

Short Answer Topics

You **MUST** answer **ALL** of the short answer topics below! You must use complete sentences which should be spell-checked, proof-read, etc. You may need to conduct some brief research about any and all of these topics. A works-cited page is not necessary, but you should be **VERY CAREFUL** to use the information to craft **YOUR OWN** answers... not copy someone else's.

1. If Christopher Columbus did not actually “discover” America, who did? Why do we continue to celebrate Columbus Day if he did not actually discover America?

2. “The Columbian connection had a devastating effect on the indigenous human societies of the Americas. . . . New disease vectors suddenly introduced into the vulnerable populations of the New World began a sequence of horrific pandemics. Rapidly spreading infectious disease devastated indigenous peoples of the New World. It thinned their numbers, destroyed their institutions, and broke their resistance to Spanish aggression. . . . Demographic recovery after major pandemics was hindered by reduced fertility, stillbirths, and other physical effects, as well as by cultural depression, hopelessness, and malaise resulting from Spanish colonial domination.”

- John R. Richards, *The Unending Frontier*, 2006

“The New World provided soils that were very suitable for the cultivation of a variety of Old World products, . . . The increased supply lowered the prices of these products significantly, making them affordable to the general population for the first time in history. The production of these products also resulted in large inflows of profits back to Europe, which some have argued fueled the Industrial Revolution and the rise of Europe. The Old World gained access to new crops that were widely adopted. . . . The improvement in agricultural productivity . . . had significant effects on historic population growth and urbanization.”

- Nathan Nunn and Nancy Qian, “The Columbian Exchange,” 2010

Using the excerpts above, answer parts a, b, and c.

a) Briefly explain ONE specific historical difference between Richards's and Nunn and Qian's interpretations.

b) Briefly explain how ONE specific historical event or development not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Richards's interpretation.

c) Briefly explain how ONE specific historical event or development not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Nunn and Qian's interpretation.