

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ date: \_\_\_\_\_ period: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Columbian Exchange and Global Trade - Reading Comprehension and Critical Thinking Questions**

**Setting the Stage:** The colonization of the Americas dramatically changed the world-it prompted both voluntary and forced migration of millions of people. It led to the establishment of new and powerful societies. Other effects of European settlement of the Americas were less noticeable but equally important. Colonization resulted in the exchange of new items that greatly influenced the lives of people throughout the world. The new wealth from the Americas resulted in new business and trade practices in Europe.

**Columbian Exchange:** global transfer of foods, plants and animals during the colonization of the Americas.

**Directions:** Read pgs. 571-575 Complete the activities below.

1. ***BEFORE YOU READ: Create a list*** a short restaurant menu. Include any foods you like to eat. List **5 main course options, 3 side dish options, and 3 miscellaneous items** (such as desert/appetizers).

Main Course	Side Dish	Miscellaneous
-	-	-
-	-	-
-	-	-
-		
-		

2. ***Categorize/Think geographically:*** Use the map on pg. 572 to categorize and list the items (food, plants, animals, diseases) that were exchanged from the Americas to the Old World and vice versa. (use arrows to show the movement of goods...**what** went **where**?)



3. **Reflect:** Look back to the menu you made before you read. Using the map you just completed, **list** the foods that **would not** have been available in the Americas prior to European exploration (think ingredients!!)

4. **Explain** some positive and negative consequences of the Columbian Exchange.

a. What were two important food items to travel from the New World to the Old World?

b. Make a list the diseases and explain the impact disease had on Native Americans.

c. (**make a generalization**) Other positive and negatives of the Columbian Exchange.

5. **Define, True/False, Contrast, Explain, Fill-in-the-blank:** New wealth from the Americas and overseas trade created new business and trade practices in Europe and will have drastic effects in Europe. *Complete the questions below. For true and false, please correct the false. (pg. 573-575)*

a. Define **capitalism**:

b. *True or False:* Capitalism is an economic system in which governments were the sole (only) owners of great wealth.

c. Because of capitalism, who in society could gain great wealth? **Explain.**

d. Define **joint-stock company**:

e. What was the purpose of joint-stock companies in the 1500s and 1600s? **Explain.**

- f. *True or False:* Plymouth Rock was created by a joint-stock company.
- g. Why would a joint-stock company be popular with investors in overseas colonies (pg. 574)?

Use the chart on page 574 and the textbook section entitled “Mercantilism” to help with the following questions

- h. Define **mercantilism**:
- i. “W\_\_\_\_\_, after all, allowed n\_\_\_\_\_ to build strong n\_\_\_\_\_ and purchase v\_\_\_\_\_ goods.”
- j. Using the chart on page 574, How did England ensure they profited most from their colonies in the Americas?
- k. What is a favorable balance of trade? **Explain**
- l. What was the goal under mercantilism? **Explain.**
- m. How did colonies support mercantilism? **Explain.**
- n. How did this economic change affect European society? **Explain.**
- o. ***(Making inferences)*** Why were colonies considered so important to the nations of Europe?
- p. “The changes in European society, however, only went so far. While towns and cities grew in size, much of Europe’s population continued to live in rural areas. And although merchants and traders enjoyed social mobility, the majority of Europeans remained poor. More than anything else, the economic revolution increased the wealth of European nations.”
- Do you agree with the above statement? Circle YES or NO
  - Explain your answer: