

# The Age of Exploration

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Previous



Next



Main Menu



Exit



7.11.1

# Great Voyages of Discovery

## The Big Idea

European explorers made discoveries that brought knowledge, wealth, and influence to their countries.

## Main Ideas

- Europeans had a desire and opportunity to explore.
- Portuguese and Spanish explorations led to discoveries of new trade routes, lands, and people.
- English and French explorers found land in North America.
- A new European worldview developed because of the discoveries.



Previous

Next

Chapter  
Menu

Exit

# **Main Idea 1: Europeans had a desire and opportunity to explore.**

An interest in discovery and exploration grew in Europe in the 1400s. Improvements in navigational tools, cartography, and shipbuilding allowed European sailors to go farther than ever before.

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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

## Reasons to Explore

- People in Europe wanted goods from Asia. Italy and Egypt controlled the trade routes and charged high prices. Europeans wanted to find their own trade routes so they wouldn't have to pay the fees.
- Christians wanted to spread their ideas about religion to other parts of the world.
- Some explorers were simply curious about what lay on the other side of the ocean.

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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

# Advances in Technology

- Sailors now had instruments such as the astrolabe and the compass to find new routes.
- More accurate maps allowed sailors to travel from one port to the next using the open sea and not having to follow the coast.
- Shipbuilding, especially by the Portuguese, made new ships with better sails and better steering.

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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit



## Main Idea 2: Portuguese and Spanish explorations led to discoveries of new trade routes, lands and people.

A man who never went on any sea voyages was responsible for most of Portugal's success on the seas. Known as **Prince Henry the Navigator**, he built an observatory and a navigation school, and paid people to sail on explorations.

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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

# Exploration

- Even with new technology, travel on the open seas was still very dangerous.
- In spite of the dangers, Portuguese explorers sailed south looking for a water route to Asia.
- As they traveled south, they set up ports along the way.
- In 1488 Bartolomeu Dias sailed around the southern tip of Africa but had to turn back due to the raging sea.
- In 1498 Vasco de Gama sailed around Africa and landed on the west coast of India.
- This established the sea route to Asia.



Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

# A "New World"

- One Italian sailor, Christopher Columbus, believed that he could reach Asia by sailing west across the Atlantic.
- The king and queen of Spain gave Columbus the money to make his journey.
- In October 1492, Columbus landed on a small island in the Bahamas. He believed that he had reached Asia.
- Ferdinand Magellan was the first explorer to sail around the tip of South America and go around the globe.
- The lands that were discovered on these explorations were known as the "New World." Before these journeys, the continent of the Americas was not known to have existed.
- Spanish explorers in the New World found gold and silver as they conquered the empires there, but passed along diseases to the native peoples that killed possibly more than three-quarters of them.



Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit



## **Main Idea 3: English and French explorers found land in North America.**

- Like Spain and Portugal, England and France wanted to find a route to Asia to bring back spices and other goods.
- They also hoped to find riches in the New World.

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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

# Exploring New Lands

- Since the Spanish and Portuguese already held the southern routes through the Americas, the English and French explored northern routes.
- John Cabot, sailing for England, sailed west to the coast of Canada.
- Jacques Cartier, a Frenchman, sailed up the Saint Lawrence River into Canada.
- Although a northern route to Asia was not established, these explorers claimed northern lands for England and for France.

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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

# The Spanish Armada

- The Spanish controlled the gold and silver from the former Aztec and Inca empires.
- An English sailor named Francis Drake began stealing gold and silver from the Spanish ships.
- The Spanish were angry with the English for these raids and sent 130 ships, known as the **Spanish Armada**, to attack England.
- However, the English ships were faster and had better weapons. They were able to defeat the Spanish and destroy over half their fleet.
- This weakened the Spanish Empire and allowed England to gain power.



Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

## **Main Idea 4: A new European worldview developed because of the discoveries.**

These voyages of discovery changed the way the Europeans thought of the world and their place in it.

