The Columbian Exchange

On their trips to and from the Americas, Europeans moved many goods. This transfer became known as the Columbian Exchange. It had social and economic effects in the Western and Eastern Hemispheres.

**From Europe, Asia, Africa to the Americas**
- Livestock: horses, cattle, sheep, pigs
- Fruits and vegetables: bananas, black-eyed peas, yams, olives, citrus fruits, grapes, peaches, pears, turnips, onions
- Grains: wheat, rice, barley, oats
- Other crops: coffee beans, sugar cane
- Diseases: smallpox, measles, influenza
- Belief systems: Christianity

**Impact on the Americas**
- New patterns of international trade began.
- Many Native Americans were converted to Christianity.
- Disease claimed the lives of over 20 million Native Americans.
- New methods of agriculture resulted from the introduction of livestock and different crops.
- Horses improved transportation.

1. Review the items on the list. Explain which items/methods benefited the people of the Americas the most.

2. How did religious beliefs change as a result of the Columbian Exchange?

3. Identify some of the things that were harmful to the people of the Americas? How did it affect them?

4. What type of foods changed the diet of the European population? What was the result?

5. Why was the Columbian Exchange good for European businesses?

6. **Critical Thinking:** Which aspect of the Columbian Exchange (food, business ideas, belief systems) changed the world the most? Explain your answer.