Globalization and the Columbian Exchange

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Recommended Citation
McCoy, Meagan, "Globalization and the Columbian Exchange" (2012). Open Educational Resources. 127. https://scholarworks.uni.edu/oermaterials/127

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# Globalization and the Columbian Exchange

**Created by:** Meagan McCoy  
**Central Lee School District**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grade Level (Req.): 8th grade</th>
<th>Content Area (Req.): American History</th>
<th>Unit (Opt.): Europe Looks Outward</th>
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**Connections to Other Disciplines (Opt.):**
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**Time Frame (Req.):** 1 or 2 class periods (probably around 60 minutes)

**Goal (Req.):** Understand that the Columbian Exchange is an example of globalization and it greatly changed the entire world.

**Objective (Req.):** Define globalization and explain how the Columbian Exchange shows globalization.

**Materials Needed (Req.):**
- textbook or article on Columbian Exchange  
- video clip on Columbian Exchange (see youtube)  
- article on globalization (see attachment)  
- Graphic organizer (see attachment)

**New Vocabulary (Opt.):**
- Columbian Exchange  
- globalization  
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**Anticipatory Set/Introduction [Inquiry Question is required] (Req.):**
What factors motivated people to leave their countries and explore in the late 1400 and early 1500s? Finding shorter trade routes was a big reason. When looking for those routes, explorers came into contact with the western hemisphere and many new cultures, plants, and animals. What do you think they did with this new knowledge and these new items?

**Instructional Sequence/Procedure (Req.):**
1. Pass out copies of “Introduction to Globalization” article (see attachment).
2. Put students in a small group to read the article. They should each fill out graphic organizer (see attachment) as they read.
3. As a class, discuss the article and create a concept web for globalization. Students should make this web in their social studies notebooks as I make one on the board.
4. Now have students write a personal definition of globalization in the center diamond on the graphic organizer.
5. Read in the textbook (or article) about the Columbian Exchange. (If you don’t want to use or don’t have a textbook with this information, try http://public.gettysburg.edu/~tshannon/hist106web/site19/ or http://www.gilderlehrman.org/history-by-era/american-indians/essays/columbian-exchange)
6. Watch a short video clip about the Columbian Exchange and discuss the details of it. (There are many on youtube. Two I like are: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d2bUM0DaT2Y and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4RTBPPC28Fl)
7. Have students create a visual in their notebooks that illustrates details of the Columbian Exchange.
Exchange—brainstorm with partner first and then share it with your partner when done. (I’m envisioning a map with Eastern and Western hemispheres showing arrows going both ways across the Atlantic. Around the arrows, the items could be listed that were exchanged. Students may come up with different ideas.)

8. From looking at the concept web and personal definition of globalization, have students explain how the Columbian Exchange shows globalization. Brainstorm with partner and then have a short class discussion.

9. Ticket out: write a paragraph explaining how the Columbian Exchange shows globalization.

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<tr>
<th>Formative Evaluation (Req.): class discussion, personal definitions of globalization, visuals created</th>
<th>Assessment (Req.): “ticket out” paragraph</th>
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Iowa Core Curriculum Standards Used (Req.):
- Understand how human factors and the distribution of resources affect the development of society and the movement of populations.
- Understand how human actions modify the environment and how the environment affects humans.
- Understand how cultural factors influence the interaction of human populations through time and space.
- Understand the local, state, regional, national and international factors that create patterns of interdependence in the global economy.
- Understand the role of culture and cultural diffusion on the development and maintenance of societies.
- Understand the role of innovation on the development and interaction of societies.

Common Core Curriculum Standards Used (Opt.):
- Reading for Literacy in History/Social Studies, grades 6-12: Integrate visual information with other information in print and digital texts.

NGS Standards Used (Req.):
- Standard 4: The Physical and Human Characteristics of Places (Theme: Place, HEI)
- Standard 6: How Culture and Experience Influence People’s Perceptions of Places and Regions (Theme: Movement, Place, Region)
- Standard 11: The Patterns and Networks of Economic Interdependence on Earth's Surface
  (Theme: Movement, Region, HEI, Location)

**Five Themes of Geography Used (Req.):**
- movement
- region
- human environment interaction
- location
- place

**School District Standards and Benchmarks (Opt.):**
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**21st Century Universal Constructs (Opt.):**

**Other Disciplinary Standards (Opt.):**
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**Other Essential Information (Opt.):**

**Other Resources (Opt.):**
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1. Introduction to Globalization:

Before the 1990’s many people and nations were isolated from each other because of political borders, economic boundaries and cultural differences. Globalization is the popular name for the current era. Globalization is the result of sweeping political, economic and cultural changes brought about by the increased connections between the people of different nations. Today, people routinely communicate, do business, travel and learn about events and cultures from around the world. Globalization is an accurate name for this current era because many people interact beyond their national borders. This era of globalization has been described as a world village. Like a small village everyone knows each other, can talk with each other, trade with each other and move from one end of the village to the other with ease. Just like a small village, nearly everyone in globalization is connected.

How did this era of globalization begin? Although there are different theories, most people would agree that computers and trade played important roles. With the advent of the personal computer and the Internet, people are better able to communicate and do business all around the world. This exchange of ideas and information between nations is more widespread now than at any other time in history. Advances in transportation also helped get globalization started. People and products can be easily moved around the world.

People and nations monitor the events outside of their borders. In globalization, individuals and nations watch each other’s actions and hold each other accountable for misdeeds. Nations are encouraged to be peaceful to each other because warring nations would miss out on trade opportunities. One hope is that world peace will be characteristic of globalization.

The world’s economy has shifted globally too. Even though nations have historically relied on each other to buy and sell products, globalization has brought a wider market for a nation’s products and services. Most countries now have open market economies. This means that corporations decide what goods to produce and what services to offer. Corporations, not governments control trade and the corporations are able to trade with anyone they chose. Because of the increased economic opportunities few countries want to be isolated in this era of globalization. It is interesting to note that in globalization corporations, not countries make many economic decisions.

In globalization there is a growing awareness of other cultures. Thanks to the Internet there is a constant exchange of culture as people around the globe learn about each other. What is emerging is a global culture largely modeled after American popular culture. People are deciding what aspects to adopt or to reject of the global culture. One interesting aspect about globalization is that many of the cultural choices people make are not controlled by their nations.

The era of globalization is bringing many changes to the world, some positive and some negative. One beneficial aspect of globalization is that nations are able to trade more and increase their economies and population’s prosperity. On the downside, the benefits of globalization may have a negative effect on the environment and working people of some nations. With globalization there are definitely winners and losers. In studying globalization it is essential to assess how it helps and hurts different people and seek ways to make it more beneficial for all.