Department of Geography,  
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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

# A New European Worldview

- The explorations brought new knowledge and geography and proved that some old beliefs were wrong.
- Improved mapmaking, or **cartography**, showed new lands and new possible trade routes.
- New trade routes gave new opportunities for wealth and resources.
- Europeans could now spread their influence around the world.

Department of Geography  
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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit





7.11.2

# The Columbian Exchange

## The Big Idea

The exchange of plants, animals, ideas, and technology between the Old World and the New World brought many changes all over the world.

## Main Ideas

- Plants and animals were exchanged among Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas.
- Culture and technology changed as ideas were exchanged between Europe and the Americas.
- Society and the economy changed in Europe and the Americas.



# **Main Idea 1:**

## **Plants and animals were exchanged among Europe, Asia, Africa, and the Americas.**

European explorers set out to find routes to Asia, but their discovery of new lands and new people had an effect they never imagined.

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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

# The Columbian Exchange

- The exchange of plants, animals, and ideas between the New World (the Americas) and the Old World (Europe) is known as the **Columbian Exchange**.
- Exchanges occurred when Europeans took seeds to plant crops in the New World.
- Europeans also took animals such as cows, goats, sheep, horses, and chickens to the New World.
- Accidental exchanges took place when Europeans brought over diseases or animals such as rats that hid in ships.

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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

# New World Plants and Animals

- While Europeans introduced plants and animals to the New World, they also found things they had not known about.
- They took samples back to their home countries as well as to Africa and Asia.
- Vegetables such as tomatoes, potatoes, and squash, as well as plants such as tobacco, had never been seen before.
- These products went around the world. Many of them grew well in other countries, so they are now a part of those cultures.

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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

## **Main Idea 2: Culture and technology changed as ideas were exchanged between Europe and the Americas.**

Along with plants and animals, ideas were also exchanged. Technology and culture were taken to the new lands that were explored.

Department of Geography,  
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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit



# Exchanges of Culture

- Two of the biggest cultural changes that the Europeans brought to the New World were religion and language.
- Christians set out to convert people in the new lands to their religion.
- Missionaries went all over the world. In some places their religion blended with the local religion to create new kinds of religion.
- Missionaries also built schools and taught the natives European languages such as Spanish, Portuguese, and Dutch.

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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

# Exchanges of Technology

- Europeans took guns and steel to parts of Africa and to the Americas. They also introduced ways to use the wheel in the Americas.
- Horses were introduced for riding, as well as for carrying heavy loads. Oxen were introduced for plowing fields.
- Animals were used to carry the silver from mines. Sheep created a new industry when people began making textiles.
- People began to grow sugarcane on **plantations**, or large farms.

Department of Geography  
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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

## **Main Idea 3: Society and the economy changed in Europe and the Americas.**

As industries changed in some places, Europeans increased trade with Asia and the Americas. Their change had huge social and economic effects, especially in Africa and in the Americas.

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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

# Treatment of American Indians

- Plantations and mines made money for Portugal, Spain, and some colonists in the Americas.
- However, the plantation life and mining made for bad treatment of American Indians.
- The Spanish colonists forced American Indians to work on the plantations. Hard work and disease killed many.
- Some clergy in the Americas called on the Spanish government to help the Indians. Laws were passed to protect them, but not all colonists followed the new laws.

Department of Geography  
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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

# Slavery

- So many American Indians died that colonists looked elsewhere for laborers.
- Since African slaves had already developed immunity to European diseases, the colonists began to ship thousands of slaves from Africa to the Americas.
- Social order in the Americas consisted of Europeans as the upper class, and Africans, American Indians, and others of mixed race as the lower class.
- This social order was based on conquest and racism. **Racism** is the belief that some people are better than others because of racial traits, such as skin color.
- Slave labor continued in the Americas until the 1800s.



Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit





7.11.3

# Origins of Capitalism

## The Big Idea

Changes in international trading and marketing patterns influenced the development of a new economic system called capitalism.

## Main Ideas

- A new economic system called mercantilism emerged.
- New trading patterns developed in the 1600s and 1700s.
- Power in Europe shifted as a result of new trade routes, banking, and increased manufacturing.
- Market economies changed business in Europe.



