

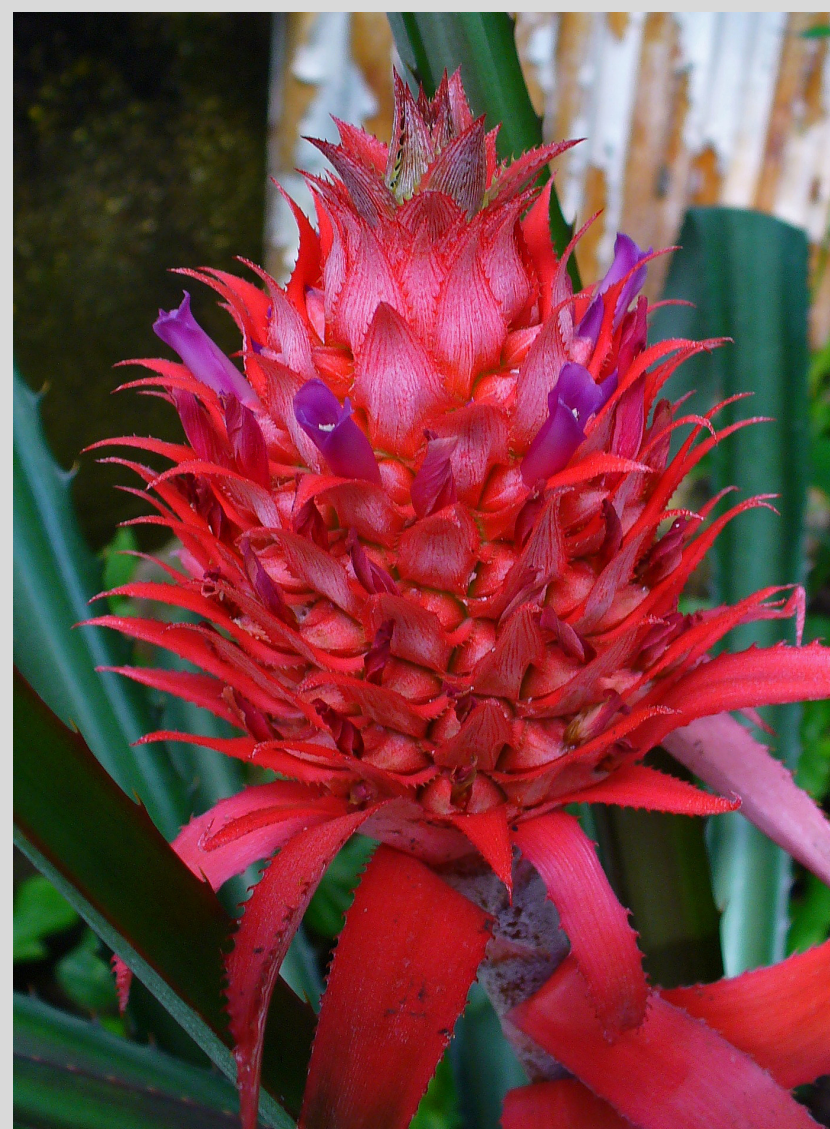
Pineapple and the Columbian Exchange

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ABSTRACT

The **Columbian Exchange** is the term used to describe the trade of goods between the old and new world, with one of these goods being the **pineapple**. We researched where it was traded, the social, cultural, and environmental effects of this trade, and its lasting effects on the current world. We found that it became a symbol of **power**, and were surprised to find that fruit could become such a statement in society. These findings show the impacts of the Columbian Exchange and the unintended consequences of agriculture today.

Figure 1: Pink Pineapple



FROM NEW TO OLD

The pineapple was first “discovered” by **Christopher Columbus** on his second voyage to the New World. The pineapple was sighted on the Caribbean island, **Santa Maria de Guadalupe**, though it was believed to have originated in the **Amazon** heartland (Paraguay and Brazil). The Pineapple traveled to Europe, and today can be found growing in the Pacific Islands, China, Africa, Brazil, the United States, and the Caribbean.

