

Three Worlds Meet

European colonization of the Americas changed the lives of millions of people throughout the world. When Europeans and Africans came to the Americas, three separate "worlds," or cultures, were brought together.

- European ships carried plants and animals across the Atlantic Ocean in both directions. People on both sides of the Atlantic encountered goods that they had never seen before.
- As Europeans settled in the Americas, they often forced Native Americans to work for them. Millions of Native Americans died from overwork or disease.
- As the Native American population declined, Europeans began capturing, enslaving, and bringing Africans to the Americas to work as slaves.



A Diseases brought from Europe, such as smallpox and measles, killed millions of Native Americans who had no resistance to them. This drawing shows Native Americans dying of smallpox.



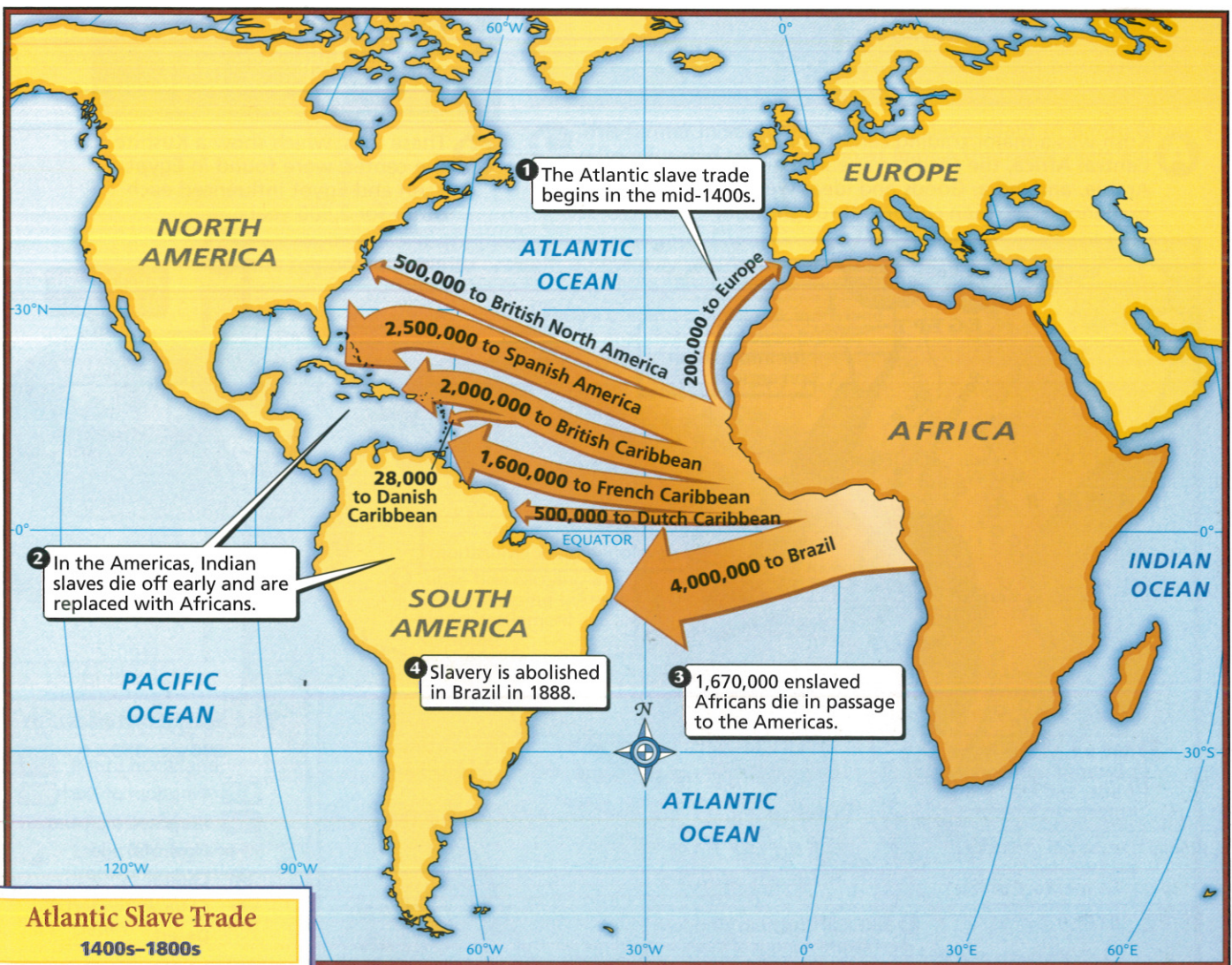
B Before Columbus established lasting European contact with the Americas, only Native Americans raised corn. Today corn is grown throughout the world. Name three foods that are not originally from the Americas.



Top 10 Cities, 1500

Rank	City (Modern Country)	Population
1	Beijing (China)	672,000
2	Vijayanagar (India)	500,000
3	Cairo (Egypt)	400,000
4	Hangzhou (China)	250,000
5	Tabriz (Iran)	250,000
6	Constantinople (Turkey)	200,000
7	Gaur (India)	200,000
8	Paris (France)	185,000
9	Canton (China)	150,000
10	Nanjing (China)	147,000

C In 1500 none of the world's largest cities was in the Americas. However, cities grew as more people from other regions came to the Americas. Turn to page 121 and compare the cities in this table with the top ten cities of 2000.



D Nearly 12 million Africans were enslaved and brought to the Americas. They worked mainly on plantations producing sugar, cotton, and tobacco. Where were more enslaved Africans sent than to any other place?