

Questions to help Get You Started

1. In what ways did the Eastern Hemisphere and the Western Hemisphere of our world differ before 1492? How does exploration and interactions among different groups of people lead to change? How do these interactions impact our lives today? Is change good or bad? How do we decide?
2. What were the most important tangible "things" that were exchanged between the Old and New Worlds?
3. What negative impact did non-native animals have on the New World?
4. What non-native plants impacted (harmed/changed) life in the New World to the greatest extent?
5. What were the most important "technologies" introduced to America by the Europeans?
6. What advantage do corn and potatoes have over grains such as wheat, barley, and rye?
7. Explain the sentence "Columbus' voyages helped to set in motion patterns of cultural diffusion that have continued to this very day."
8. Has cultural diffusion transformed life in both hemispheres? Cite examples.