

# Effects of the Columbian Exchange ANSWER KEY

From the Old World to the New World	Effect of the Exchange
Ships, triangular sails, rudder, compass, astrolabe	These led to improved transportation and trading in the New World.
Metal weapons (guns, swords, armor, shields)	These improved hunting and warfare technology in the New World.
Christianity	A long history of battles between indigenous (native) and European religions began. Native Americans were forcibly converted, and many native religious traditions were lost.
Smallpox, chickenpox, influenza, measles, typhus, malaria and yellow fever	Historians believe that over a period of 300 years, up to 90% of the native population in the New World died due to a lack of immunity to these.
Wheat, barley, soybeans, rice	The space and climate to grow these crops in the New World enabled them to become staple food sources worldwide.
Bluegrass, kudzu (Japanese vine)	These quickly spread in the New World growing rapidly and, in some cases, killing off other native species of plants.
Rats and fleas	These vermin soon populated the whole of the Americas. They helped spread new diseases in the New World just as they had spread the Black Death in Europe.
Oxen, mules, donkeys	These increased the use of wheeled transportation in the New World and helped improve farming.
Horses	These were brought to the New World by Europeans as a means of land transportation. They terrified some natives because they had never been seen before. Eventually, they were adopted and bred by various native groups. The Great Plains Indians, for example, became fierce mounted warriors and buffalo hunters.
Pigs	These multiplied rapidly in the New World growing large and wild. They provided a good source of meat protein. Today the state of Kansas alone produces enough of these to feed 10 million people a year.
Cattle	These quickly became valuable to settlers as well as native populations. Spanish newcomers created ranches for breeding in order to provide meat and hides for export.
Sheep	These were introduced into the Americas by Hernan Cortes to provide wool for his soldiers. During westward expansion there would be great conflict over grazing land by owners of different kinds of European livestock.

# Effects of the Columbian Exchange ANSWERS

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Gold and silver	The desire for these products led to many natives being enslaved in mines. The Spanish brought so much of this back to Europe that it has often been blamed for the huge price increases (inflation) in Europe. In Germany in 1517, for example, prices had risen by one hundred percent over what they were in 1492, the year of Columbus's first voyage.
Turkeys	These were considered a strange delicacy but were a little vicious and hard to catch. They became a popular source of meat at European banquets.
Squirrels	These stowed away in cargo holds of ships returning to Europe. They became a cute, but widespread rodent in Europe.
Cacao beans	These were used as currency by some early native groups. They became a highly valued product used to make chocolate which became a symbol of power, wealth and status in Spain. Spanish royalty kept chocolate a secret for almost a century.
Cotton, tobacco, pepper, vanilla, pineapple, avocados	These became important cash crops that created huge profits for European merchants.
Corn	This was one of the most common staple foods of some early American native groups. It became an important worldwide food source since it could effectively produce more food per acre than any other crop. It is drought-resistant and spoils slower than other traditional staple crops. It also became a staple food for livestock in Europe, which kept many more animals alive throughout the winters. This led to an increased food source for Europeans, and, in turn, created a massive population boom.
Tomatoes	These were believed by some Europeans to be poisonous. They dissolved the lead in pewter plates due to their acidic juices. When Europeans ate them off of those plates, some people got lead poisoning and died.
Potatoes	These became a popular and critical food source in Europe. Because they grew underground, invading armies could not efficiently destroy these crops. Some scholars claim that this crop led to the rise of Western Europe. In the 1800s when the crop failed in large numbers due to a disease called blight, it caused the Great Famine in Ireland which led to thousands of Irish migrating to the Americas.
Tobacco	This was a widely popular cash crop in Europe used to make cigars. Both Spanish and English monarchs tried to control its import into Europe. By now it has probably killed more people in the Old World continents than European diseases killed in the Americas.
Pumpkins, squash, bell peppers, sweet potatoes, peanuts	These foods led to a more interesting and broadened diet for Europeans.