

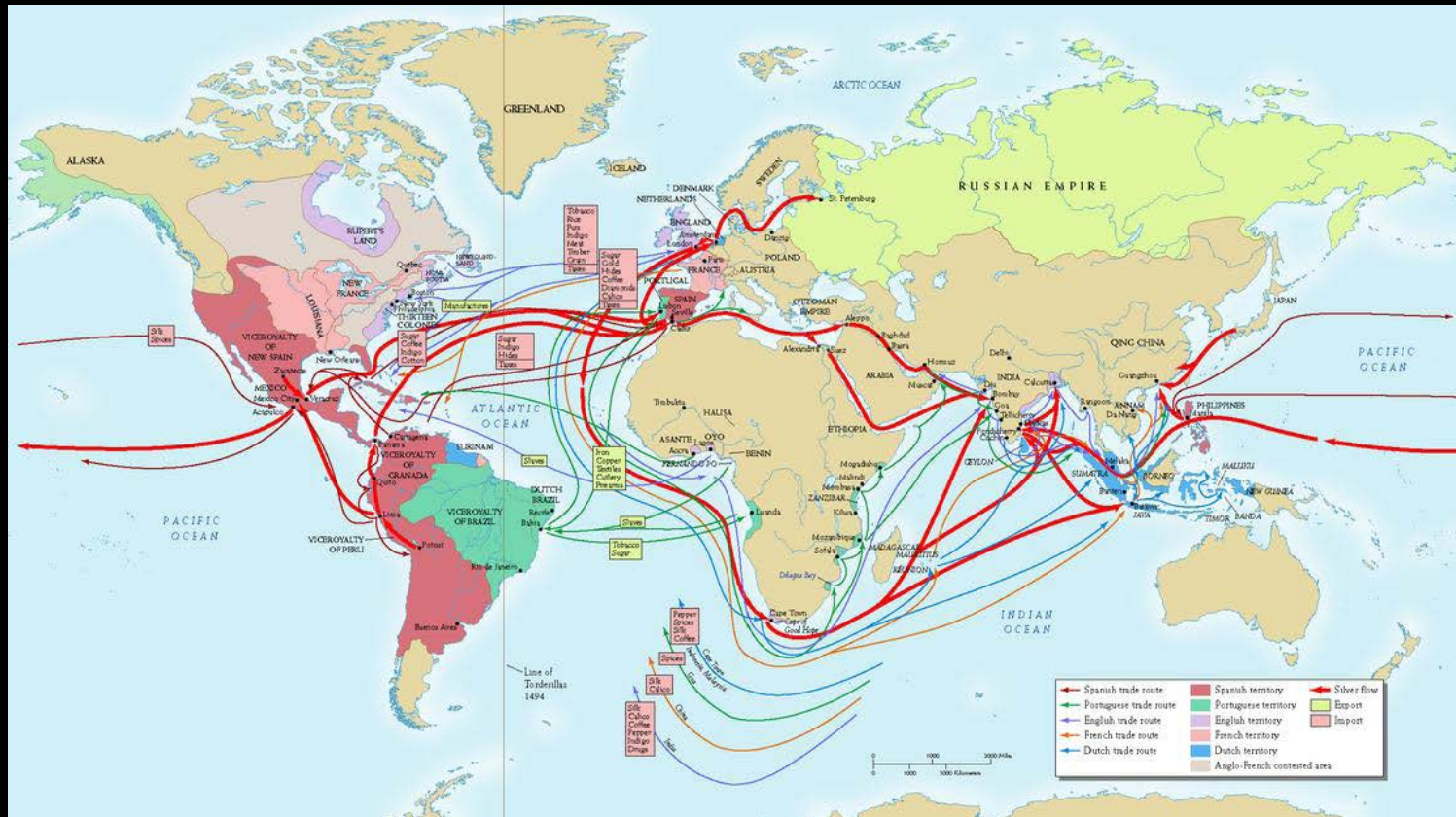
# Cabinets of Curiosity

# What are Cabinets of Curiosity?





# Background Context



-Renaissance

-The world was expanding due to trade

-Europe obsessed with collecting (particularly Britain)

# Why?

- Precursor to museums**
- Finding pleasure in small objects**
- Form of domestic entertainment and pride**
- Highly customized and self referential (storytelling)**

# Who?

## **MONARCHS AND ARISTOCRATS**

- Earliest to embrace collecting**
- mostly collected things of value (e.g. treasure)**

## **MIDDLE CLASS BRITAIN**

- things that could be afforded from merchants and travellers**
- Items collected for their intrigue rather than their value**

# The John Tradescants

**“The Elder”**



**“The Younger”**



- Royal botanist to Charles I**
- The “Ark” (the first cabinet of curiosity)**
- Musaeum Tradescantianum  
(First purpose-built museum)**
- Elias Ashmole (Ashmolean Museum)**

# The John Tradescants



# The John Tradescants



# The John Tradescants



# John Bargrave

**-Traveler**

**-Collector**

**-Author**

**-Canon of Canterbury**

# John Bargrave



# John Bargrave



# John Bargrave



# John Bargrave



# Common Trickery



# The Enlightenment killed Cabinets of Curiosity

# Contemporary Cabinets



# Contemporary Cabinets



# Contemporary Cabinets



# Contemporary Cabinets



# Franklin Delano Roosevelt



# Artist Interpretation

Trace Nelson



# Artist Interpretation

Mark Dion



# Artist Interpretation

Mark Dion



# Artist Interpretation

Mark Dion



# Artist Interpretation

**Magnificent Obsessions - Barbican Gallery, UK**



# Artist Interpretation

**Magnificent Obsessions - Barbican Gallery, UK**

