The Columbian Exchange

Two Worlds Meet
Seeds of Change

- Animals
- Plants
- Diseases
- New Technologies
- New peoples
“New World” Diseases

- Syphilis
- Hepatitis
- Polio
- Tuberculosis
New Technologies

- Wheel
- Weapons
New Peoples

- African slaves
- Mestizos

New people brought with them new ideas and cultures
Cultural Diffusion

- The spread of ideas, customs, and technologies from one people to another.

- Cultural diffusion occurs through migration, trade and warfare.
Result?

Population disaster in Americas and Pacific Islands

- As much as 100 million
- Population growth in the long term

Increased food fuels increased population growth worldwide; Europe first

Population migration on a massive scale
Result?

- Eurasia wins

- Europe destroys, sometimes unintentionally
  - Disease
  - Slavery
  - Conquest
The Key to Global Dominance:
Guns, Germs, and Steel

- Available food
  - Population growth; multiple minds on a problem
- “Domesticate-able” large animals (only 13 species worldwide; 9 in Eurasia)
- Easy travel (east/west axis) for ease of distribution of ideas, people and resources
Immediate Causes:
- Europeans arrive in the Americas
- Europeans bring new plants, animals and diseases to the Americas

Immediate Effects:
- Spanish conquer Aztecs and Incas
- Native Americans die of European diseases
- Enslaved Africans are brought to the Americas
- American foods are introduced to other parts of the world

Long Term Causes:
- God
- Gold
- Glory

Columbian Exchange

Long Term Effects:
- Spread of products all around the world
- Population growth in Europe, Asia, and Africa
- Cultural diffusion
- Migration from Europe to the Americas
- Growth of Capitalism