

Across the Atlantic

Trace how exchanges changed life, culture, and beliefs.

5.3c "The transatlantic trade of goods, movement of people, and spread of ideas and diseases resulted in cultural diffusion. This cultural diffusion became known as the Columbian Exchange which reshaped the lives and influenced the beliefs of..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each named thing or group that crossed the Atlantic, write W above it if it moved to the Americas or E above it if it moved from the Americas, and box the two sentences that tell what smallpox did to Native American communities.

The Columbian Exchange

- ① After 1492, ships linked Europe, Africa, and the Americas more often. This contact created the Columbian Exchange, a broad movement of living things, goods, people, and ideas across the Atlantic Ocean. American foods such as potatoes, tomatoes, and cacao reached Europe, Africa, and Asia. These crops added new choices to meals and, in some places, helped support growing populations.
- ② Ships traveling west carried wheat, sugarcane, horses, cattle, and pigs from Europe and Africa to the Americas. Europeans also brought beliefs, languages, and Christianity, which influenced many communities. Enslaved Africans were forced across the Atlantic and brought knowledge, skills, and traditions. Colonizers used enslaved labor on plantations, changing lives in Africa and the Americas while creating new cultural connections.
- ③ Not every exchange was chosen or helpful. Europeans brought diseases such as smallpox to the Americas. Native American people had no previous exposure to these diseases, so many became sick and died. The enormous loss of life weakened communities and made it harder for them to resist European colonization. The exchange reshaped diets, work, cultures, and beliefs on both sides of the Atlantic.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 Name two foods that moved from the Americas to other parts of the world. What effect did these crops have in some places?

- 2 Name two things that ships carried from Europe or Africa to the Americas. What direction did they travel?

- 3 How did the forced movement of enslaved Africans lead to cultural diffusion in the Americas?

- 4 Why did smallpox have such a harmful effect on Native American communities, and what was one result?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write a four-sentence museum label about the Columbian Exchange. Include one item that moved from the Americas, one item that moved to the Americas, a movement of people or ideas, and at least two effects of the exchange.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each named thing or group that crossed the Atlantic, write W above it if it moved to the Americas or E above it if it moved from the Americas, and box the two sentences that tell what smallpox did to Native American communities. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Name two foods that moved from the Americas to other parts of the world. What effect did these crops have in some places?	Potatoes, tomatoes, or cacao moved from the Americas. In some places, the crops added food choices and helped support growing populations.
2	Name two things that ships carried from Europe or Africa to the Americas. What direction did they travel?	Answers may include wheat, sugarcane, horses, cattle, pigs, beliefs, languages, Christianity, or smallpox. They traveled west to the Americas.
3	How did the forced movement of enslaved Africans lead to cultural diffusion in the Americas?	Enslaved Africans brought knowledge, skills, and traditions across the Atlantic, creating new cultural connections.
4	Why did smallpox have such a harmful effect on Native American communities, and what was one result?	Native American people had no previous exposure to the disease. Many became sick and died, which weakened communities and made resistance to European colonization harder.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

The Columbian Exchange changed life on both sides of the Atlantic. Potatoes from the Americas gave people in Europe another food choice and helped support growing populations. Horses and Christianity arrived in the Americas, and Christianity influenced communities. Enslaved Africans were forced across the Atlantic with traditions, while smallpox killed many Native Americans and weakened communities.

Accept any accurate examples and effects stated in the passage. For the open response, look for correct movement directions, a people or ideas example, and at least two explained effects.