Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Read the pieces of evidence below. You will be using these articles to complete your chart. Highlight, underline, and annotate (write notes) as you find important information.

Environmental Changes:

The European presence in America spurred countless changes in the environment, negatively affecting native animals as well as people. The popularity of beaver-trimmed hats in Europe, coupled with Indians’ desire for European weapons, led to the **overhunting** of beavers in the Northeast. Soon, beavers were extinct in New England, New York, and other areas. With their loss came the loss of beaver ponds, which had served as habitats for fish as well as water sources for deer, moose, and other animals. Furthermore, Europeans introduced **pigs**, which they allowed to forage in forests and other wildlands. Pigs consumed the foods on which deer and other indigenous species depended, resulting in scarcity of the game native peoples had traditionally hunted.

European ideas about owning land as private property clashed with natives’ understanding of land use. Native peoples did not believe in private ownership of land; instead, they viewed land as a resource to be held in common for the benefit of the group. Colonizers erected fields, fences, and other means of demarcating **private property**. Native peoples who moved seasonally to take advantage of natural resources now found areas off limits, claimed by colonizers

Disease:

Perhaps the single greatest impact of European colonization on the North American environment was the introduction of disease. **Microbes** to which native inhabitants had no immunity caused sickness and death everywhere Europeans settled. Along the New England coast between 1616 and 1618, epidemics claimed the lives of 75 percent of the native people. In the 1630s, half of the Huron and Iroquois people living near the Great Lakes died of **smallpox**. The very young and the very old were the most vulnerable and had the highest mortality rates. The loss of the older generation meant the loss of knowledge and tradition, while the death of children only compounded the trauma.

Some native peoples perceived disease as a weapon used by hostile spiritual forces, and they went to war to exorcise the disease from their midst. These “**mourning wars**” in eastern North America were designed to gain captives who would either be adopted or ritually tortured and executed to assuage the anger and grief caused by loss.

New Plants:

European expansion in the Americas led to an unprecedented movement of plants across the Atlantic. A prime example is **tobacco**, which became a valuable export as the habit of smoking took hold in Europe. Another example is **sugar**. Columbus brought sugarcane to the Caribbean on his second voyage from Spain in 1493, and thereafter a wide variety of other herbs, flowers, seeds, and roots.

Notably, Europeans traveled to America to discover new medicines. The task of cataloging the new plants found there led to the emergence of the science of **botany**. Early botanists included the English naturalist **Sir Hans Sloane**, who traveled to Jamaica in 1687 and there recorded hundreds of new plants.