

PROJECT TITLE: Besides “saving” Virginia what effects did tobacco have on the economies, politics, and culture of America and Europe?	
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SCHOLARSHIP & RESEARCH

Primary Investigative Question(s) – Besides “saving” Virginia what effects did tobacco have on the economies, politics, and cultures of America and Europe? Virginia students are taught the importance of tobacco as a cash crop, yet very few learn about the attempts to abolish the crop and its significance as a taxable product as it became the staple of the Virginia economy. From its beginnings as a medicinal herb to its use as currency in the colonial marketplace, its importance spread from Virginia to the other Southern colonies, and then to European, African, and Asian nations. Tobacco’s discovery during Columbus’ explorations and its role in the global market allowed it to be the first North American crop to be imported and exported internationally and led to the implementation of laws regulating the growth and sale of the crop. These lessons will illustrate how tobacco became a preeminent crop in the transatlantic trade and how tobacco found its place in the world stage in spite of its controversial beginnings.

1. Contextual Essay –

Tobacco “saved” Virginia. It is taught in every Virginia elementary classroom, but it is actually a story of a crop that almost was not. Besides “saving” Virginia what effects did tobacco have on the economies, politics, and culture of America and Europe? Virginia was not providing the riches of the West Indies, and was constantly being reinforced with people because of high death rates. Many question why Britain continued to send people to a colony that appeared to be failing. The answer lies in the crop that King James I thought reviling. Books were written opposing it; legislation was passed both for and against it, but tobacco as a cash crop took hold nevertheless and grew abundantly, bringing job opportunities to Virginia and taxes for Britain. “Taking a specific commodity such as tobacco and tracing the diffusion of consumption and the transformation in production and distribution to meet demand has emerged as an important way to study Atlantic history in the early modern period” {Shammas, 2008}.

There is no record of tobacco being grown in Europe or Africa before the late 1500’s. It is widely believed that Christopher Columbus brought the first tobacco back from the New World when he returned from Spain in 1493. It spread quickly as it was believed to have medicinal qualities. European nations were importing most of their medicinal herbs from China and were looking for anything to trade, or substitute with, goods being purchased there {Goodman, 1994}. The Spaniards immediately began cultivating tobacco in their colonies in the West Indies and Brazil and its popularity spread quickly.

Portuguese traders introduced tobacco to Africa and India, and soon almost all trading nations were familiar with it. Spanish and Portuguese traders traded tobacco in China and Japan, who quickly became a population of smokers {Gilman and Xun, 2004}. By 1565 tobacco explorer Sir John Hawkins introduced it in England when he returned from a voyage to Florida, but it was Sir Walter Raleigh’s second attempt at colonization in Virginia during the reign of Elizabeth I, that popularized tobacco and made it fashionable to use in public {Ravenholt, 1990}. Once tobacco became popular in the courts, it spread to the masses. Tobacco parlors, rooms

where groups of people would smoke or inhale the smoke, became popular throughout Europe. “Smoking was a cure, but it soon became a passion” {Gilman and Xun, 2004}.

Tobacco’s immediate glory in England was short lived, and almost blocked. Queen Elizabeth’s successor had opposing views on tobacco. James I wrote, in *A Counterblast to Tobacco*, that tobacco was “loathsome to the eye, hateful to the nose, harmful to the brain.....dangerous to the lungs” {King James I, 1604}. Trying to stifle the use of tobacco in England and her colonies without actually outlawing it, *His Counterblast to Tobacco*, first published in 1604, was one of the first publications to publicly oppose tobacco. A year later he held a conference at Oxford in opposition to tobacco, where, to prove his point, he showed the blackened brains of smokers {Ravenholt, 1990}. When the *Counterblast* did not work, King James I initiated a small tax, trying to discourage its use, but smuggling increased and number of smokers increased. Perhaps tobacco usage would have lessened if more people could read, or if tax revenues had not been such good incentive to grow and sell it, because by the early 1600’s tobacco had progressed from a medicine to a recreational drug, and was widely used over much of Europe. Tobacco was smoked, sniffed, eaten, and sometimes used as a poultice, gained in popularity as it allegedly cured scurvy, headaches, the plague, and tuberculosis. It was popular with the rich and the poor, both at home and in smoking parlors.

