

Global Interactions

*The Emergence of the First
Global Age (1450–1750)*



Eastern exploration

Europeans in the Americas

Global trade

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Religion and thought



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will have learned about global trade during the age of exploration, and be able to answer the following key questions:

- What was the Columbian Exchange?
- What was the Atlantic slave trade and how did it impact Africa and the Americas?
- What was the triangular trade?
- What economic changes resulted from the age of exploration and global trade?



The Columbian Exchange



The **Columbian Exchange** was the global transfer of animals, plants and other goods that took place during American colonization.

The exchange introduced new species to Europe, Africa, Asia and the Americas.

In teams, decide whether each item originated in Europe, Africa and Asia, or in the Americas.

Press **start** to begin.

start



Can you think of possible impacts of this Exchange?



Slavery in the Americas



Plantation colonies in the Americas provided Europe with valuable raw materials, including gold, sugar and cotton. In order to make the most of these resources, mines and plantations needed huge amounts of cheap labor.

At first, Europeans enslaved native Americans. However, this population was soon decimated by disease. Furthermore, because the native people knew their land better than the Europeans did, many were able to escape.



The colonists soon turned to African slavery.





The Atlantic slave trade



Many Africans had already been exposed to European diseases, so were less likely to die from them. It was more difficult for African slaves to escape or rebel in the Americas since they did not know the land or speak native languages.

Between the mines of New Spain, the sugar plantations of Portuguese Brazil and the cotton plantations of the southern United States, the **Atlantic slave trade** remained a lucrative business into the 19th century.

By the time the Atlantic slave trade officially ended in 1870, nearly 10 million Africans had been forcefully transported to the Americas.

Why was slavery important to European economies?



The Atlantic slave trade had a profound and lasting impact on societies, economies and cultures in the Americas and Africa.

Press **start** to begin.

start



Why was this trade route called the middle passage?



The triangular trade



The middle passage was part of the **triangular trade**, a network that operated between Europe, Africa and the Americas from the late 16th to the early 19th century. It gave each place access to the commodities it needed.

Can you drag the labels of the main commodities to the correct places?

Press **start** to begin.

start



What other goods were part of the triangular trade?

American colonialism and global trade brought about many economic changes in Europe.

One of the most significant was the development of **capitalism**, an economic system based on private ownership and investment for profit.

Another key change was the development of **mercantilism**: the belief that a nation could only ensure its strength and stability by accumulating wealth.

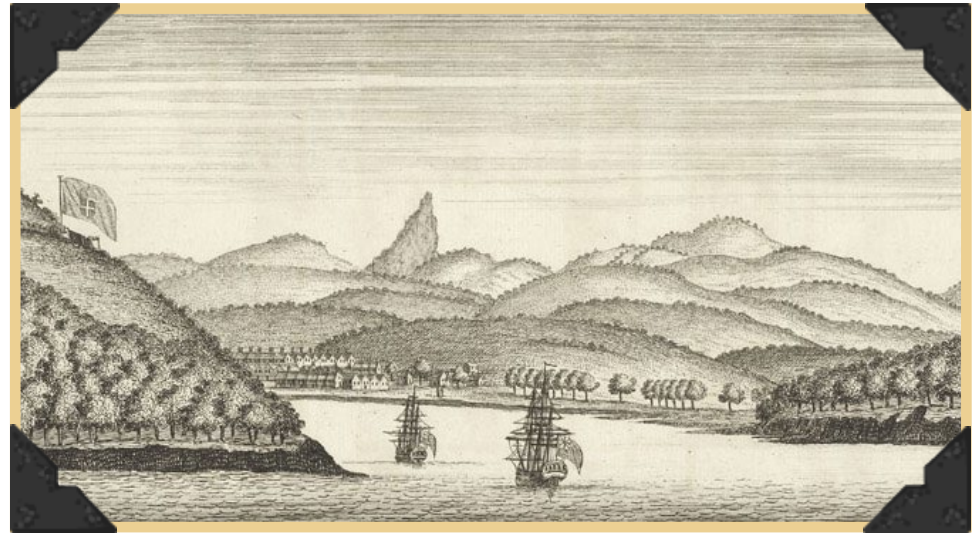


How might a country accumulate wealth?



One way a nation might accumulate wealth was to extract gold and silver from its territories in Africa and the Americas.

The other was to create a **positive balance of trade**, when a nation sells more goods than it buys. The ultimate goal of mercantilism was total self-sufficiency.



In this system, European colonies served as both a source of raw materials and as a market for manufactured goods.

What might be the effects of this system?



Test your knowledge of the age of European exploration with this quiz. Choose the correct answer to each question to see how much you can remember.
Press **start** to begin.

start





Test your understanding of the age of exploration by recapping key terms and important people using this glossary. Press on the tabs and then each term to see a definition.

Press **start** to begin.

start

