CATTLE are common term for the domesticated herbivorous mammals that constitute the genus Bos, of the family Bovidae, and that are of great importance to humans because of the meat, milk, leather, glue, gelatin, and other items of commerce they yield. Modern cattle are divided into two species: B. taurus, which originated in Europe and includes most modern breeds of dairy and beef cattle, and B. indicus, which originated in India and is characterized by a hump at the withers. The latter are now widespread in Africa and Asia, with lesser numbers imported to North America (primarily in the southern United States), Central America, and northern and central South America.

The cattle were another very important animal to the New World. They were brought to Mexico in 1521. They also were brought by Columbus on his second voyage in 1493. They were both domestic and wild. Many of the arriving colonists were already cattleman so they adapted well. The cattle were killed for their hides and also their meat. Their hides were shipped back to Europe and sold. Cattle were one of the biggest assets of the new world because of the exports and the meat. Their meat supplied the explorers with the nourishment they needed. One of their downfalls was they destroyed the native’s crops because of trampling and grazing.

GUNPOWDER is a pyrotechnic composition, an explosive mixture of sulfur, charcoal and potassium nitrate that burns rapidly, producing volumes of hot gas which can be used as a propellant in firearms and fireworks.

Most sources credit the discovery of gunpowder to Chinese alchemists in the 9th century searching for an elixir of immortality. Between the 11th and 13th centuries, contemporary documentation shows gunpowder beginning to spread from China to the rest of the world, begging with the Islamic world and then medieval Europe.

Guns and knives facilitated hunting and fishing for the Native Americans. While Natives already had knives, what they used were very malleable because they were made of obsidian and could not be used over and over like the European knives made of steel and iron. Before guns, spears, hatchets and bows and arrows were the most common used weapons of the Native Americans. A bow and arrow allowed for hunting from greater distances, but they did not do the same amount of damage as a gun. Some animals required more than one arrow to be killed. When Natives witnessed the destructiveness of guns they realized that they could use them for hunting larger animals. Natives now because of the migration of Europeans also had horses to ride. Natives could now chase down large herds of animals quicker and with the guns, they could kill them quicker. Weapons had such a profound impact on the Native American culture that they soon became the most widely traded goods between Europeans and Natives. Natives cherished weapons because of the hunter gatherer society they lived in. Europeans had an abundance of weapons and felt that parting with them for Indian goods such as labor or crops was worth the cost. Europeans used the natives fascination with firearms and weapons to exploit them. Europeans had such a comparative advantage in manufactured goods, that Natives became dependant on them for stronger weapons, thus allowing the Europeans.