Jamestown’s settlement in 1607 opened up a wealth of natural resources and an unsurpassed ability to farm large acreage for the land-strapped British island. The original colonists found Indians smoking tobacco. In 1612 John Rolfe introduced a sweeter form of tobacco in Virginia that he imported from Trinidad, whose tobacco was considered superior to the Indian variety. Rolfe had tried the Indian variety planted around the Jamestown area and found it bitter. Virginia’s soil was excellent for growing tobacco and Rolfe found a market for his product in England. His marriage to Pocahontas in 1614 led to eight years of relative peace with the Indians. It also allowed time for increased land holdings and the necessary time for tobacco to take root, grow, and gather markets. The death rate continued to be high, so indentured servants were purchased for labor. That same year the plague hit England and doctors confirmed that tobacco users had lower rates and tobacco usage extended to the poor in England notwithstanding the high prices {Farenholt, 1990}. The timing was ideal for tobacco exports to England.

It did not take tobacco long to become the first North American commodity to be internationally traded on the global market; years before tea, coffee, or sugar was trading on the world market. England’s realized the demand for tobacco was already established, and was being met with tobacco that was being grown in Spanish settlements in the West Indies and South America {Hanna, 1934}. Tobacco usage continued to spread across England, Spain, and France as more and more people purchased tobacco. At a time when countries such as China, Russia, and Mongolia unsuccessfully passed laws that forbade its usage upon penalty of death, British laws recognized a commodity. Other countries, such as France, allowed it to be grown, but not imported. But laws forced upon farmers were difficult to enforce {Borio, 1993-2007} and tobacco usage continued to spread as many people still convinced it was a medicine. By 1616 the Virginia colony was producing so much tobacco the settlement was starving. Governor Thomas Dale was compelled to enforce a 1615 law that required that no more than one out of three acres be devoted to growing tobacco. His successor ignored the law, and people continued to suffer from hunger while tobacco acreage increased. To ward off starvation, new laws were passed defining growing food crops a prerequisite to growing tobacco {Hanna, 1934}.

The English desired tobacco and Virginia could provide it. Virginia, who had no gold or silver, presented a new crop which became known as “green gold” and its success was apparent by 1617 as Virginia began exporting large amounts of tobacco. King James’ longing for profit won over personal mind-set. King James recognized that Britain would be freed from purchasing tobacco from European markets, while simultaneously raising tax revenue. So,

despite his hatred of tobacco, King James I permitted tobacco crops in Virginia. England enjoyed the tax revenue, paid in the form of duties and patent fees, and consumers around the world wanted the tobacco.

Virginia's success became apparent as Rolfe began exporting more and more tobacco. The Virginia colony produced enough tobacco for export around the world. Its location across the Atlantic Ocean also became valuable. The Virginia Atlantic seaboard could be used as a half-way point to the Orient for the British based East India Company to procure goods from India. England could now sell tobacco to Europe, Africa, and Asia and purchase goods to sell within England and throughout her colonies {Beer, 1922}. Virginia was now a part of the global market. In addition to tobacco, Virginia could supply raw materials, such as lumber, so Britain could dissolve the need to purchase Russian goods, or timber from Denmark and Germany. England discovered new exports in the form of Virginia's natural resources, which could be shipped with the tobacco crop. Tobacco weighed little, making it less costly to ship, and because more produce could fit on a ship, it brought more profit than any other item in Virginia {Herndon, 1957}. Tobacco helped in the process of building an empire: Great Britain would procure stronger ships and have a more forceful navy which would be a byproduct of increased trade, especially exports {Beer, 1922}.

Year	Colonial Tobacco Imports to England (includes Virginia from 1612 and Bermuda from 1615)	European Tobacco Imports to England
1616	2,300	52,673
1617	19,388	50,906
1618	41,728	42,871
1623	134,607	66,877
1624	202,962	63,497

Chart created from information in Beer, 1922

By 1614 England had 7,000 different shops selling tobacco related items, mostly promoting them for medicinal purposes! Men and women alike began using tobacco as a recreational drug. Virginia exports grew quickly because of consumer demand, aided by the Spanish declaration that no tobacco could be planted in their settlements in South America, including Venezuela {Goodman, 2004}. By 1618 England was importing equal amounts of tobacco from Virginia and other European countries, enjoying the duties it was collecting. By the early 1620's England begins to establish settlements further south in the Caribbean Islands, listing tobacco as the crop of choice to plant. This led to English plantings in Nicaragua and Bermuda and Antigua {Goodman, 1994}. The government wanted its share of the market! Virginia's House of Burgesses, at its opening session in 1619, recognized the importance of tobacco by assigning its first order of business to set the minimum cost per pound of tobacco no less than 3 schillings per pound {Borio, 1993-2007}. The Virginia government knew that, stated in colonial charters, Virginia and Bermuda were exempted from import taxes for the first seven years of export tobacco taxes in excess of 5 percent. Virginia's exemption had expired in 1619, and Bermuda's would expire 3 years later {Beer, 1922}. By 1623 Virginia, with the help of Bermuda, surpassed the tobacco imports of any other European country.

