- What was the Columbian Exchange? The Columbian Exchange was the interchange of plants, animals, people, and diseases between the Americas and Afro-Eurasia. This process began in 1492, when people began crossing the Atlantic Ocean.
- Read each statement. Then explain whether each statement could have happened before 1492.
  - A farmer growing corn in North America This could have happened before 1492. Corn is originally from the Americas.
  - A person eating potatoes in Europe This could not have happened before 1492. Potatoes are originally from the Americas.
  - A farmer in North America raising pigs, cows, and chickens This could not have happened before 1492. Pigs, cows and chickens are originally from Afro-Eurasia.
  - A traveler in North America riding a horse This could not have happened before 1492. Horses are originally from Afro-Eurasia.
  - A family eating a turkey dinner in Europe This could not have happened before 1492. Turkeys are originally from the Americas.
- Why were new crops from the Americas beneficial for people living in Afro-Eurasia? Plants such as corn and potatoes provided more nutrition. The nutrition in these crops helped people live longer and have more children.
- How did diseases from Afro-Eurasia affect the Americas after 1492? Because native people in the Americas had no immunity to these diseases, many people got sick and died. Around 90% of the Native population died from these diseases after 1492, in what is known as the Great Dying.
- How did the Columbian Exchange help cause the Atlantic Slave Trade? After 1492, Europeans colonized the Americas by taking control of land. Europeans wanted to grow cash crops on the land, but they needed lots of laborers. They forced millions of enslaved African people to work on the land.