# **Main Idea 1:** **A new economic system called** **mercantilism emerged.**

The exchange of products between European countries and their colonies changed economic relations around the world.

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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

# Mercantilism

- **Mercantilism** is a system in which a government controls all economic activity in a country and its colonies to make the government stronger and richer.
- Mercantilism was the main economic policy in Europe between 1500 and 1800.
- European colonies were allowed to trade only with their home country. The colonies acquired raw materials such as wood, fur, cotton, and dye and sent them back to Europe.
- The home country would take the raw materials and turn them into manufactured goods, which they would then sell back to the colonies.
- This allowed the countries to build up their wealth, and the trade created markets for their manufactured goods.



Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

## **Main Idea 2: New trading patterns developed in the 1600s and 1700s.**

Mercantilism created new trading patterns around the world.

Department of Geography  
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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

# New Trading Patterns

- One major trading pattern involved the exchange of raw materials, manufactured products, and slaves among Europe, Africa, and the Americas. This type of trade was called triangular trade.
- The Atlantic slave trade was a major part of the trade network. The Portuguese, Dutch, and English were all active in the slave trade.
- Between the 1500s and 1600s, millions of slaves were shipped to the colonies in the New World. Enslaved Africans were crammed onto ships and sent mainly to South America and the Caribbean.



Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit



## **Main Idea 3: Power in Europe shifted as a result of new trade routes, banking, and increased manufacturing.**

New trade routes, banking, and increased manufacturing brought more wealth to England and the Netherlands. They also shifted the economic power in Europe.

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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

# The Shift of Power

- England benefited greatly from increased trade with China and India, as well as with North America.
- The Netherlands became a great trading power when Dutch merchants formed a company that traded directly with Asia.
- The Netherlands also became a center for banking. Jews who had migrated to the Netherlands to avoid religious persecution played a role in the banking industry. The Christian Church did not want its members to lend money, so the Jews entered the banking business.
- The Jews were so successful in the banking business that the English invited them to come to England to improve business there as well.

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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

## **Main Idea 4: Market economies changed business in Europe.**

Economic growth and new wealth changed business in Europe. Because more people had wealth, they were buying more manufactured goods. The demand for goods increased.

Department of Geography,  
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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

# Economic Growth

- The growth of manufacturing economies was caused by increased demand.
- Demand was increased by a growing population, lower expenses for food, and more colonies.
- As demand grew, businesspeople tried to find new and better ways to produce their goods. They wanted to increase their supply to meet the demand.

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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit

# Capitalism and Market Economies

- **Capitalism** is an economic system in which individuals and private businesses run most industries. Competition among these businesses affects the cost of goods.
- Competition works best in a **market economy**, in which individuals decide what goods and services they will buy.
- In the 1800s, capitalism would become the economic system of most countries in the world.

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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit



### History Close-up

## The Caravel

A special type of ship called the caravel became the workhorse of many European explorers. Though small, caravels were sturdy. They could sail across huge oceans and up small rivers. Caravels featured important advances in sailing technology.

Triangular sails enabled the caravel to sail into the wind.

The smooth, rounded hull handled high seas well.

### ANALYSIS SKILL ANALYZING VISUALS

What features made the caravel an excellent sailing ship?

The large center rudder made quick turns possible.





**HOLT**  
**History's Impact**

▶ video series  
Watch the video to understand the impact of the Columbian Exchange on Europe and America.

**What You Will Learn...**

In this chapter you will learn how European explorers first discovered the true size and shape of the world. This photo shows replicas of the ships Christopher Columbus used to sail to the Americas in 1492.

