Inquiry Statement: Describe the results of the Columbian Exchange.

Part 1: Text Analysis

Directions: Read each excerpt. After each document, answer the question using the space provided. Write your answer in complete sentences.

Document A: The Great Disease Migration

Context: Around the five hundredth anniversary of Columbus’s arrival in North America, a renewed interest in the effects of the Columbian Exchange was sparked. The disaster began almost as soon as Columbus arrived, fueled mainly by smallpox and measles. Smallpox—the disease that so ravaged Tenochtitlan on the eve of Cortes's final siege-- was a particularly efficient killer. Alfred Crosby, author of "The Columbian Exchange," likens its effect on American history to "that of the Black Death on the history of the Old World." Smallpox made its American debut in 1519, when it struck the Caribbean island of Santo Domingo, killing up to half of the indigenous population. From there outbreaks spread across the Antilles islands, onto the Mexican mainland, through the Isthmus of Panama and into South America. The Spaniards were moving in the same direction, but their diseases often outpaced them. "Such is the communicability of smallpox and the other eruptive fevers," Crosby notes, "that any Indian who received news of the Spaniards could also have easily received the infection."

Source: “The Great Disease Migration” Geoffrey Cowley, in Newsweek Fall 1991

1. Based on the excerpt, describe the results of the Columbian Exchange.

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

2. What evidence did you use from the document, context and/or source to make your claim?

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________________
**Document B**: Excerpt from *History of the Indies* by Bartolomé de las Casas

**Context**: Bartolomé de las Casas was a 16th century Spanish historian and Catholic priest. He later became the Bishop of Chiapas, a Spanish colony in the South of what is now Mexico. He was given the office of “Protector of the Indians” and reported to the Spanish kings, Carlos V and Felipe II.

In this excerpt las Casas discusses the work of male miners in the Spanish colonies of North America.

…mountains are stripped from top to bottom and bottom to top a thousand times; they dig, split rocks, move stones, and carry dirt on their backs to wash it in the rivers, while those who wash gold stay in the water all the time with their backs bent so constantly it breaks them; and when water invades the mines, the most arduous task of all is to dry the mines by scooping up pansful of water and throwing it up outside…

**Source**: *History of the Indies* by Bartolomé de las Casas

1. Based on the excerpt, describe the results of the Columbian Exchange.

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________


2. What evidence did you use from the document, context and/or source to make your claim?

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________

__________________________________________________________________________________________