

4.3 Columbian Exchange

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ Total: 12 marks

KEY WORDS columbian exchange 哥伦布大交换 • american foods 美洲作物
• coerced labour 强制劳动

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

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

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- 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]
