

Unit 2

Exploration and Columbian Exchange

Day 4 Columbian Exchange

Starter

Make a list of 20 items that you think originated in the Americas.

The Columbian Exchange



The term Columbian exchange was coined by historian Al Crosby from The University of Texas

Contact between any two people geographically separated from one another result in an 'exchange' of physical elements

The four major elements of the Columbian Exchange are **DISEASE, ANIMALS, PLANTS, and PEOPLE**



ANIMALS



Animals

Traditionally llamas were the only domesticated animals in Latin America.

The import of cattle, horses, pigs, and sheep led to an agricultural revolution in the Americas.

Animal fertilizer became an important part of agriculture.



PLANTS



Plants

Europeans brought cash crops to Americas as well as bringing new crops back to Europe.

Maize, potato, tomato, tobacco, beans, cacao, and cotton were major crops from the Americas that would help many europeans feed their families because of how easy and cheap these crops were to grow.

Sugar, rice, wheat, coffee, and bananas were all introduced to the Americas during the exchange.

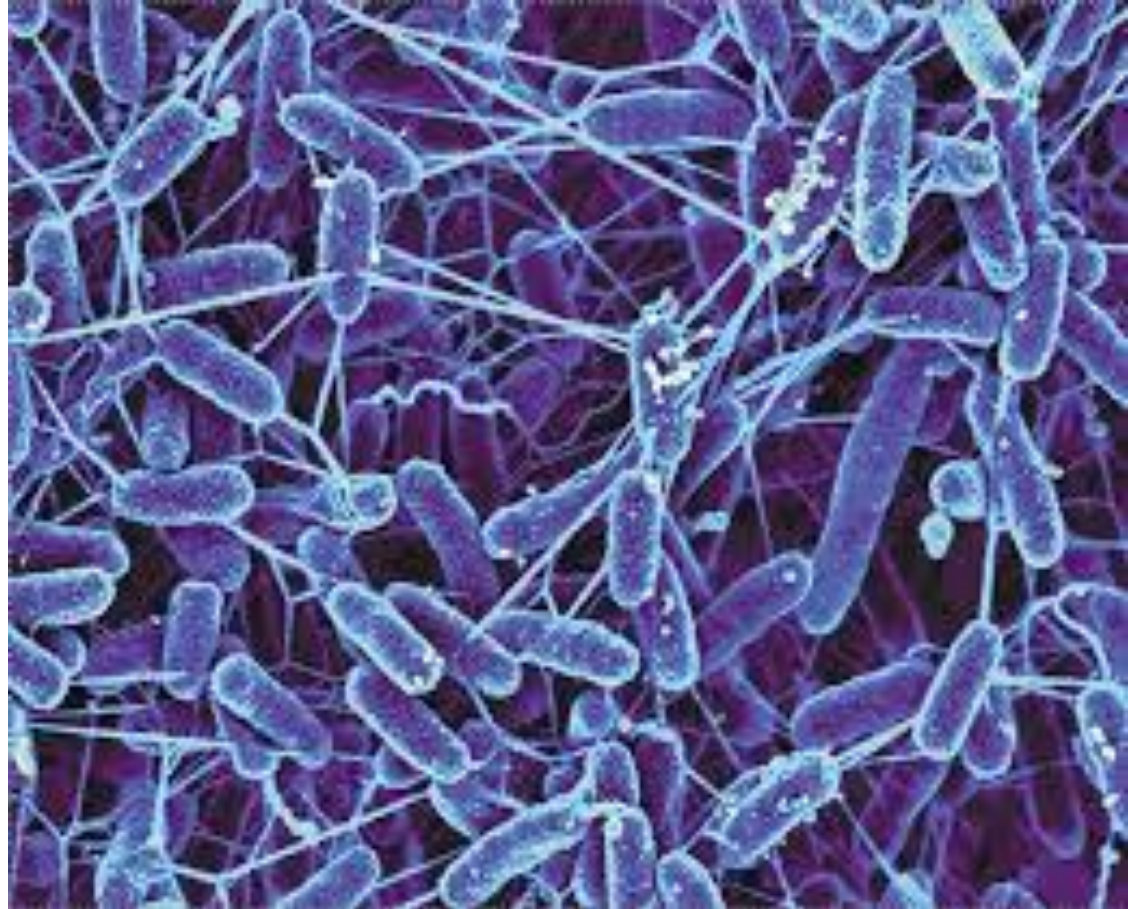
Plants

New crops flourished in the Americas.

