Maps related to Columbian Exchange topic:

1555 - https://oshermaps.org/map/262

1612 - https://oshermaps.org/map/4072

1637 - https://oshermaps.org/map/12548

1657 - https://oshermaps.org/map/443

1662 a - https://oshermaps.org/map/459

1662 b - https://oshermaps.org/map/458

1638 - https://oshermaps.org/map/408

1677 - https://oshermaps.org/map/492
Map Exploration Questions

Try to find three pieces of evidence on these maps that show the \textit{exchange of animals (including animal products) and crops} between the Americas and Eurasia/Africa:

1. 

2. 

3. 

Try to find three pieces of evidence on these maps that show the \textit{exchange of ideas and technologies} between the Americas and Eurasia/Africa:

1. 

2. 

3. 

Try to find three pieces of evidence on these maps that show the \textit{exchange of populations} between the Americas and Eurasia/Africa:

1. 

2. 

3. 

Try to find three pieces of evidence on these maps that show the \textit{exchange of diseases} between the Americas and Eurasia/Africa:

1. 

2. 

3. 

\textbf{Which was the hardest to find evidence for:} the exchange of ideas/technology, animals/crops, populations, or diseases? Why do you think that is? (Hint: think about the purpose of these maps---what were they made to accomplish? What were the perspectives of the mapmakers?)

\textbf{We call this transfer of diseases, ideas, animals, crops, and populations the “Columbian Exchange.” The term “exchange” implies reciprocity (it goes both ways).} Can you think of ways in which “exchange” is an accurate term?

Can you think of ways in which “exchange” is misleading or inadequate?

Can you think of a better term?
Teacher’s Key

Try to find three pieces of evidence on these maps that show the exchange of animals (including animal products) and crops between the Americas and Eurasia/Africa: A few possible answers:

- Fur trade as pictured on 1707 map
- The pipe snuff (tobacco) advertisement on the 1714 map
- The corn, strawberries, and other food crops pictured on the 1612 map
- European cattle on the 1637 map

Try to find three pieces of evidence on these maps that show the exchange of ideas and technologies between the Americas and Eurasia/Africa: A few possible answers:

- The Indigenous people with guns on the 1677 map
- The crosses on the allegorical Americas scene on the 1657 map
- The metal axehead on the allegorical Americas scene on the 1657 map
- The relatively accurate depiction of Lake Ontario on the 1612 map - no European had been yet
- The metal pot used by the cannibals in the 1555 map

Try to find three pieces of evidence on these maps that show the exchange of populations between the Americas and Eurasia/Africa: A few possible answers:

- The enslaved Africans on the 1730 map
- The Dutch name and architecture with Neu Amsterdam on the 1662 map
- The English place names on the 1702 map
- “Sea of the English Empire” on the 1701 map

Try to find three pieces of evidence on these maps that show the exchange of diseases between the Americas and Eurasia/Africa:

- This is seen in the absence/scarcity of Indigenous settlements along the coasts and rivers in southern New England; the coastal regions were decimated by the Great Dying of 1616-1619
  - Best maps to see this on: 1702, 1677, 1637

Which was the hardest to find evidence for: the exchange of ideas/technology, animals/crops, populations, or diseases? Why do you think that is? (Hint: think about the purpose of these maps---what were they made to accomplish? What were the perspectives of the mapmakers?)

- Exchange of disease
- Some reasons:
  - The maps were made for varied reasons, including to entice potential settlers, celebrate or claim a particular country’s conquest, and provide a view of the territory for rulers or government officials. None of these aims would be advanced by the inclusion of images of diseased people.
  - The mapmakers of these maps were Europeans. They did not see the most dramatic effects of the pandemics in the Americas.

We call this transfer of diseases, ideas, animals, crops, and populations the “Columbian Exchange.” The term “exchange” implies reciprocity (it goes both ways).

Can you think of ways in which “exchange” is an accurate term?

- One example (more answers possible): Some aspects of the trade between Indigenous people of the Americas and Europeans; for example, furs for guns.

Can you think of ways in which “exchange” is misleading or inadequate?

- One example: Europeans stole much of the land and resources from Indigenous people without fair remuneration. Much fewer Europeans than Indigenous people were killed by disease.

Can you think of a better term? Many possible answers.