

Origin of Foods from Plants and Animals



Long ago, people could eat only what they grew or what they could catch. They couldn't just go to the grocery store and buy whatever was on the shelf. In 1492, when Christopher Columbus came to America, he saw plants and animals he had never seen before. He took them back with him to Europe. Columbus' trips were the beginning of an exciting time in the history of food. People would be able to taste different foods; foods with flavors, shapes, and textures they had never experienced before!

It is estimated that nearly two-thirds of the foods consumed today are from the "New World" or the Americas. Right this minute, people all over the world are eating, or shopping for food or preparing food to be eaten. It is a way of life. Everyone must eat to survive. What are they eating? Often times that depends on where they live. What plants and animals live in that area? What kinds of transportation are available to the area? Can planes, ships, or trucks deliver food that was grown in another part of the world?

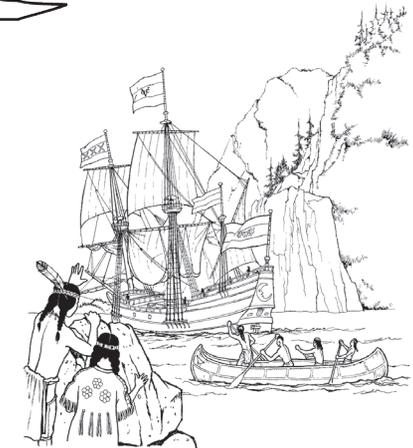
What foods have you consumed this week? Where did they originally come from? Where are they grown today? The world map on this page shows the origin of many of today's common foods. What percentage of what you consumed came from the "New World?" to learn more about the origin of our farmed crops and animals, visit the Food Timeline web page (www.foodtimeline.org).

Where in the World....

Look at the following New and Old World foods and then locate where they originated on the world map like the examples of chocolate, wheat and grapes.

Old World Foods

Broccoli, Northern European Coast
 Carrots, Central Asia (Afghanistan)
 Cattle, Turkey
 Coffee, Ethiopia
 Egg Plant, India
 Grape, Turkey
 Lettuce, Asia Minor (Iran & Turkistan)
 Okra, Africa
 Onions, Pakistan
 Oranges, Pakistan
 Peas, Northwest India & Afghanistan)
 Pigs, South West Asia
 Radish, China
 Rice, India
 Sheep & Goats, Middle East (Iraq, Iran)
 Soybean, Northeastern China
 Sugar Beets, Europe (Austria)
 Wheat, Turkey
 Yams, Africa



New World Foods

Avocado, Southern Mexico
 Beans, Central America
 Cacao (chocolate), Southern Mexico
 Corn, Central America
 Cranberry, Northeastern America
 Peanuts, South America (Bolivia)
 Peppers, Central America (Peru)
 Pineapple, South America (Brazil & Paraguay)
 Potatoes, South America (Bolivia)
 Pumpkins, Mexico
 Squash (summer), South America
 Strawberries, North America (Pennsylvania)
 Sunflowers, North America (Nebraska)
 Tomatoes, Southern Mexico
 Vanilla, Southern Mexico

