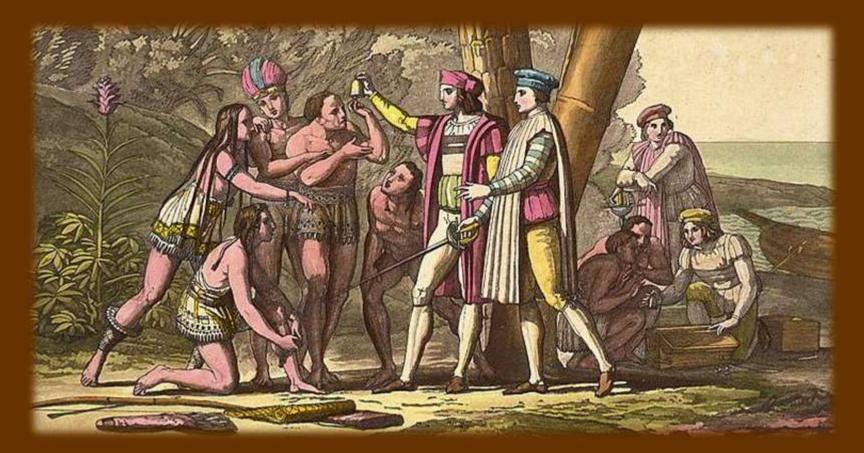
Old World Explorers Meet New World Wonders:

The Columbian Exchange

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The year 1492 is not just important in world history because it is the year when Columbus reached the New World...



It is important because it was the date that began the most significant exchange (trade) of ideas and resources that would ever happen in the history of the world!

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This event would be called the "Columbian Exchange."



This term is used to describe the important exchange of plants, animals, and foods between the Eastern and Western hemispheresthe "Old World" and the "New World."

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The bringing of these new and different goods made tremendous impact on life for both Americans and Europeans over the next hundreds of years!



The Columbian Exchange brought both good and bad changes to everyone it touched. But, unfortunately, Europeans carried harmful diseases that killed many native people of the New World.

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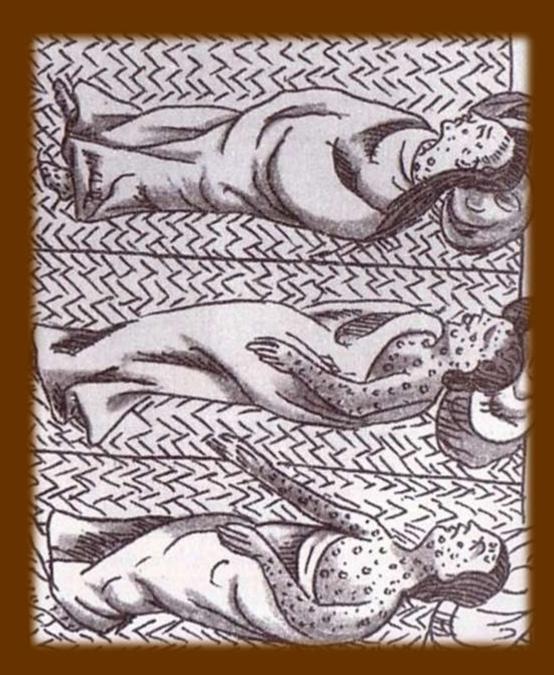
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These diseases were not always deadly to Europeans because they had built up a resistance to them.

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But Native Americans did not have a resistance to diseases such as measles, smallpox, and cholera.



Many historians agree that the population of **Native Americans in** the Caribbean decreased by 90 percent between the years 1500 and 1600.

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On the other hand, a wide variety of new crops and livestock helped provide enough food for people to live longer and healthier lives.

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For example, potatoes from South America became a "staple" (main) crop that fed Europeans for the hundreds of years.

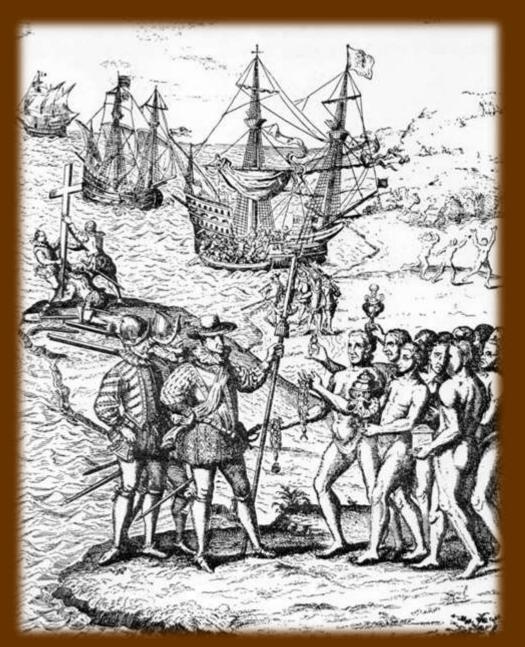


One of the first European "exports," the horse, changed the lives of many **Native** American tribes...





...allowing them to shift to a nomadic lifestyle based on hunting bison on horseback.



The Old World also brought to the **New World** domesticated animals, used for both food and clothing...

... such as the chicken, the pig, and the sheep.





Before the Columbian Exchange, Native Americans hunted with stone weapons...



...and farmed or prepared food and clothing with wooden, stone, or animal-bone tools.



Europeans introduced metal tools and weapons which were stronger and often more effective for hunting and farming.



The New World (Americas) gave to the Old World (Europe, Asia, and Africa) plants and crops, such as...

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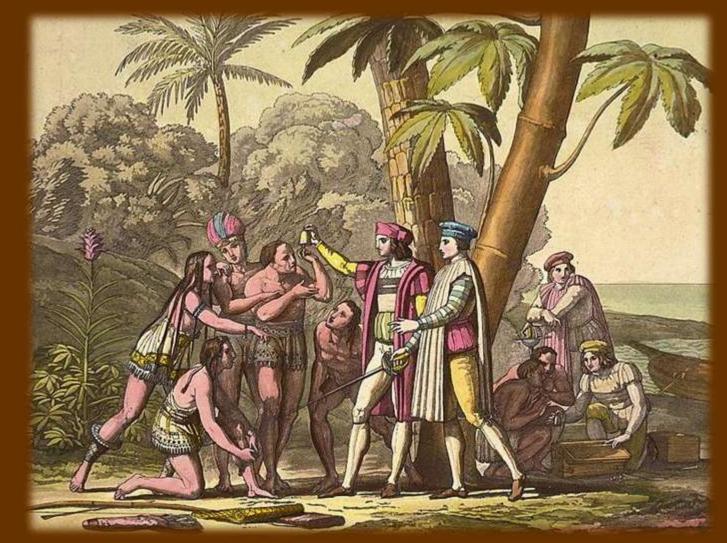


as tobacco, cotton, beans and corn.

The years since Columbus' voyages brought many important changes to America and the entire world.







The Columbian Exchange brought the world closer together.

That is why the **Columbian Exchange** is such an important "turning point" in the history and progress of both the New and Old Worlds.

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