

America Before Columbus Questions

Name: _____

Prologue

- 1) What is the importance of the year 1491?
- 2) What are the big 5 domesticated animals which gave Europeans, Africans and Asians a huge advantage over Natives?
- 3) What food source fueled the Aztecs in Mexico and mound builders (Cahokia) in North America and how was it created?
- 4) What are the advantages of the potato, a food source which fueled the Incans Empire high in the Andes mountains?
- 5) What were the only two domesticated animals in the New World AND what advantages did they have over their European counterparts?
- 6) The Southwestern United States is a dry region. What native civilization was wiped out despite building the highest and largest buildings in North America after the climate warmed and dried out centuries ago? How do we know when things dried out and the last tree was cut down?

Part I. Columbus Reaches the Americas, Impact:

- 1) How many million people live in the Americas in 1491?
- 2) How are the cultures and people of the Americas different than Europe?
- 3) Why could one call the Spanish arrival a 'stampede'?

4) What does the narrator say is a 'perfect source of food'?

5) How is that animal seen as a staple food for some and a curse for others?

6) Who was the hidden passenger on board European ships and what were the consequences?

Part II. The Great Dying:

1. What did Europeans attribute the disease and death of native Americans?

2. What was the impact of native American deaths?

3. How many years did it take for the Europeans to have a "garden of Eden without humans"?

4. What is the evidence of God's 2nd creation that Europeans send back home?

5. What is the unwelcome passenger and unintentional gift with deadly consequences in Europe?

Part II. A New Wave of Settlement in the 17th Century:

1. Who is the new "superpower of Europe?"

2. There was no gold in the rivers, but what did Europeans find there that amazed them?

3. How long does it take for European settlements to create 'overfishing'?

4. Why were American trees 'doomed'?

5. Other than the man's head who is chopping down a tree, what other areas of the Americas are 'completely bald'?

6. Europeans create the new world in the image of _____. (Briefly explain what that means)

Part IV A "New" New World:

1. What new items do Europeans bring to the new world?

2. What less welcome guests do the Europeans bring with them in their bags of seeds?

3. How do these new items impact the Americas?

4. What is the Columbian Exchange and its impact on the world?

5. What impact does the potato have and why does it thrive in Europe?

6. Only one animal ends up in Europe, what is it?

7. Why did Columbian exchange impact European environment so much less than the reverse?

Part V. To exploit the resources of the new world, an explosion of exploitation of human's results:

1. What made the creation of the 'new world' possible?

2. What is the 'accident of ecology'?

3) 500 years later, what do you believe Columbus and Isabella would say if they could see The New World today?