

Things to think about:

Judith A. Carney, "African Rice in the Columbian Exchange," *Journal of African History* 42 (2001): 377-396.

What were some historical precursors to the transatlantic exchange of plant domesticates, according to Carney?

What is significant about the multiple origins of rice cultivation within West Africa?

What role did provisioning slave ships play in bringing African plant domesticates and African food systems to the New World? What role did they play in reshaping agricultural systems in West Africa?

Why did European slavers feel it was important to feed their human cargoes with foods of African origin on the Middle Passage?

What role did African species of rice play in the establishment of the plantation economy in the Carolinas?

How did African technologies of rice production reshape the landscape of the Carolinas? How would you connect this to McNeill's article about the role of mosquitoes in the Revolutionary War?

Why was rice of Asian origin ultimately favored in the plantation economy over African species?

What is the connection between rice, environment and disease in Carney's article?

Where can you find evidence of the role of African plant domesticates in American life today?

What role did subsistence farming play in the transfer of African plant domesticates to the New World?

Why is it important for Carney to show that rice technologies employed in the plantation economies of the New World originated in Africa?

What kinds of evidence does Carney use to argue that the first rice species imported to the New World were African in origin?

How does Carney account for the bias in historical scholarship against the role of African plant domesticates and agricultural technologies in the Columbian Exchange?

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