<p><b>1488</b> Dias sails around the southern tip of Africa.</p>	<p><b>1492</b> Columbus arrives in the Americas.</p>	<p><b>1520</b> Magellan leads a voyage around the southern tip of South America.</p>		<p><b>1602</b> The Dutch East India Company is formed for trade between the Netherlands, Asia, and Africa.</p>	
<p><b>1443</b> The Korean writing system is developed.</p>	<p><b>c. 1500</b> Askia the Great rules Songhai.</p>		<p><b>1550</b></p>	<p><b>1600</b></p>	<p><b>c. 1647</b> Construction on the Taj Mahal is completed.</p>

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# Mapping New Worlds

During the Age of Exploration, Europeans began to learn more about the size and shape of the world. Sailors and explorers traveled to new lands and brought back new information about places. Then professional mapmakers used this knowledge to create maps. As explorers traveled farther, what had been blank areas on earlier maps disappeared, and people began to see how the world really was.

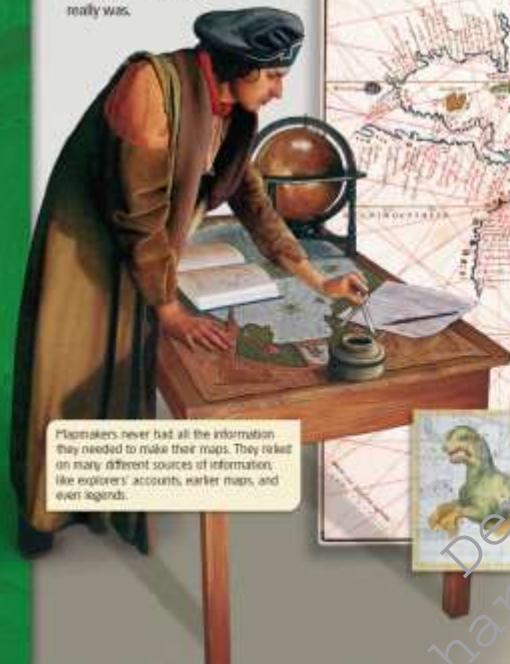
**1536** This map from 1536 shows that the mapmaker was familiar with the coasts of Europe and Africa, but knew less about the Americas. In North America, for example, the coastline is not very accurate and the interior is completely blank.



**1650** This 1650 map is more complete than the 1536 map. Much of the interior of North America is shown, but there are still errors. For example, California is shown as an island.



**1820** This 1820 map is much more complete than the first two. It is also more accurate. Still, some areas are blank.



Mapmakers never had all the information they needed to make their maps. They relied on many different sources of information, like explorers' accounts, earlier maps, and even legends.



Many early mapmakers illustrated their maps with boundary markers like this one.

**GEOGRAPHY SKILLS** INTERPRETING MAPS

1. **Location** What continents can you identify on the 1536 map?
2. **Place** Why did the shape of North America on these three maps change over time?



Europeans brought new ideas and technologies when they settled new lands. This illustration shows a scene in what is now New Mexico.

