# Across the Atlantic

Trace how contact changed lives in the Americas and Europe.

**6-9.WG.1.2** "Examine the impact of Europeans and native cultures on one another in regions throughout the world."

NAME _____ DATE _____

## 1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline one change Europeans brought to each American region, circle one way Indigenous foods or knowledge affected Europeans in each region, and write a 1 beside one example of unequal power.

### Changes in Two Directions

1. In the 1500s, Spanish settlers entered central Mexico, where many Indigenous peoples already farmed maize and grew crops on raised fields in shallow lakes. Some Spanish settlers learned to eat local foods, including tomatoes and cacao drinks. Meanwhile, settlers brought cattle, wheat, and horses. Cattle could trample fields, and Spanish demands for land pushed some Indigenous farmers away from their farms. Disease brought from across the Atlantic, especially smallpox, killed many people who had no past exposure to it. These changes were not a simple trade between equal partners.

2. In the Andes of South America, Indigenous communities had grown potatoes for centuries, even at high elevations where other crops struggled. After Spanish conquest, colonial officials forced many Indigenous men to work in silver mines, including mines at Potosí. Families lost time for farming when workers had to leave home. Spanish settlers also raised sheep and planted wheat in the region. At the same time, Europeans carried Andean potatoes across the Atlantic. Over time, farmers in parts of Europe grew potatoes because the crop could grow in cool climates.

3. Across the Atlantic, foods from the Americas entered European kitchens slowly. Cacao from Mexico became a sweet chocolate drink after Europeans added sugar, an ingredient grown through brutal labor in Atlantic colonies. Europeans also planted potatoes from the Andes. Back in the Americas, Indigenous people kept growing familiar foods while adapting to new animals, crops, and colonial rules. The same contact could offer a new food to one group and take land or time from another. To understand its impact, ask whose lives changed, how they changed, and who held power.

## 2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. In central Mexico, how did Indigenous foods affect Spanish settlers, and how did Spanish settlers affect Indigenous farms?

2. How did contact change farming or food in both the Andes and Europe?

3. Compare one harmful effect of Spanish power on Indigenous communities in Mexico with one in the Andes.

4. How did Europeans change a drink made from a crop grown in Mexico, and what does this show about cultural contact?

## 3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label for a plate of wheat bread and potatoes in the 1600s or later. Explain how both crops crossed the Atlantic, name a change for a European and an Indigenous community, and explain why these changes were unequal.

ANSWER KEY

# Across the Atlantic

GRADES 6-9 · 6-9.WG.1.2

## PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one change Europeans brought to each American region, circle one way Indigenous foods or knowledge affected Europeans in each region, and write a 1 beside one example of unequal power. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

## PART 2 · ANSWERS

| # | QUESTION | ANSWER |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | In central Mexico, how did Indigenous foods affect Spanish settlers, and how did Spanish settlers affect Indigenous farms? | **Spanish settlers began eating local foods such as tomatoes and cacao drinks. Settlers' cattle could trample fields, and their demands for land pushed some Indigenous farmers away.** |
| 2 | How did contact change farming or food in both the Andes and Europe? | **Spanish settlers planted wheat and raised sheep in the Andes. Europeans carried Andean potatoes across the Atlantic, where farmers in parts of Europe grew them.** |
| 3 | Compare one harmful effect of Spanish power on Indigenous communities in Mexico with one in the Andes. | **In Mexico, Spanish demands for land displaced some Indigenous farmers. In the Andes, colonial officials forced many Indigenous men to work in silver mines, taking time away from their families' farms.** |
| 4 | How did Europeans change a drink made from a crop grown in Mexico, and what does this show about cultural contact? | **Europeans added sugar to cacao to make a sweet chocolate drink. They adopted an American crop and changed how they prepared it.** |

## PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

This plate pairs wheat bread, made from a crop Spanish settlers planted in the Andes, with potatoes, a crop Indigenous Andean farmers had grown for centuries. Europeans carried potatoes across the Atlantic, where farmers grew them in cool places. In the Andes, Indigenous people faced Spanish rule, and many men were forced to leave their farms to work in silver mines. Foods crossed the ocean in both directions, but colonial officials held power over workers in the Andes.

Accept other passage-supported examples of changes in each direction. For the museum label, look for four sentences that trace wheat and potatoes across the Atlantic and distinguish food exchange from the unequal power of colonial rule.