

name: class: date:

Botanical Discoveries during Exploration



During the Age of _____, explorers set sail from Europe to find new lands, resources, and trade routes. These journeys led to the _____ of plants and crops that would change agriculture and diets worldwide. Among the most significant plants introduced to Europe were _____, tomatoes, and maize, originating from the Americas. Conversely, Europeans brought wheat, _____, and sugarcane to the New World. This period marked the beginning of the _____ Exchange, a massive swap of crops, animals, and even diseases between the Old and New Worlds.

Botanists played a crucial role in these explorations, documenting and bringing back _____ and plants for study. These _____ helped identify plants that could be cultivated for food, medicine, and other purposes. The introduction of new crops led to agricultural _____, improved nutrition, and increased food security in many parts of the world. However, it also had unintended consequences, such as the displacement of indigenous plants and the spread of _____ species, which sometimes harmed local ecosystems.

The Age of Discovery also sparked a _____ in botanical science, with the establishment of botanical gardens and the publication of detailed herbals and plant catalogs. These resources allowed for greater scientific _____ and knowledge sharing about plant species across continents. The impact of these botanical exchanges is still felt today, as many of the plants introduced during this era have become staples in diets and agriculture around the _____.

diversification

scientists

seeds

collaboration

renaissance

exchange

rice

invasive

Columbian

Discovery

globe

potatoes