*What technologies can you see?*

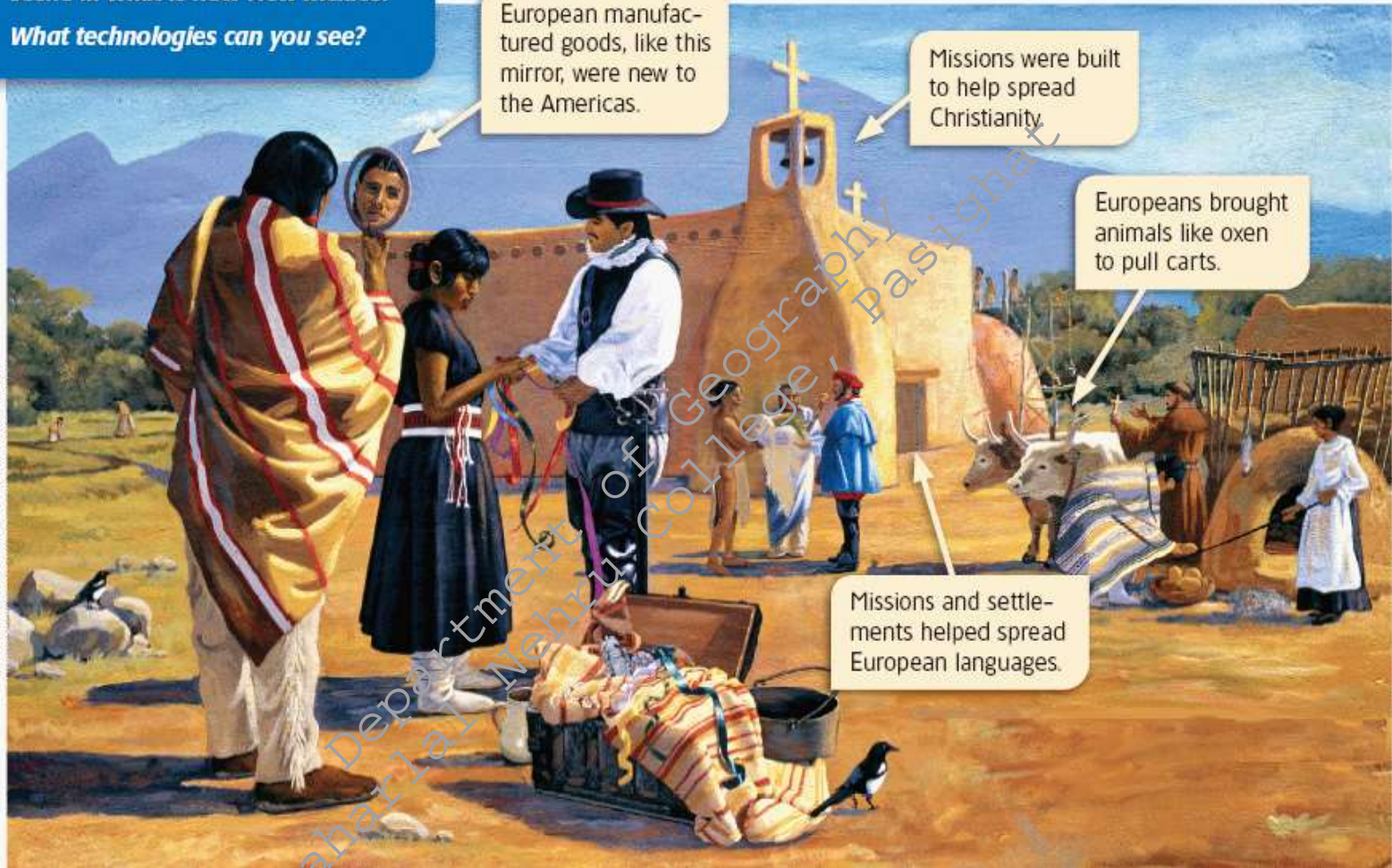
European manufactured goods, like this mirror, were new to the Americas.

Missions were built to help spread Christianity.

Europeans brought animals like oxen to pull carts.

Missions and settlements helped spread European languages.

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## European Exploration, 1487-1580



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# Mapping New Worlds

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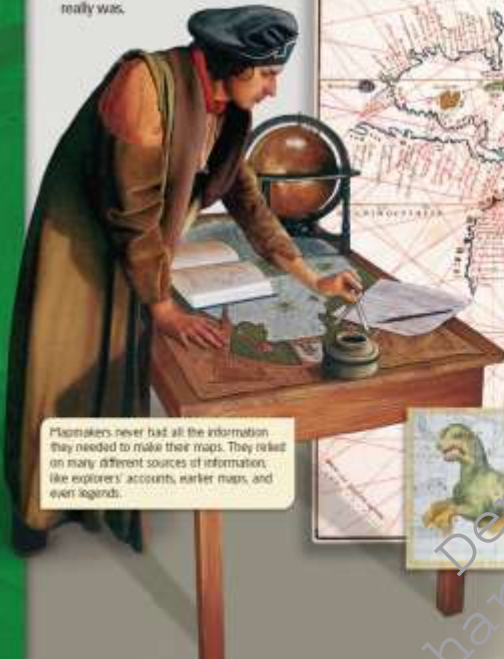


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### Geography Skills: Interpreting Maps