Figure 2: Map of Trade

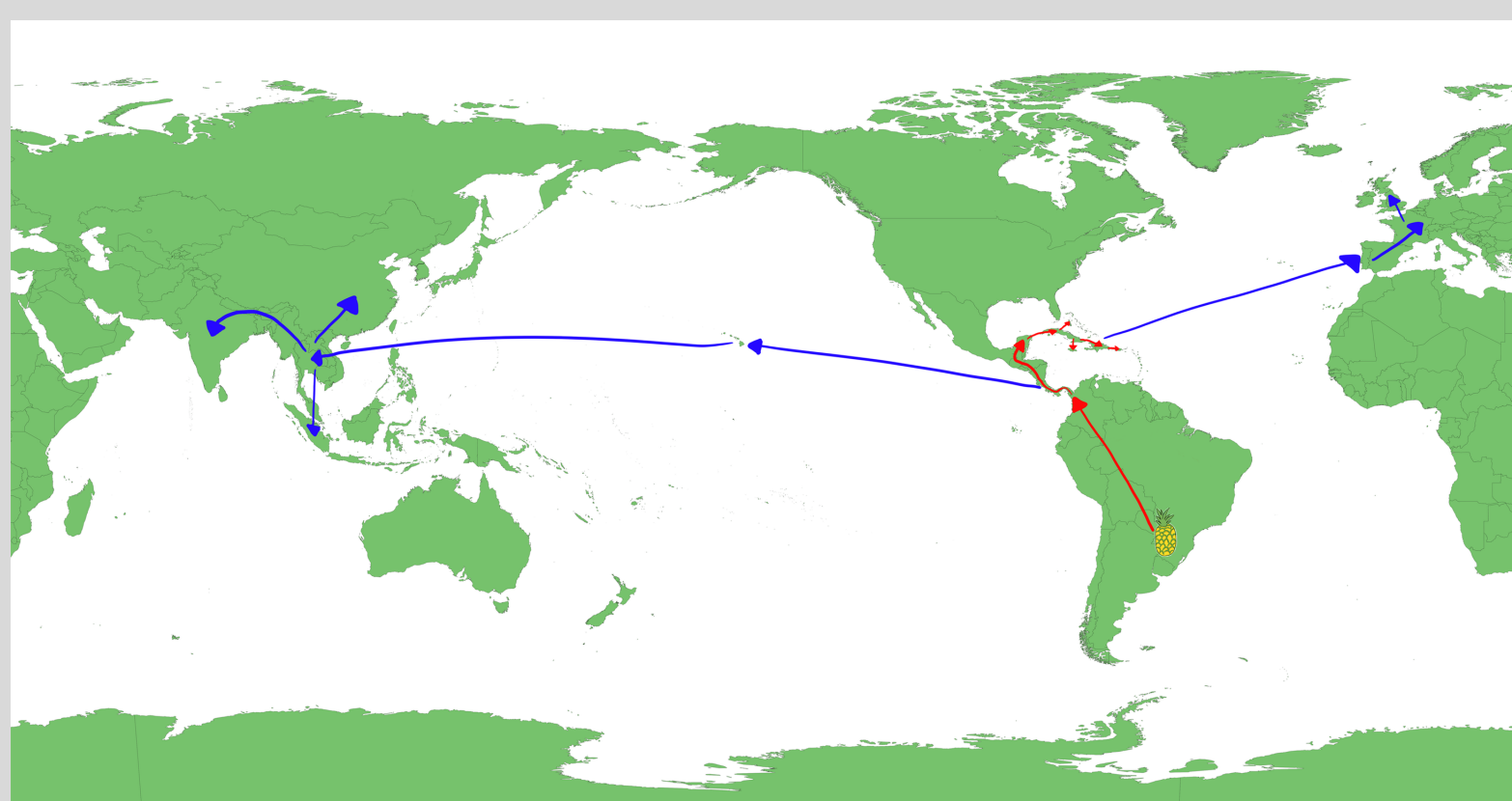


Figure 3: Pineapple Illustration



PATH OF TRADE

The pineapple traveled on three main **sea routes**. The first route was from Brazil to **Saint Helena** which is the route the Portuguese took the pineapple in 1505. The second route was to **Madagascar** in 1548, and the third route was to **South Asia** in 1550. This third route was established by the **Spanish** as pacific transit and it also linked Mexico with the Philippines. The pineapple then moved to **Java** in 1599. Later, in 1602, the pineapple was cultivated in Portuguese Guinea on the coast of West Africa which, at the time, was the center of slave trade. The pineapple began to spread across the South Pacific when Spain and Portugal reached the western Pacific Islands. It then moved to Singapore in 1637, Taiwan in 1650, but the Dutch took the pineapple from Java to Cape of Good Hope in 1650 as well, and finally, Assam, Burma, and Thailand in 1700.

IMPACT

In the “Old World” the pineapple was expensive so it was seen as a **luxury** for the upper class. The only people who were able to eat pineapple were **royalty**, such as King Ferdinand of Spain who described pineapple as, “the most delicious fruit in the world”. Pineapple also had a major cultural impact in Hawaii. Although the pineapple did not originate in the islands, because of the establishment of **Dole Pineapple** in Hawaii, the pineapple has become a symbol of **Hawaiian culture**.

IMPORTANCE

Today, the Dole Pineapple canning plant in **Hua Hin**, Thailand has over 2,500 employees and cans 70 tons of pineapple per hour. This canning plant is supplied by small farmers and lots of land was cleared so the **canning** plant could take place of the forest. This canning plant made the whole city more **industrialized**. When Dole bought out the old company, this cause the pineapple production there to be much bigger, however, because of this, there is a labor shortage.

VALUE

There are over **50 different varieties** of pineapple, but the most common type is the one that is eaten. The pineapple is made of 8% to 85% water, 0.4% protein, 0.5% ash, 0.1% fat, and 15% sugar with 12% being sucrose. The Native Americans believed that it aided digestion. The environmental impacts today of growing this crop are **negative**. Costa Rica is facing **water pollution** from the amounts of **chemicals** needed to produce this crop. Pineapple growing has turned into an industry resulting in many jobs, though wages are dropping.

Figure 4: Pineapple Growing



REFERENCES



<https://goo.gl/HVX7fv>