Ms. Nordstrom Corey Dew UVM 1/ 26/ 15 Short Response Paper #2 Looking back, a lot happened during the Columbian exchange that affected the way we live now. There was trade, slaves, and different lands from left and right were discovering new crops. This is enough for me to agree that the exchange of foodstuffs between the old and new worlds was equally beneficial to all populations.

The Columbian exchange had trade ranging from foodstuffs to slaves, gunpowder, manufactured goods, and even livestock. These and more were traded during the exchange, but one food that showed to be an example of benefit to all populations is maize. This is true because the United States supplies most of the populated world with maize as pointed out in “Maize: Gift from America’s first peoples” by Walton C. Galinat. This causes a cycle of benefit because as the United States receives money from the areas they are supplying with maize then those other areas will be able to live off one of the four food plant staples. The United States supplies Japan, Mexico, Taiwan, South Korea, and even the Soviet Union with maize so that beneficial nutrition is supplied to all.

Another asset from the Columbian exchange that benefitted everyone was sugar cane. Slaves were sent to Antigua to work on sugar cane plantations in 1823. Even though this may sound bad, in the long run this ended up helping the world benefit greatly harvested sugar cane. If it wasn’t for this many of the foods and treats that we eat would not be as flavorful or sweet as pointed out in Amy Truebeck’s lecture. An example of this would be chocolate because chocolate is naturally bitter when first made, but when mixed with sugar cane becomes a lot more enjoyable for people all around. In a sense you can say that the Columbian exchange helped people benefit by helping them taste the sweeter things in life.

The Columbian exchange had positive and negatives to it, but most of it helped benefit the world in the long run. It’s enough to make one wonder how life would be if the Columbian exchange never happened?