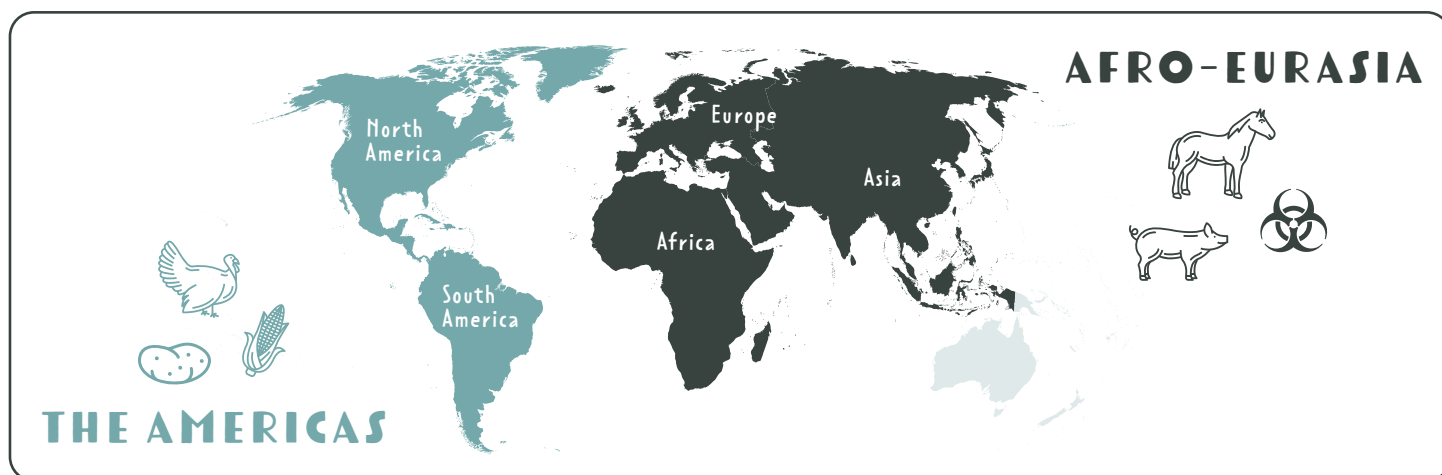


THE COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE



The Columbian Exchange brought new groups of people into contact and spread plants, animals, and diseases across the world. Read the passage. Then answer the questions on page 2.



Today, people and goods travel all over the world. But it was not always this way! Until 1492, the Americas and Afro-Eurasia did not have regular contact or trade. After 1492, people began moving across the Atlantic Ocean, taking goods with them. This process is known as the **Columbian Exchange**. Expanding trade changed the world. The transfer of animals, plants, diseases, and people had dramatic effects on every continent.

Explorers brought many **new animals** to the Americas, including horses, goats, chickens, pigs, rabbits, and sheep. Native people in the Americas viewed some of these animals, such as pigs, as pests. But many native people began using horses to travel and hunt more easily. Explorers also encountered new animals in the Americas, such as llamas, turkeys, and guinea pigs.

Explorers also learned about many **new types of plants** in the Americas. New crops such as corn and potatoes were much more nutritious than the wheat Europeans had relied on. These new crops allowed Europeans to live longer, healthier lives. As a result, the population of Afro-Eurasia increased, particularly in Europe.

European explorers also carried **diseases** with them, such as measles, smallpox, and the flu. Native people had no immunity to these diseases, and they suffered terribly. Between 1492 and 1650, the population of the Americas fell by around 90%. Around 55 million people died. This event is known as the Great Dying.

After 1492, Europeans gradually **colonized** the Americas, meaning they took control of territory from native peoples. Many native peoples lost their land. Europeans wanted to grow valuable cash crops on this land, but that farming required lots of laborers. As a result, Europeans forced more than 12 million enslaved African people to travel to North and South America, laboring in brutal conditions to grow sugar, tobacco, and cotton. The forced migration is known as the **Atlantic Slave Trade**. This system of slavery continued in the Americas for centuries.

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



The Americas	1. _____ 2. _____
Afro-Eurasia	1. _____ 2. _____ 3. _____

PART 2. Answer the questions below.

1. What was the Columbian Exchange? _____

2. Read each statement. Then explain whether each statement could have happened before 1492.
 - a. A farmer growing corn in North America _____

 - b. A person eating potatoes in Europe _____

 - c. A farmer in North America raising pigs, cows, and chickens _____

 - d. A traveler in North America riding a horse _____

 - e. A family eating a turkey dinner in Europe _____

3. Why were new crops from the Americas beneficial for people living in Afro-Eurasia?

4. How did diseases from Afro-Eurasia affect the Americas after 1492? _____

5. How did the Columbian Exchange help cause the Atlantic Slave Trade? _____

