

Atlantic Connections

Trace how exploration reshaped people, goods, labor, and trade.

9.10b "Transatlantic exploration led to the Encounter, colonization of the Americas, and the Columbian exchange."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline a reason for European voyages. Circle two exchanged crops or animals. Mark P beside a population effect and L beside a labor or trade effect.

From Voyages to a Transatlantic World

- ① In 1492, Christopher Columbus sailed west seeking a route to Asia. Supported by Spain, he reached Caribbean islands already inhabited by Indigenous peoples. This Encounter connected the Americas, Europe, and Africa in new and unequal ways. Other European states sponsored voyages and claimed territory. Colonization followed as European governments and settlers took control of land, labor, and resources in many American regions.
- ② Ships carried living things in both directions in the Columbian Exchange. Maize, potatoes, tomatoes, and cacao spread from the Americas to Europe, Africa, and Asia. Wheat, sugarcane, horses, cattle, and pigs traveled to the Americas. These movements changed diets, farming, transportation, and trade. Over time, maize and potatoes helped support population growth in parts of Europe and China. Horses changed travel and hunting for some Indigenous communities; effects varied by place and period.
- ③ The exchange also brought catastrophe. Indigenous communities had little or no prior exposure to diseases such as smallpox and measles. Epidemics killed millions, while colonial warfare, forced labor, and displacement worsened losses. Weakened communities often faced greater difficulties resisting conquest. Colonists expanded plantations and mines and chose coercive labor systems to pursue wealth. European traders forcibly transported millions of Africans across the Atlantic, many to sugar plantations. American silver, sugar, and tobacco entered Atlantic markets, connecting ports and investors. Thus, exploration transformed trade while enabling colonization and exploitation.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did the search for a route to Asia lead to the Encounter described in the passage?

2 Name one item exchanged in each direction. Explain one effect on daily life or population.

3 Why were epidemics devastating, and what other colonial conditions worsened Indigenous losses?

4 Explain one connection between colonization, forced labor, and Atlantic trade.

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

In four or five sentences, explain how exploration changed the Atlantic world. Include the Encounter, an exchanged item, disease, and a labor or trade change.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline a reason for European voyages. Circle two exchanged crops or animals. Mark P beside a population effect and L beside a labor or trade effect. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the search for a route to Asia lead to the Encounter described in the passage?	Columbus sailed west seeking a route to Asia but reached Caribbean islands inhabited by Indigenous peoples. His voyage connected peoples of the Americas, Europe, and Africa.
2	Name one item exchanged in each direction. Explain one effect on daily life or population.	Answers may name maize, potatoes, tomatoes, or cacao moving outward and wheat, sugarcane, horses, cattle, or pigs moving to the Americas. Changes included diets, farming, transportation, trade, or support for population growth in parts of Europe and China.
3	Why were epidemics devastating, and what other colonial conditions worsened Indigenous losses?	Communities had little or no prior exposure to smallpox and measles. Warfare, forced labor, and displacement worsened population losses.
4	Explain one connection between colonization, forced labor, and Atlantic trade.	Colonists chose coercive labor systems to pursue profits. Traders forcibly transported Africans, many to sugar plantations; sugar and other American goods entered Atlantic markets.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Columbus sought Asia but reached inhabited Caribbean islands, beginning an Encounter followed by colonization. Potatoes spread from the Americas and later helped support population growth elsewhere. Smallpox devastated Indigenous communities, and colonial violence worsened losses. Colonists exploited forced labor, while goods such as sugar connected Atlantic markets.

Accept equivalent accurate examples from the passage and clear cause-and-effect reasoning. For the open response, look for all four required elements connected in a logical explanation, not merely listed.