In 1621 the Dutch became one of the first nations to place a duty on tobacco according to the type of tobacco imported. Virginia was assigned a middle-grade duty, higher than that of the Caribbean and less than the high quality Venezuela leaves. The Spanish Netherlands followed suit. The duties remained small, keeping consumption high {Gray, 1949}. By 1622 tobacco dominated Virginia's economy as the "staple of the Chesapeake colonies, and its phenomenal rise is one of the most remarkable aspects of our colonial history" {Mitchell, 1983}. In 1622

King James gave Virginia Company exclusive rights to importing tobacco to England, the first of many times this will happen. Within months Parliament voted to allow the monopoly to continue, and exclude all imports of Spanish tobacco products. As stated above, Spain had actually helped England with the Spanish laws denying the planting of tobacco in their South American colonies. Tobacco prices varied from year to year depending on the amount planted, the weather that particular year, and the taxes imposed on it from year to year.

In 1625 Charles I succeeded his father as king, and continued the policy of maintaining a colonial tobacco monopoly. Recognizing the colonial dependency on tobacco, he encouraged the diversification into pitch and tar, and planting vines. In 1630 Charles issued a proclamation forbidding mainland Britain from growing tobacco and again gave Virginia the monopoly on British tobacco imports. This assured Virginia's dominance in the tobacco market {Beer, 1922}. In return, the colonies could not purchase outside of this arrangement: Virginia sold all tobacco to England, and England provided all goods for Virginia {Borio, 1993-2007}. England was selling goods to planters in America and America was responding as a consumer {Shammas, 2008}. Manufactured goods were in demand and tobacco was as good as currency. Manufactured goods and wives could be purchased, indentured servants brought to Virginia, lines of credit extended and paid, and even fines could be handled by trading in tobacco. Tobacco replaced currency in the colonies until the end of the colonial period when the American win in the Revolutionary War united the colonies as an independent country.

From 1660 – 1690 colonial America grew into colonies, along the Atlantic seaboard from South Carolina to Massachusetts and tobacco flourished. By 1670 enough tobacco was available for 25 percent of the English population to have access to it {Goodman, 1994}. Trade among colonies began hindering British profits. Beginning in 1651, Britain began enforcing Navigation Acts that requiring all goods be transported on English ships. It limited the amount of tobacco planted and tried to curtail goods shipped between the colonies. England understood the value of taxing tobacco. "Tobacco was the source of income for the government which taxed it, the colonists who grew it, and the shipping company which carried it, and the tobacco trade became a factor in England's foreign policy" {Best, 1979}. At the same time many European and Asian countries, including Russia and India, passed additional ineffective laws continuing to prohibit its use (Beer, 1922}. Russia finally bowed to pressure within its country and changed its tobacco policies in 1697. That year Czar Peter allowed a Dutch trader to bring tobacco into Russia and collected a tax. In April 1698 English merchants speculated that there would be much Russian demand and obtained a 7 year exclusive contract to sell 3,000 pounds of tobacco by September, 1699 increasing thereafter. Even more favorable, England obtained the right to purchase products within Russia without paying a duty! The Russian Company of England was formed. Now Britain needed large amounts of tobacco from Virginia to fill the quotas.

Small farms turned to plantations. Tobacco acreage continued to increase with more tobacco on the market, the prices fell. Regulation began to follow tobacco crops. Taxes were being collected on both sides of the Atlantic. Tobacco acreage, having already spread to Maryland, continued its expansion westward into Kentucky, North Carolina, and Tennessee. Britain added additional regulations trying to stabilize the price. The Navigation Acts of 1660 obligated the colonies to ship all tobacco to England or its colonies. That same year King Charles II outlawed growing in England (again) to preserve tax revenue from Virginia {Borio, 1973-2007}. Tobacco prices continued to fall. Laws were passed to decrease the amount of tobacco grown, trying monitor an increase in price. To compensate for low tobacco prices, Maryland passed a tobacco inspection act in 1640 that is the model for tobacco inspections today. The inspection act regulated types of tobacco and how much tobacco went into a hogshead, the measurement for the sale of tobacco {Hanna, 1934}. Virginia followed suit.

Tobacco sustained and planters continued to act as consumers in the marketplace. Carole Shammas argues that the plantation system grew because the planters were purchasing items

such as tobacco, sugar, porcelain, tea, etc.; items often considered luxuries in Europe. She also argues that their importance in the transatlantic trade have not been given enough attention even as their expenditures changed the way Europeans thought and ultimately consumed {2008}. Large planters wanted nice things that Virginia and the colonies could not provide and used their tobacco as purchase power.

