



Columbian Exchange Cargo Hold

Mission: You are the cargo master at a busy Spanish port. Sort the cargo from both directions of the Columbian Exchange, then figure out how this exchange changed life on BOTH sides of the ocean.

Big question: What was the Columbian Exchange, and how did it change the world?

★ Warm-up: Where is it from?

Guess where each food first grew.

Chocolate ✓ **The Americas (Mexico and Central America).**

Bananas ✓ **Asia.**

Key vocabulary

Columbian Exchange	The movement of plants, animals, people, and diseases between hemispheres after 1492.
Immunity	The body's protection against a disease.
Hemisphere	Half of the Earth.
Epidemic	A disease that spreads to many people quickly.

1 Box 1

Load the ships

In the simulator: Load every item onto the correct ship.

Were you surprised about potatoes? Where did they come from?

☐ South America ☐ Ireland ☐ France

✓ **South America**

2 Box 2

Horses on the Plains

How did horses change life for the Lakota and other Plains nations?

☐ Hunting bison and traveling became much faster ☐ They stopped hunting

☐ They began building adobe houses

✓ **Hunting bison and traveling became much faster**

The deadliest cargo

Why did smallpox kill so many Native people?

☐ They had never been exposed to it, so they had no immunity ☐ They didn't have doctors

☐ It came from potatoes

✓ **They had never been exposed to it, so they had no immunity**

3 Box 3

Good or harmful?

Sort each effect.

Sort: Potatoes helped Europe's population grow · Smallpox epidemics killed millions · Horses made Plains hunting easier · Sugar plantations used enslaved Africans · New foods made diets more varied

Helpful effect	Harmful effect
Potatoes helped Europe's population grow Horses made Plains hunting easier New foods made diets more varied	Smallpox epidemics killed millions Sugar plantations used enslaved Africans

4 Box 4

Biggest change

Which exchange changed the world the MOST? Explain.

Claim

Look for: Names an item; at least 8 words

Explain

Look for: Explains an effect; at least 16 words

5 Box 5

Legend: one exchange, two sides  Legend only

Choose one item and explain how it affected people on BOTH sides of the Atlantic.

Look for: Mentions the Eastern Hemisphere; Mentions the Americas; at least 25 words

Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

What was the Columbian Exchange, and how did it change the world?

Look for: The Columbian Exchange moved plants, animals, people, and diseases between the Americas and Europe, Africa, and Asia. Crops like corn and potatoes fed millions, horses transformed life on the Plains, but diseases like smallpox killed millions of Native people.

Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-13** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	1BK-E
 Investigator	WFY-I
 Legend	1XU-L

**Watch for these misconceptions**

- "All Native Americans lived the same way." Hundreds of nations had different languages, homes, and economies.
- "The land was empty when colonists arrived." Native nations had lived there for thousands of years.
- "All colonists came for religious freedom." Many came for land, money, or were forced (enslaved Africans).