

## **Numeracy: The Impact of the Columbian Exchange on Native American Populations**

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This unit introduces middle school students to the concept of numeracy through the analysis and comparison of data representing Native American populations before and after the Columbian Exchange. Students will examine information and statistics on populations and determine whether the numbers provided are credible or if there is more to the data that is not explicitly represented. Students will use various primary sources – such as journal entries and mission records – and secondary sources to see how these numbers were created. The goals of the unit are for students to understand the impact of the Columbian Exchange on Native American population while thinking critically about the statistical data available.

This unit can be used in social studies or English Language Arts classrooms with students in grades six through eight.