As plantations grew in the late 1600's, there was a decrease in numbers of indentured servants as a labor source, and the slave system began in earnest. Slaves outnumbered indentured servants four to one by the late 1600's {Mitchell, 1983}. At the same time tobacco production in Virginia moved westward out of the Tidewater and into the Piedmont Region, partially because tobacco was so hard on the soil and farmers did not know good farming techniques, crop rotations, and other methods of taking care of soil. Tobacco exhausted soil with in three plantings, and many farms acquired additional land by convincing Indians to sell their property in exchange for trinkets. This method of acquiring land led to several Indian battles, moving more and more Indians off native lands (Borio, 1993-2007). More land meant more labor, which was provided by England by way of Africa. Gloria Sesso described the move to a slave system as "the product of an extensive plantation system" and "the sheer availability of African slaves and the lack of alternatives." This led to Virginia's law being codified in 1701 so that there was a definite division between a slave and its owner {Sesso, 2008}. Indentured servitude was no longer profitable and America would have to continue looking across the Atlantic Ocean for their labor source for tobacco fields and other crops.

Tobacco needed labor and Africa had an available, affordable labor source. Much labor was needed in the colonies for tobacco production. Tobacco exhausted soil within three plantings. Increased land holdings led to a need for more slavery, so slavery spread across the South in areas where tobacco and other crops were being planted. England became a middle man in the slave trade, and profits from the sale of slaves became a large part of transatlantic trade. Britain provided the ships and captains with goods to sell in Africa, the captains sailed to Africa, and exchanged goods for slaves. British ships then traveled to the Americas where the ships' captains exchanged slaves for goods, and returned to England for the process to begin again. Again, tobacco was one of several crops that were sustaining the trading practices, and the numbers of slaves continued to increase in the colonies as more and more land was acquired.

The early 1700's saw the British and the Dutch with a monopoly on Atlantic trade, which continued into the eighteenth century. Eighty-five percent of imports arriving in London from the colonies contained tobacco and sugar {Shammas, 2008}. England needed the tobacco imports. In 1763 England clashed with the colonies. In that year King William III, usurped colonial law and declared the Two Penny Act, which set the price of tobacco, void. The case set precedence because of royal interference with colonial law. In reality the law had previously expired, but several ministers sued for back pay based on the low price of tobacco. Patrick Henry argued against the back wages. He lost the case, but the reward awarded was minimal. Many people think the Two Penny Act was the first interference with colonial law that would lead up to the Revolutionary War {Borio, 1993-2007}.

The colonial period ended when the Americans triumphed in the Revolutionary war. The Louisiana Territory became a part of the United States, and more tobacco was grown. From the 1750's to the 1800's large warehouses were built in small towns to store the tobacco until it could be sold. A warehouse in a town encouraged many job opportunities in the form of auctioneers, tavern keepers, clothiers and tailors, printers, and many others. Small towns quickly became large cities as they became known as commercial tobacco centers.

In summary, tobacco played an important role in the success of the Virginia colony. King James I tried to prevent its growth with his *Counterblast* and early taxation, but the need for a successful crop, and the tax revenue it secured, led to tobacco becoming its own form of gold. Tobacco became a global crop as people from Europe and Asia sought it as a cure for

illnesses. This led to Virginia being partially responsible for the increased slave trade in the colonies as Virginia relied on slave labor on its plantations. Today Virginia continues to have an international role in tobacco production. Tobacco is currently the leading manufactured good in the Commonwealth of Virginia {Official Website}. It continues to be highly regulated, and like the opinion of King James in *His Counterblast to Tobacco*, it is still considered a vile weed by many. Tobacco represents a crop that was hated from its beginning, but had such high consumer demand and the ability to raise revenue for governments, that it thrived. More significantly, it provided a “cash crop” in Virginia at a time when Virginia was a struggling settlement and needed a “savior.” Its significance in history will not be forgotten.

Annotated Bibliography – References

NOTE: Full access to JSTOR articles need a subscription service, which is usually found at a major university. These articles were found using the libraries at the University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia.

Beer, George Louis, (1922) *The Origins of the British Colonial System 1578-1660*. The Macmillan Company, New York. Retrieved October 8, 2009 from <http://www.archive.org/details/originsofbritish00beeruoft>

The author counts Spain’s ability to gather wealth from the New World as one of the reasons that Britain became involved in the Americas. Finding little gold or silver in the Americans, England looked to Virginia as a source of supply of resources not available in Britain. Tobacco became a part of the empire because of its popularity in England and the continent of Europe and the soil in Virginia that was conducive to its growth. Duties, taxes, and laws regarding transportation and sale of tobacco dominate English theory until the Revolutionary War. Chapters are easily broken down into sections if students would like to read for additional material.