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# The Columbian Exchange

**QUICK  
FACTS**

- Beans
- Cacao (chocolate)
- Maize (corn)
- Peanuts
- Pineapples
- Potatoes
- Pumpkins
- Squash
- Sweet potatoes
- Tobacco
- Tomatoes
- Turkeys

**NORTH  
AMERICA**

**EUROPE**

ATLANTIC  
OCEAN

**AFRICA**

**SOUTH  
AMERICA**

- Bananas
- Cattle
- Chickens
- Citrus fruits
- Coffee beans
- Grapes
- Horses
- Onions
- Peaches
- Pigs
- Rice
- Sugarcane
- Wheat

**GEOGRAPHY  
SKILLS**

## INTERPRETING MAPS

- 1. Movement** Name three items brought to Europe from the Americas.
- 2. Movement** Name three items brought to the Americas from Europe.



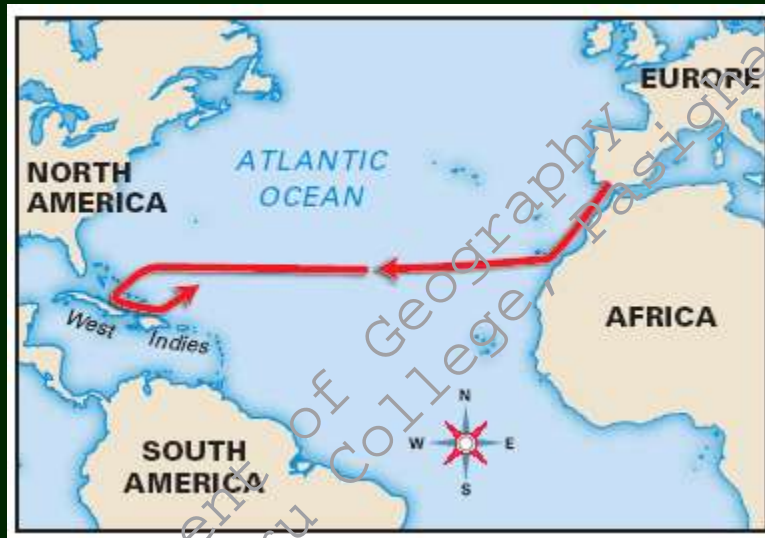


# World Trade Patterns, 1500-1800



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Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit



