**Sources about Native Americans meeting Europeans (aka the Colombian Exchange)**

**Document 1: Columbus's diary**

Saturday, 13 October. [1492] At daybreak great multitudes of men came to the shore, all young and of fine shapes, very handsome; their hair not curled but straight and coarse like horse-hair, and all with foreheads and heads much broader than any people I had seen; They came loaded with balls of cotton, parrots, javelins, and other things too numerous to mention; these they exchanged for whatever we chose to give them.

1. Is this a primary or secondary source?

2. What did Columbus observe about the Natives?

3. What did the Spanish and Native Americans do together? 

**Document 2: Description of Aztec reaction to Cortez**  
  
Cortez was coming. Montezuma [leader of the Aztecs] had already sent wizards, magicians, and seers to cast spells that would destroy or at least deter the Spaniards from continuing towards the Capital. Their failure had re-confirmed the [Aztec] emperor’s opinion that these indeed, were the gods of legend

1. Is this a primary or secondary source?

2. What did Montezuma send to Cortez?

3. Why might the Aztecs believe the Spaniards were gods?

**Document 3: Journal entry of Bartolome de Las Casas**

The [the Americans] do not have weapons, nor do they know about them because when we showed them a sword, they cut themselves from grabbing the [blade].

1. Is this a primary or secondary source?

2. How did the Native Americans show that they did not know about weapons? 

**Document 4: Farming and Food calories**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **North America** | | **Europe** | |
| **Chief Crops** | **Calories per Hectare** | **Chief Crops** | **Calories per Hectare** |
| Maize | 7.3 | Rice | 7.3 |
| Potato | 7.5 | Wheat | 4.2 |
| Yams (Sweet Potato) | 7.1 | Barley | 5.1 |
| Cassava | 9.9 | Oats | 5.5 |

1. Is this a primary or secondary source?

2. Which area had a higher calorie average?

3. Of the 4 European crops listed, which one was the most important? Why?

**Document 5: Columbian Exchange Chart**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| ***Forms of Biological Life Going From:*** | | |
|  | **Old World to New World:** | **New World to Old World:** |
| Diseases | Smallpox  Measles Chicken Pox Malaria Yellow Fever Influenza The Common Cold | Syphilis  (This is a matter of scientific dispute. There is some evidence to suggest that syphilis existed in Europe before the great voyages of exploration.) |
| Animals | Horses  Cattle Pigs Sheep Goats Chickens | Turkeys Llamas Alpacas Guinea Pigs |
| Plants | Rice  Wheat Barley Oats Coffee Sugarcane Bananas Melons Olives Dandelions Daisies Clover Ragweed Kentucky Bluegrass | Corn (Maize) Potatoes (White & Sweet Varieties) Beans (Snap, Kidney, & Lima Varieties) Tobacco Peanuts Squash Peppers Tomatoes Pumpkins Pineapples Cacao (Source of Chocolate) Chicle (Source of Chewing Gum) Papayas Guavas Avocados |

1. Is this a primary or secondary source?

2.What are the most common things exchange between the old and new worlds?

**Document 6: " Loss of hand because gold quota not met"**  
Commissioned by B. De Las Casas  
  
   
  
1. Is this a primary or secondary source?

2. Based on the document, did the Spanish treat the Natives kindly?

3. According to the title, the penalty for missing the Gold quota was a loss of a hand. Why would the Spanish cut off workers hands?

**Document 7: Spanish missionary Cristoval de Acuña made an exploration of South America's Amazon River. Acuña published this account of his adventure, *New Discovery of the Amazons*, in 1641.**

All this new world, if we may call it so, is inhabited by barbarians, in distinct provinces and nations, of which I am enabled to give an account, naming them and pointing out their residences, some from my own observations, and others from information of the Indians.

They exceed one hundred and fifty, all with different languages. These nations are so near each other, that from the last villages of one they hear the people of the other at work. But this proximity does not lead to peace; on the contrary, they are engaged in constant wars, in which they kill and take prisoners great numbers of souls every day.

But though, among themselves, they are so warlike, none of them showed courage to face Spaniards, as I observed throughout the voyage, in which the Indians never dared to use any defense against us, except that of flight.

1. Is this a primary or secondary source?

2. How does Cristoval de Acuña view the Native Americans?

**Document 8: Columbus’ journal**

Information: As the following extracts from his journal reveal, within days of his arrival in the New World, Columbus regarded the Indian population as a potential labor source. As he and other Europeans would soon discover, the Indians, especially the Caribs, were not as timid or as easily dominated as Columbus originally thought.

**Document:**

Sunday, 14th of October

...these people are very simple as regards the use of arms, as your Highnesses will see from the seven that I caused to be taken, to bring home and learn our language and return; unless your Highnesses should order them all to be brought to Castile, or to be kept as captives on the same island; for with fifty men they can all be subjugated and made to do what is required of them....

Sunday, 16th of December

...your Highnesses may believe that this island (Hispaniola), and all the others, are as much yours as Castile. Here there is only wanting a settlement and the order to the people to do what is required. For I, with the force I have under me, which is not large, could march over all these islands without opposition. I have seen only three sailors land, without wishing to do harm, and a multitude of Indians fled before them. They have no arms, and are without warlike instincts; they all go naked, and are so timid that a thousand would not stand before three of our men. So that they are good to be ordered about, to work and sow, and do all that may be necessary, and to build towns, and they should be taught to go about clothed and to adopt our customs.

1. Is this a primary or secondary source?

2. How does Columbus view Native Americans?