Many indigenous plants crowded out by new crops and weeds because old world crops were stronger- they had a more competitive original environment.

Economy shifts to large scale agricultural production, labor intensifies causing a need for more workers.

MICROBES



Microbes

European diseases was particularly deadly.

Smallpox, measles, diphtheria, whooping cough, chicken pox, bubonic plague, scarlet fever, and influenza were the most common microbial diseases exchanged.

Nearly all of the European diseases were communicable by air and touch.

The pathway of these diseases was invisible to both Indians and Europeans.

Microbes

Europeans had no germ theory at the time meaning they didn't know that coming in contact with another person could spread a disease.

Illness in Europe was often considered to be the consequence of sin, so when the natives who were seen as heathens contracted these diseases it was thought that it was punishment.

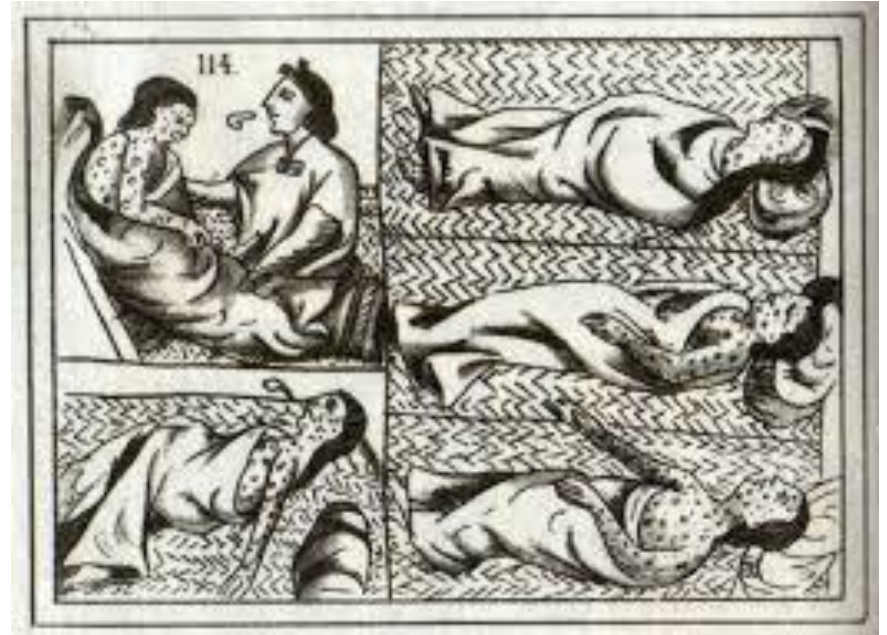


Smallpox

Central Mexico - 25 million in 1519 to less than 1 million in 1605

Hispaniola - 1 Million in 1492 to 46,000 in 1512

North America - 90% of Native Americans gone within 100 years of Plymouth landing



Why were Europeans immune?

