

1.8 Colonial Expansion and Columbian Exchange

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 11 marks**

KEY WORDS columbian exchange 哥伦布大交换

Objective

Build the skills to explain the **Columbian Exchange** 哥伦布大交换.

You must be able to:

- name transfers in both directions
- state the demographic effect of disease on the Americas
- explain the economic effect of new crops and silver on Europe
- avoid describing the exchange as one-directional

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Both directions

Eastward: maize, potatoes, tomatoes, silver, tobacco. Westward: wheat, sugar, horses, cattle — and pathogens against which American populations had no immunity.

■ Demographic effect

Epidemic disease produced population collapse across the Americas on a scale that no European action alone could have achieved, and it preceded or accompanied conquest rather than following it.

■ Economic effect in Europe

New calorie-dense crops supported population growth; American silver entered European monetary systems and contributed to sustained price inflation.

2 Practice

2.1 Name two transfers eastward and two westward. [2]

2.2 State the demographic effect of disease in the Americas. [2]

2.3 European population grows after new crops arrive.

(a) Name a crop responsible. [1]

(b) Explain the mechanism. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 American silver contributed in Europe to [1]

- **A** sustained price inflation
- **B** falling prices
- **C** the end of coinage
- **D** the collapse of trade

3.2 Epidemic disease in the Americas is best described as [1]

- **A** a consequence of conquest only
- **B** preceding or accompanying conquest
- **C** unrelated to contact
- **D** limited to one region

3.3 A student describes the Columbian Exchange as “what Europe took from the Americas”.

- (a) State what is missing. [1]
(b) Explain why the omission matters. [2]

Solutions

2.1 eastward: any two of maize, potatoes, tomatoes, silver, tobacco; westward: any two of wheat, sugar, horses, cattle, pathogens.

2.2 epidemic disease produced population collapse on a scale no European action alone could have produced.

2.3 (a) the potato or maize. (b) they yield more calories per acre than existing staples, supporting a larger population from the same land.

3.1 A. an increased money supply contributed to inflation.

3.2 B. disease often ran ahead of the conquerors.

3.3 (a) the westward transfers — crops, animals and pathogens. (b) the name “exchange” records a two-way process, and the westward transfer of disease is the single largest demographic fact of the period.