Best, Joel. {Spring, 1979} Economic Interests and the Vindication of the Deviance: Tobacco in Seventeenth Century Europe, *The Surgical Quarterly*, Vol. 20, No. 2 p. 171 – 182. Retrieved October 8, 2009 from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/4106194>

The author explains how tobacco, a deviant behavior, is excused as fine based upon the economic implications the relationship between Britain and Virginia shared. Though thought of as vile and unhealthy the profit that tobacco brought to the Crown made it lawful. Students will see how a profitable venture made something unhealthy accepted because of its demand and the ability to provide a profit for a fledgling colony.

Borio, Gene. {1993-2007} *The Tobacco Timeline*. Tobacco News and Publications, Retrieved November 10, 2009 from http://www.tobacco.org/resources/history/Tobacco_History.html

A timeline of tobacco events makes looking up and verifying tobacco facts relatively easy. Dividing chapter by centuries and bulleted facts makes for quick reading. The history of tobacco is traced from Indians usage in the New World through the twentieth century. This is a great supplement to use with other materials.

Fairholt, Frederick William {1859} *Tobacco: Its History and Associations, including An Account of the Plant and Its Manufacture; With Its Modes of Use In All Ages and Countries*, Chaplain and Hall, 193 Piccadilly, retrieved November 10, 2009 from Google Books

http://books.google.com/books?id=TJ0UAAAAAYAAJ&dq=tobacco+its+history+and+association+fairholt&printsec=frontcover&source=bl&ots=tMOIsJxEeQ&sig=csHEwJvnrvakB7R_sD-fJmBoVRA&hl=en&ei=ASQcS-yHO4XKsQOR6aXuCQ&sa=X&oi=book_result&ct=result&resnum=1&ved=0CAgQ6AEwAA#v=onepage&q=&f=false

The author grew up in and around London on a tobacco farm, surrounded by tobacco users, and states himself as a non-smoker. Fairholt tracts tobacco from the new world to England, and traces the effect that various laws and duties had upon the crop. He writes a very detailed chapter on the types of tobacco and how they were used throughout the centuries in the old and the new world. Students will enjoy the ease of reading and the many illustrations.

Gilman, Sander L. and Zhou Xun, (2004) *Smoke: A Global History of Smoking*, Reaktion Books, London, England.

The book begins with an overall introduction to tobacco in general, and then travels all over the world in the form of chapters. The authors have collected many primary documents in the forms of illustrations, paintings, and photographs, some in black and white and some in color, that would be an excellent resource for the classroom.

Goodman, Jordan, (1994). *Tobacco in History: The Culture of Dependence*, Routledge Publishing, London, England.

This book devotes the first chapters to the botany of tobacco which quickly turns to the history of tobacco explorations around the world. The author offers much insight into the manner Indians used tobacco and early exploration's effect on the crop. It is a great resource for students because it is easily researched by chapters.

Gray, Stanley and Wyckoff, V. J. July, (1949). *The International tobacco Trade in the Seventeenth Century*, Southern Economic Journal, Vol. 7, No. 1, pp 1-26, Retrieved October 27, 2009 from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3693764>

The author looks at trade during the seventeenth century as the catalyst for change between the middle ages and seventeenth century. It traces the unhealthy tobacco production in Europe and the Americas, and showed how global demand led to the increase in tobacco production and tobacco regulation. This article shows students the relationship between European and Asian neighbors with regards to tobacco imports and exports.

Hanna, John, (1934). *Agricultural Cooperation in Tobacco, Law and Contemporary Problems*, Vol. 1, No. 3, Agricultural Readjustment in the South: Cotton and Tobacco: A Symposium, June, pp 292-324, Duke University School of Law, Retrieved October 8, 2009 from <http://www.jstor.org/stable/1189464>

The author places tobacco as important as tea in colonial trading practices and for all purposed was popular in the colonies from Columbus onward. After the mid-1500's increase in explorations, tobacco use swelled in countries such as England and Spain. The difficulty of

initial cultivation and exploitation of the land is explored. The author uses maps and charts to show tobacco distribution and gives an accounting of tobacco organizations of the twentieth century. Students will find this article a good, easy to read source for early tobacco farming and its affect on European trade.

Herndon, Melvin {1957} *Tobacco in Colonial Virginia*, "The Sovereign Remedy," The Project Gutenberg eBook, Retrieved November 10, 2009 from <http://www.gutenberg.org/dirs/2/7/1/1/27117/27117-h/27117-h.htm>

The author wrote this pamphlet to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the settlement of Jamestown. An easy to read documentary, it traces tobacco in Virginia from its conception in 1612 by John Rolfe through the 1950's. Students will enjoy the many illustrations that accompany the article.