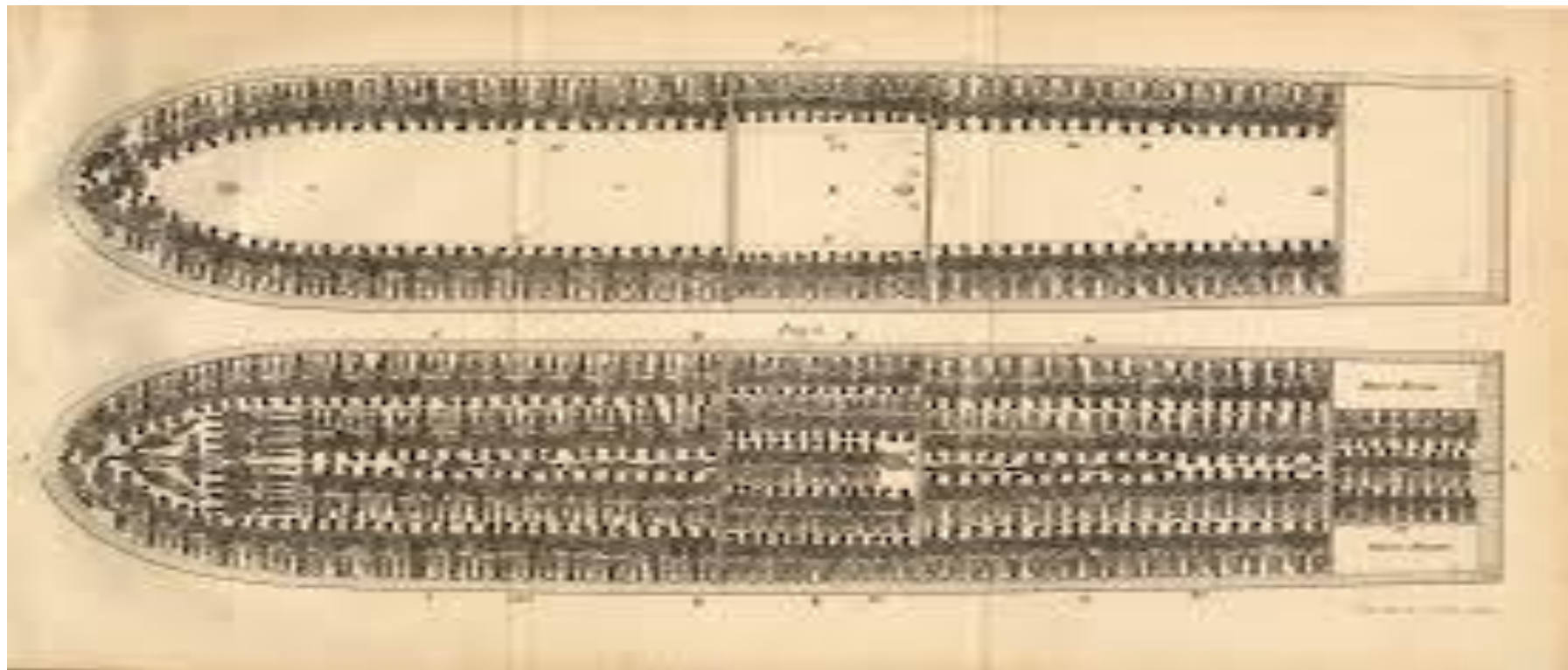
Has everything to do with their environment

Most pathogens originate with animals or insects

Domesticated animals and plants were more numerous in Europe

Greater diversity within Europe meant Europeans had more contact with people from all over, which also means they have been exposed to pathogens for a long time. Because of this they had more ecological protection.

