

Unit 4 APWH - Transoceanic Interconnections

Practice Worksheet

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Answer each question in 1-3 sentences or choose the best answer. Use your knowledge of AP World History Unit 4 (1450-1750) to respond.

1. What is the time period covered by Unit 4 APWH?

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2. What term describes the exchange of plants, animals, diseases, and ideas between the Americas, Europe, and Africa after 1492?

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3. Which two Iberian nations led early transoceanic exploration in the 15th and 16th centuries?

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4. What was the primary labor system used on sugar plantations in the Americas during this period?

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5. Name ONE crop that moved FROM the Americas TO Europe/Asia as part of the Columbian Exchange.

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6. What disease killed an estimated 50-90% of indigenous populations in the Americas after European contact?

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7. The Treaty of Tordesillas (1494) divided newly discovered lands between which two countries?

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8. How did the silver trade connect the Americas, Europe, and Asia in this period?

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9. Which empire controlled the eastern Mediterranean and blocked overland Silk Road trade routes, helping push European powers to seek sea routes?

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10. Explain ONE way the Columbian Exchange changed population patterns in the Old World.

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11. What was the Middle Passage?

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12. Identify ONE continuity between Unit 3 (1200-1450) and Unit 4 (1450-1750) in terms of trade.

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Answer Key

1. 1450 to 1750
2. The Columbian Exchange
3. Spain and Portugal
4. Enslaved African labor (the Atlantic slave trade / chattel slavery)
5. Any one of: potato, maize (corn), tomato, cacao, tobacco, sweet potato
6. Smallpox (or other Old World diseases such as measles and typhus)
7. Spain and Portugal
8. Silver mined in the Americas (especially Potosi) was shipped to Europe and then to Asia (especially China) to pay for luxury goods, fueling a global trade network.
9. The Ottoman Empire
10. New World crops like the potato and maize provided cheap, calorie-dense food that supported population growth in Europe and parts of Asia.
11. The Middle Passage was the forced sea voyage that enslaved Africans were made to take across the Atlantic Ocean to the Americas.
12. Long-distance trade networks (such as the Indian Ocean trade) continued to operate and expand, connecting Asia, Africa, and Europe throughout both periods.