King James (1604). *His Counterblast to Tobacco*, London. Retrieved on October 8, 2009 from Virginia Memory at the Library of Virginia website http://www.viriniamemory.com/online_classroom/lesson_plans/tobacco_counterblast#lesson_imgs

King James I disliked tobacco and wrote *His Counterblast to Tobacco* to discourage British users of the substance. It was written in 1604 before tobacco became a major crop in the British colonies. Students may be surprised that the crop that became Virginia's "Savior" was once almost denied usage by the British king.

Mitchell, Robert D. (Sept., 1983). *American Origins and Regional Institutions: The Seventeenth-Century Chesapeake*, Annals of the Association of American Geographers, Vol. 73, No. 3, Retrieved November 4, 2009 from <http://www.jstor.org/pss/2562729>

Virginia was established to create profit for Great Britain. The successful institution of tobacco led to westward expansion, a much needed labor supply opening up the need for slaves, and the ability for land ownership. Students will examine the differences in geography and culture to understand why Jamestown grew into an agricultural society accepted slavery as a labor source.

Old Dominion. Official Website of the State of Virginia, NSTATE, LLC. Retrieved December 4, 2009 http://www.netstate.com/states/links/va_links.htm

This website lists facts about Virginia and was used to verify where tobacco stood in rankings. It is a great website for students to research Virginia state animals, trees, etc., and offers links to other sites, such as the United States Postal Service.

Ravenholt, R. T. (June, 1990). *Global Death March*, Population and Development Review, Vol. 16, No. 2, p 213 – 240. Retrieved November 10, 2009 from <http://www.jstor.org/pss/1971589>

The author has several sections on medicinal usage of tobacco in the sixteenth and seventeenth century while also describing the anti-tobacco movements of the eras. His examples of diseases

associated with tobacco fill chapter after chapter. Ravenholt traces tobacco related diseases from the early 1600's to the year 2000. Students will be surprised that ideas of many colonial doctors in the seventeenth century compare favorably with medical knowledge of the twentieth century.

Sesso, Gloria, {2008}. *Reflections on "Origins of American Slavery,"* America on the World Stage, The University of Illinois Press, p. 50 – 54

The author has her students read Phillip Morgan's essay *Origins of American Slavery*. She then presents primary documents related to slavery for her students to analyze. Through their discussions and document studies, students recognize that slavery was a global issue resulting from commercial interests. Her article also sets a good example of allowing students to use primary documents to draw conclusions and discussions occur.

Shammas, Carole, (2008}. *America, the Atlantic, and Global Consumer Demand, 1500-1800,* America on the World Stage, The University of Illinois Press, p. 2 -11.

The author argues that the contributions of new world commodities such as tobacco, sugar, tea, and others provided a market place for trade between the Americas, Europe, and Africa. Many of these items have not been considered relevant because they were viewed as extravagant purchases. Their role however, in the transatlantic market has been proven. Students will observe the relationship between the Atlantic Ocean as a highway for goods traveling between the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

2. **CLASSROOM PRACTICE**—See attached lesson *Tobacco: The Crop that Saved Virginia* and Attachments

Attachment A: Lesson Plan: *Tobacco: The Crop that Saved Virginia*

Attachment B: 9 Primary Documents

Attachment C: Worksheets

Attachment D: Tobacco Powerpoint

3. **Teaching Thesis & Guiding Questions:** Students in Virginia are taught as part of their history curriculum that tobacco was the “cash crop” that became the principal product of early Virginia. Students are not taught how tobacco was a global product whose early production faced many challenges. These lessons will show students how tobacco became the preeminent crop in Virginia and grew to have international importance in spite of the controversies surrounding its origins.
4. **Significance & Relevance:** Fourth grade curriculum includes an introduction to Virginia history and Virginia's role as a part of the United States and the global marketplace. Tobacco, as Virginia's first successful cash crop, is accepted as a “savior.” Students will expand their knowledge of the crop, viewing it as an integral part of bartering, westward expansion, and the growth of plantations in Virginia.

VA SOL and/or National Standards

See Lesson Plan Attachments

5. **Suggested Grade Level and Length of Activities:**

7. Lesson Objectives –

Students will analyze primary documents to determine the order (Chronological thinking and historical analysis)

Students will compare and contrast various documents addressing the effect of tobacco production.

Students will analyze information relating to his or her primary document and summarize information gathered in group activities. (Analysis and decision making)

Student will share information about his or her primary document with another small group.