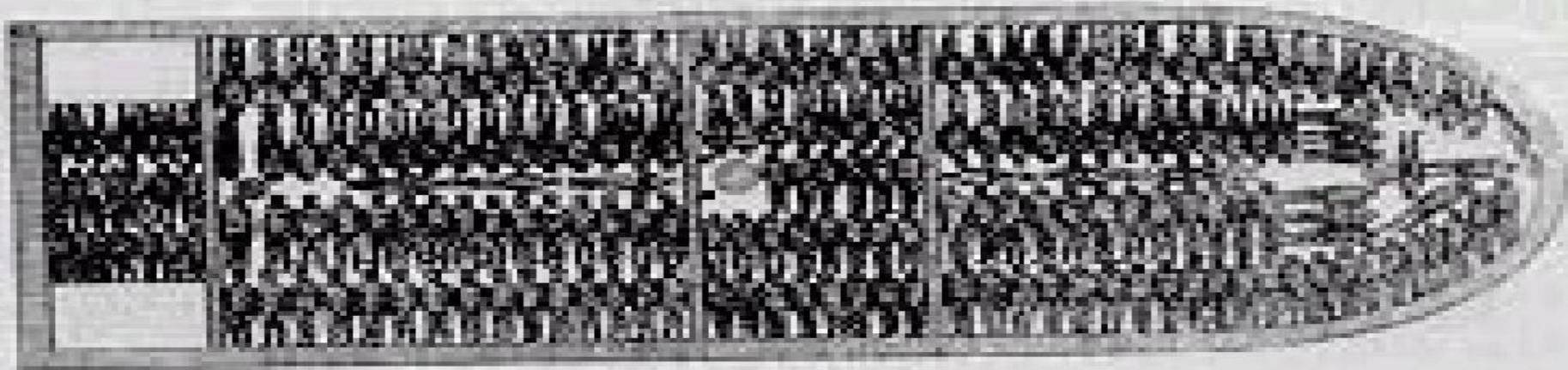
African Slave Trade



The “Cargo”

- 
- By 1654, some 8,000-10,000 Africans each year were undergoing the Middle Passage.

- By 1750, the annual number stabilized at 60,000-70,000.



Visualize the Middle Passage

http://www.slate.com/articles/life/the_history_of_american_slavery/2015/06/animated_interactive_of_the_history_of_the_atlantic_slave_trade.html

The Atlantic Slave Trade

“But what heart could be so hard as to not be pierced with piteous feelings to see that company?”

~Eyewitness to a Portuguese slave unloading



1. Despite the inhumane treatment of the African people, why did the slave trade continue until the 19th Century?

European Slave Trade

- By the time Europeans arrived in Sub-Saharan Africa in the 15th and 16th Centuries, the slave trade was a well-established feature in African society
- A detailed system for capturing, selling, and distributing slaves had been in place for over 500 years
- With the arrival of the Europeans and the demand for slaves in the Americas, the slave trade expanded dramatically

Slavery Expands

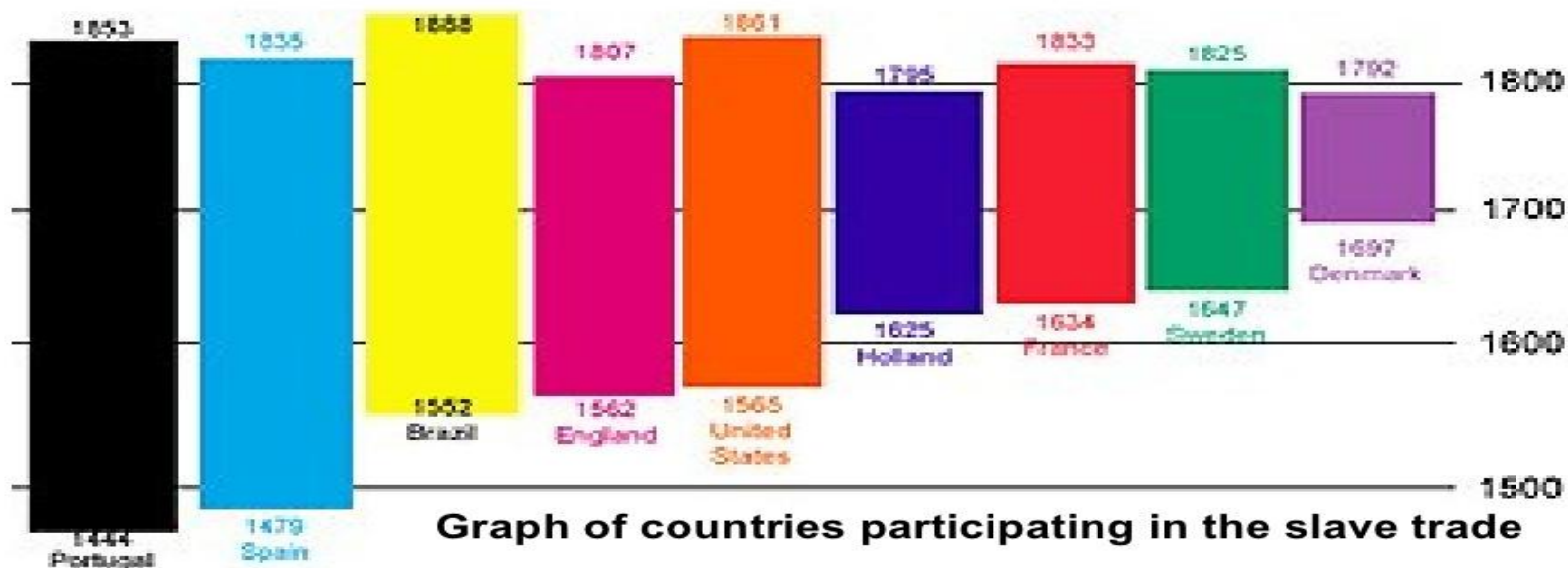
- As disease reduced the native populations in Spanish conquered territories, the Spanish began relying on imported slaves from Africa
- In 1518, the first shipment of slaves went directly from west Africa to the Caribbean where the slaves worked on sugar plantations
- By the 1520s, the Spanish had introduced slaves to Mexico, Peru, and Central America where they worked as cultivators and miners
- By the early 17th Century, the British had introduced slaves to North America

