

4.3 Columbian Exchange

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Total: 12 marks

Objective

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

You must be able to:

- state what the Columbian Exchange was
- state the CED's account of disease and its effect
- distinguish staple crops from cash crops
- state the nutritional consequence in Afro-Eurasia

1 Worked examples

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

■ Definition

The new connections between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres resulted in the **exchange of new plants, animals and diseases**, known as the Columbian Exchange.

■ Disease

European colonisation led to the **unintentional** transfer of disease vectors, including mosquitoes and rats, and the spread of diseases endemic in the Eastern Hemisphere including smallpox, measles and malaria. **Some of these diseases substantially reduced the indigenous populations, with catastrophic effects in many areas.**

■ Two kinds of crop

Staple crops: American foods became staples in parts of Europe, Asia and Africa.
Cash crops: grown primarily on plantations **with coerced labour** and exported mostly to Europe and the Middle East. One feeds a population; the other is grown to sell.

■ Nutrition

Populations in Afro-Eurasia **benefitted nutritionally** from the increased diversity of American food crops. The CED states a benefit and a catastrophe within one exchange, and an accurate answer carries both.

2 Practice

2.1 State what the Columbian Exchange was. [2]

2.2 Distinguish staple crops from cash crops as the CED uses them. [2]

2.3 The CED records disease and nutrition together.

(a) State the effect of disease in the Americas. [2]

(b) State the effect of American crops in Afro-Eurasia. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 The transfer of disease vectors is described as [1]

- **A** deliberate
- **B** unintentional
- **C** prevented
- **D** reversed

3.2 Cash crops were grown primarily on plantations with [1]

- **A** free wage labour
- **B** coerced labour
- **C** no labour
- **D** mechanised labour

3.3 One exchange produces a nutritional benefit in one hemisphere and catastrophe in the other.

(a) State what an accurate answer must do. [1]

(b) Explain why keeping only one half misdescribes the event. [2]

4 Go further

- work through the **4.3 Columbian Exchange** lesson on the **Learn** page;
- read the **Transoceanic Interconnections** section of the AP World History handout on the **Know** page.

Solutions

2.1 the exchange of new plants, animals and diseases between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres.

2.2 staple crops became a population's basic food; cash crops were grown on plantations with coerced labour for export.

2.3 (a) some diseases substantially reduced the indigenous populations, with catastrophic effects in many areas. (b) populations benefitted nutritionally from the increased diversity of American food crops.

3.1 B. the CED's own word.

3.2 B. coerced labour is specified.

3.3 (a) carry both halves. (b) the same connection produced both, so an answer keeping one presents a partial effect as the whole event.