

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Hour: \_\_\_\_\_

**“Hip Hughes History: The Columbian Exchange Explained” - [https://youtu.be/OwyfrJWJE\\_g](https://youtu.be/OwyfrJWJE_g)**

**Directions:** Respond on your own paper. Staple this page to the top when finished and make sure your full name and correct hour are filled in above.

1. Historians often talk about the “Old World” vs. the “New World.” (a) What countries or continents do they usually mean by “Old World”? (b) What countries or continents do they usually mean by “New World”?
2. Who came up with the term “Columbian Exchange”? When did this happen?
3. Hughes breaks the impact of the Columbian Exchange into THREE categories. What are they?
4. According to Hughes, what were TWO reasons the “New World” had relatively few diseases from the time it was first populated?
5. How come Europeans were able to bring so many different diseases to the New World without all dying themselves?
6. Why were the Amerindians (the native populations of the New World) so susceptible to these diseases when they were otherwise healthy communities?
7. Obviously it sucks if you lose 60% - 90% of your total population to disease in a very short time period, but all the dead friends and loved ones are just the beginning. What are TWO other immediate problems this population drop caused for Amerindian groups?
8. It didn’t compare to smallpox and the other fatal afflictions Europe brought to the New World, but what TWO medical problems (probably) went *back* with white explorers as part of the Columbian Exchange?
9. What CURE for a pretty major disease did Europeans gain from the New World as part of the Columbian Exchange?
10. What does it mean for large animals (not house pets) to be “domesticated”? {Hint: think horses, oxen, sheep, mules, etc.}
11. (a) How many large domesticated mammal species did the Old World have in the time of Columbus? (b) How many large domesticated mammals did the New World have at the time of Columbus? {Note: THIS WAS NOT A FUNCTION OF CULTURE OR CHOICE – THESE ANIMALS EITHER EXISTED IN A GIVEN AREA OR THEY DID NOT. It’s all about geography and the cards Mother Nature chose to deal various continents.}
12. As Europeans introduced animals from the Old World into the New World, it only increased one of the other problems we’ve already discussed. What bad thing did animals help spread in the New World as part of the Columbian Exchange?
13. Which single animal introduced by Europeans probably had more impact on the New World than any other?
14. Of the THREE categories of the Columbian Exchange which Hughes discusses, TWO of them mostly involve stuff Europe brought into the New World. ONE of them, however, includes lots of wonderful stuff the New World had which found its way back to Europe. What category finally brings us a serious exchange of goodies BOTH ways?
15. What was the big deal with potatoes? What impact did they have on the Old World and why?

16. What's the second big crop which had a huge impact on the Old World? (Even though Hughes doesn't go into detail about it, for our purposes it was another high calorie food with a very similar impact to potatoes. In some areas it could also produce multiple crops in a single season, which was a bonus.)
17. What was the third food brought back to Europe as part of the Columbian Exchange which dramatically impacted diets and food choices – especially in Italy?
18. Hughes abruptly jumps to two crops FROM Europe which are brought into the New World – RICE and SUGAR. What major historical impact does he suggest these two crops have on the New World over time?
19. If we wanted to give the New World a “win” in the PLANTS category of the Columbian Exchange, what would it be and why – at least according to Hughes?
20. It might seem like a stretch to suggest that the discovery of potatoes and corn in the New World helped bring about the Industrial Revolution and eventual European imperialism, but most historians would agree with Hughes on this one. How did these crops eventually lead to these seemingly unrelated developments a few centuries later?

**CLOSING NOTE:** The term “Columbian Exchange” is sometimes used to refer to ANY similar exchange of animals, crops, diseases, etc., since the 15<sup>th</sup> century – even long after Columbus was gone. When we want to focus on the blending or adaptation of ideas, beliefs, technology, or other forms of thinking and learning (as opposed to tangible things like horses or oranges or infectious diseases which have tangible results) that often occurs when different cultures interact, we use the term “cultural syncretism.”