Triangular Trade

- The demand for labor in the western hemisphere stimulated a profitable three-legged trading pattern
 - European manufactured goods, namely cloth and metal wares, especially firearms, went to Africa where they were exchanged for slaves
 - The slaves were then shipped to the Caribbean and Americas where they were sold for cash or sometimes bartered for sugar or molasses
 - Then the ships returned to Europe loaded with American products

Investors in the Slave Trade

By 1650, most of the coastal states in Europe had possessions in the Americas.



1. Around what year was the Slave Trade at its peak?
2. Which country continued the Slave Trade the longest? Why?

Slave Catching Raids

- Conducted mostly by the **Asante** and **Dahomey** tribes.
- Would attack neighbors and catch as many people as possible.
- Europeans gave Africans weapons (mainly guns) to capture other Africans.

Africans from the interior were led in coffles to the coast for sale to European slave traders.



The Middle Passage



- About 9 to 15 million Africans went on voyage:
- 3 to 5 million perished before they even reached the Americas.

“If the Atlantic were to dry up it would reveal a scattered pathway of human bones marking the various routes of the Middle Passage.”

Middle Passage

- The time a ship took to make the Middle Passage depended upon several factors including its point of origin in Africa, the destination in the Americas, and conditions at sea such as winds, currents, and storms.
- With good conditions and few delays, a 17th-century Portuguese slave ship typically took 30 to 50 days to sail from Angola to Brazil.
- British, French, and Dutch ships transporting slaves between Guinea and their Caribbean island possessions took 60 to 90 days.
- As larger merchant ships were introduced, these times reduced somewhat

Dangers of Middle Passage

Scurvy
Gangrene
Dysentery
Dehydration
Suicide
Disease
Malnutrition

- The mortality rate averaged between 13 and 33 percent of the slaves and the crew.

Plantations

- Most African slaves went to plantations in the tropical or subtropical regions of the western hemisphere
- The first was established by the Spanish on Hispaniola in 1516
- Originally the predominant crop was sugar
- In the 1530s Portuguese began organizing plantations in Brazil, and Brazil became the world's leading supplier of sugar

Plantations

- In addition to sugar, plantations produced crops like tobacco, indigo, and cotton
- All were designed to export commercial crops for profit
- Relied almost exclusively on large amounts of slave labor supervised by small numbers of European or Euro-American managers



Brazilian sugar mill in the 1830s



THE ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE



Start at 1:34

COLUMBIAN EXCHANGE ACTIVITY