The Columbian Exchange: the global transfer of plants, animals, and disease between the Eastern and Western Hemisphere.

Directions: You have been given a list of resources that changed hands during the Columbian Exchange. Please sort them into the box where they originated from.

**Old World (Eastern Hemisphere)**

**New World (Western Hemisphere)**

What were the effects of the Columbian Exchange on the Americas?

What were the effects of the Columbian Exchange on the rest of the world?

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(source: http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-twoworlds/1866)

**6**As the late dates of the introduction of muskrats and raccoons to Europe suggest, the Columbian Exchange continues into the present. Indeed, it will surely continue into the future as modern transportation continues the pattern begun by Columbus. Recently, for example, zebra mussels from the Black Sea, stowed away in the [ballast](http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-twoworlds/glossary#ballast) water of ships, invaded North American waters. There they blocked the water intakes of factories, nuclear power plants, and [municipal filtration plants](http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-twoworlds/glossary#municipal-filtration-plant) throughout the Great Lakes region. Just as the arrival of Christopher Columbus’s ships in America in the 15th century resulted in the worldwide exchange of disease, crops, and animals, the 20th-century practice of ships using water as ballast helped unite the formerly diverse flora and fauna of the world’s harbors and [estuaries](http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-twoworlds/glossary#estuary). Similarly, air transport allows the spread of insects and diseases that would not easily survive longer, slower trips. Modern transport carries on in the tradition of Columbus by promoting a [homogenization](http://www.learnnc.org/lp/editions/nchist-twoworlds/glossary#homogenization) of the world’s plants and animals. To date, however, the world historical importance of modern exchanges pales beside that which took place in the original Columbian Exchange.