# The Columbian Exchange

**QUICK FACTS**

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**NORTH AMERICA**

**EUROPE**

**ATLANTIC OCEAN**

**SOUTH AMERICA**

**AFRICA**

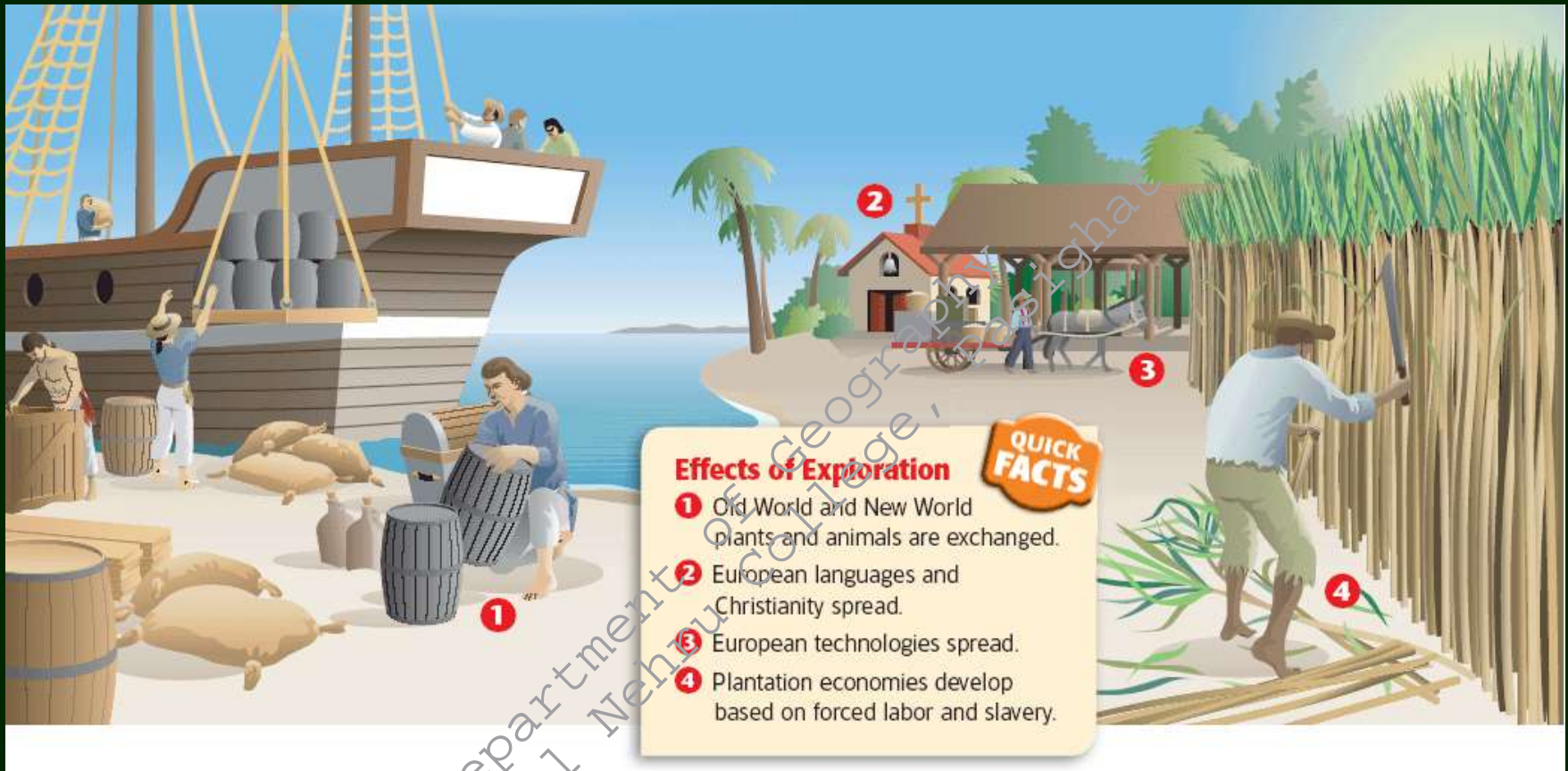
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**SKILLS INTERPRETING MAPS**

- 1. Movement** What were three items brought to Europe from the Americas?
- 2. Movement** What were three items brought to the Americas from Europe?







### Effects of Exploration

#### QUICK FACTS

- 1 Old World and New World plants and animals are exchanged.
- 2 European languages and Christianity spread.
- 3 European technologies spread.
- 4 Plantation economies develop based on forced labor and slavery.



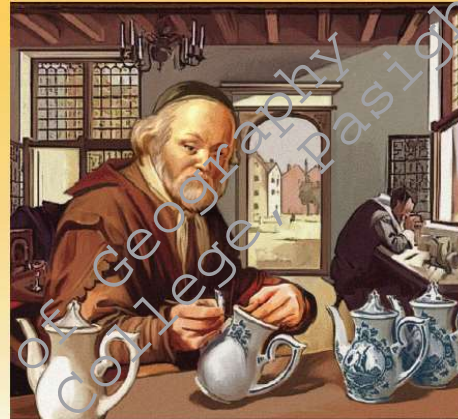
## Supply and Demand

### QUICK FACTS

Market economies are based on the idea of supply and demand. This idea states that people will produce goods that other people want. In Europe, market economies developed as populations grew and the world economy developed.



**1** Population grew in Europe. With more people, there was a greater demand for goods.



**2** Since people wanted more goods, companies worked to make, or supply, more goods.



**3** Finally, the supply of goods met the demand for goods.





## Visual Summary

Use the visual summary below to help you review the main ideas of the chapter.

**QUICK FACTS**



Previous



Next



Chapter Menu



Exit

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Click window above to start playing.



Previous



Next



Chapter  
Menu



Exit