Student will interpret ideas and events from different historical perspectives regarding the growth of tobacco in Virginia.

6. Lesson Plans or Instructional Activities – See Lesson Plan Attachments

7. Related Materials & Resources –

- Tobacco PowerPoint
- Old box—something to store documents in. The box can be purchased or you may decorate a shoebox or Pringles can to make it look old
- Appendix A: Pre and Post Tobacco TEST with answer document
- Appendix B: Seven Primary Documents—one or more per group for box
- Appendix C: Group Assignment sheets for JIGSAW, 1 per student
- Appendix D: Tobacco Geohisto-gram, 1 per group
- Appendix E: Tobacco Geohisto-gram Key
- Appendix F: Tobacco Geohisto-gram related pictures and titles
- Appendix G: Tobacco Geohisto-gram Worksheet
- Appendix H: Tobacco Geohisto-gram Assessment Worksheet
- One or more computers per group with access to the website Portaportal.com guest name: documents
- Index cards, 3 per student

Historical Documents Used in JIGSAW Lesson Plan on Days One and Two

NOTE: Jstor attachments are fully accessible at an institution that has rights to access such documents. Without access only an abstract will appear.

Interior of a Tobacco Warehouse. [undigitized postcard] Courtesy of Molly Grogan Rawls, Winston-Salem, North Carolina

The interior of the tobacco warehouse shows the vast amounts of tobacco that would be stored for sale. It gives the students a visual of a tobacco crop as it was being sold. It is not digitized, but you will find it saved in a Word document.

King James (1604). *His Counterblast to Tobacco*, London. Retrieved on October 8, 2009 from Virginia Memory at the Library of Virginia website
http://www.virginiamemory.com/online_classroom/lesson_plans/tobacco_counterblast#lesson_imgs

King James I disliked tobacco and wrote *His Counterblast to Tobacco* to discourage British users of the substance. It was written in 1604 before tobacco became a major crop in the British colonies. Students may be surprised that the crop that became Virginia's "Savior" was once almost denied usage by the British king. This is an image of the pamphlet.

King James (1604). *His Counterblast to Tobacco*, London. Retrieved on October 8, 2009 from Virginia Memory at the Library of Virginia website

King James I wrote the Counterblast opposing tobacco as a medicine or a recreational pastime. I used the website to choose important excerpts that four graders would be able to read. As they analyze what King James wrote they will understand that he did not like tobacco and did not believe it had medicinal purposes. The excerpt is in a Word Document.

A Proclamation Concerning Tobacco [Online image of transcription] Retrieved December 4, 2009 from Virginia Memory, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia 23219
<http://www.virginiamemory.com/docs/ElementaryCounterblastExcerpt.pdf>

King James I disliked tobacco and wrote *His Counterblast to Tobacco* to discourage British users of the substance. It was written in 1604 before tobacco became a major crop in the British colonies. Students may be surprised that the crop that became Virginia's "Savior" was once almost denied usage by the British king. This is a child's transcript of the original document. For the JIGSAW I used an even smaller excerpt.

A Proclamation Concerning Tobacco, London. Retrieved on October 8, 2009 from Virginia Memory at the Library of Virginia website: [Online image] Retrieved October 8, 2009 from Virginia Memory, Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia 23219
http://www.virginiamemory.com/reading_room/this_day_in_virginia_history/january/06

King Charles I Proclamation gave Virginia a monopoly on British imported tobacco and assured the success of tobacco. Students will compare and contrast the change in attitude between King James I's *Counterblast* and this law.

Stowage of the British slave ship "Brookes" under the regulated slave trade act of 1788. [Online Image] Retrieved November 30, 2009 from Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA,
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/rarebook/guide/ra023002.html>

The Illustration of the British slave ship Brookes will be used on the Geohisto-gram to demonstrate the slave trade between Britain and Africa. The ship shows the crowded conditions of the slaves.

Tipo Tib's fresh captives being sent into bondage - witnessed by Stanley / Bayard(?). [between 1930 and 1980] Retrieved November 30, 2009 from Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA <http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi->

[bin/query/i?pp/ils:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(cph+3a29129\)\):displayType=1:m856sd=cph:m856sf=3a29129](http://www.loc.gov/pps/ils:@field(NUMBER+@band(cph+3a29129)):displayType=1:m856sd=cph:m856sf=3a29129)

This engraving of African slaves being placed in captivity for passage to the New World is being used to show the role of Africa in transatlantic trade.

