

## 4.3 Columbian Exchange

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Total: 12 marks**

**KEY WORDS** columbian exchange 哥伦布大交换 • american foods 美洲作物 • coerced labour 强制劳动

### Objective

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Build the skills to explain the **Columbian Exchange** 哥伦布大交换.

**You must be able to:**

- state what the Columbian Exchange was
- state the CED's account of disease and its effect
- distinguish staple crops from cash crops
- state the nutritional consequence in Afro-Eurasia

### 1 Worked examples

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Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

#### ■ Definition

The new connections between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres resulted in the **exchange of new plants, animals and diseases**, known as the Columbian Exchange.

#### ■ Disease

European colonisation led to the **unintentional** transfer of disease vectors, including mosquitoes and rats, and the spread of diseases endemic in the Eastern Hemisphere including smallpox, measles and malaria. **Some of these diseases substantially reduced the indigenous populations, with catastrophic effects in many areas.**

#### ■ Two kinds of crop

**Staple crops:** American foods became staples in parts of Europe, Asia and Africa.

**Cash crops:** grown primarily on plantations **with coerced labour** and exported mostly to Europe and the Middle East. One feeds a population; the other is grown to sell.

## ■ Nutrition

Populations in Afro-Eurasia **benefitted nutritionally** from the increased diversity of American food crops. The CED states a benefit and a catastrophe within one exchange, and an accurate answer carries both.

## 2 Practice

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**2.1** State what the Columbian Exchange was. [2]

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**2.2** Distinguish staple crops from cash crops as the CED uses them. [2]

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**2.3** The CED records disease and nutrition together.

(a) State the effect of disease in the Americas. [2]

(b) State the effect of American crops in Afro-Eurasia. [1]

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## 3 Exam-style questions

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**3.1** The transfer of disease vectors is described as [1]

- **A** deliberate
- **B** unintentional
- **C** prevented
- **D** reversed

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**3.2** Cash crops were grown primarily on plantations with [1]

- **A** free wage labour
- **B** coerced labour
- **C** no labour

- D mechanised labour
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**3.3** One exchange produces a nutritional benefit in one hemisphere and catastrophe in the other.

- (a) State what an accurate answer must do. [1]
- (b) Explain why keeping only one half misdescribes the event. [2]
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## Solutions

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**2.1** the exchange of new plants, animals and diseases between the Eastern and Western Hemispheres.

**2.2** staple crops became a population's basic food; cash crops were grown on plantations with coerced labour for export.

**2.3** (a) some diseases substantially reduced the indigenous populations, with catastrophic effects in many areas. (b) populations benefitted nutritionally from the increased diversity of American food crops.

**3.1 B.** the CED's own word.

**3.2 B.** coerced labour is specified.

**3.3** (a) carry both halves. (b) the same connection produced both, so an answer keeping one presents a partial effect as the whole event.