Van de Passe, Simon, (1624).[Online Image] *Matoaka als Rebecka daughter to the mighty Prince Powhatan*. Retrieved from Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA, [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/h?pp/PPALL:@field\(NUMBER+@1\(pga+03343\)\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/h?pp/PPALL:@field(NUMBER+@1(pga+03343)))

The wedding of John Rolfe and Pocahontas led to 8 years of relative peace with the Indians. Students will see the rise in tobacco production as the peace with the Indians led to English claiming more and more land and tobacco rising as the cash crop.

View of North Main Street between Fifth and Sixth Streets [Online Image]. 190?. Retrieved November 4, 2009 from DigitalForsyth from the Forsyth County Library, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. <http://www.digitalforsyth.org/photos/5449>

The photograph of the exterior of a tobacco warehouse will be used as part of the JIGSAW and Geohisto-gram lessons. It shows students the growth of towns into cities and how busy a street could be in the 1800's..

Additional Historical Documents Found in the Powerpoint on Day One and the Geohisto-gram Lesson Plans Days Three and Four that are NOT previously Annotated

Cook, George (1834) Painting of Patrick Henry arguing the "Parson's Cause" Retrieved November 10, 2009 from the Virginia Historical Society Richmond, Virginia <http://www.prathistory.com/images/cooke1793.jpg>

The painting demonstrates Patrick Henry arguing in favor of the Two Penny Tax which had been vetoed by King George III. Students will learn it was one of the first British interferences with colonial law.

Jackson, William Henry (1902) Photographs from the Detroit Publishing Company. [Online image] Retrieved November 4, 2009 from Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC, USA <http://memory.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/detr:@field%28NUMBER+@band%28det+4a09402%29%29>

This photograph of the Jamestown Church is used in the Geohisto-gram to represent the first meeting place of the House of Burgesses in 1619. The significance of tobacco becomes apparent with the passing of the first law passed which regulated the minimum price of tobacco.

Rothstein, Arthur, (Sept,1937). [Online Image] *A healthy stand of New Jersey corn*. Retrieved November 30, 2009 from Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC, USA. [http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/i?pp/fsaall:@field\(NUMBER+@band\(fsa+8b36163\)\)](http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/i?pp/fsaall:@field(NUMBER+@band(fsa+8b36163)))

The black and white image of a field of corn is used on the Geohisto-gram to represent growing tobacco, and not corn, in Jamestown, which resulted in people being hungry. Tobacco was being used as currency so it was important in all of Jamestown.

Stowage of the British slave ship "Brookes" under the regulated slave trade act of 1788. [Online Image] Retrieved November 30, 2009 from Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division Washington, DC 20540 USA,
<http://www.loc.gov/rr/rarebook/guide/ra023002.html>

The Illustration of the British slave ship Brookes will be used on the Geohisto-gram to demonstrate the slave trade between Britain and Africa. The ship shows the crowded conditions of the slaves.

Wooten, Jr., Frank M. Papers (#126), [Online Image] Retrieved November 30, 2009 from Special Collections Department, J. Y. Joyner Library, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, USA.
<http://digital.lib.ecu.edu/exhibits/tobacco/imageFiles/TFLD/3TFLD001.jpg>

This photograph of a tobacco field is used in the title slide of the Tobacco Powerpoint. It is an accurate black and white picture of tobacco. Students have a view of tobacco leaves in a field.

- 8. Technology (if applicable)** - This lesson uses <http://www.portaportal.com> , a free website for educators. This website was set up as an easy resource for teachers to use for students to research their documents, but research documents could easily be photocopied to save time. Resources and information for this module are set up on the website and it is accessible from any computer using the guest name "documents."

10. Modifications, Differentiation, and Extensions –

1. Fourth graders are not always familiar with historical documents. If your students have no experience with using primary source documents, a good website to look at would be The National Archives at <http://www.archives.gov/education/> prior to this lesson.
2. JIGSAW groups may be completely heterogeneous OR homogeneous. Homogeneous groups of weaker students may need additional support filling out their assignments sheets.
3. The tobacco Geohisto-gram is much easier if titles are placed on before pictures (The titles are dated!). Most titles have dates on them! Placing the pictures first is most challenging.
4. For students who have a difficult time with spatial problems and/or sequential order, have students match the pictures with the titles first and then line everything in a vertical line. (This takes the tobacco Geohisto-gram out of the assignment.) The tobacco Geohisto-gram worksheet could be completed by looking at the pictures and using the dates on the titles.
5. These lessons could be adapted to use with any grade that teaches Virginia or US History by adding additional research objectives. Middle school or more advanced students could use the primary documents and research them for more depth and detail on duties that were passed or tobacco usage in particular countries.
6. The Geohisto-gram can be used with any time period from 1600 – 1800. The time periods works well with the time periods leading from Jamestown to the Revolutionary War and/or the Constitutional Convention.