

**A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PLANTATION
PRE-VISIT MATERIALS
GRADES 3-8**

It is not necessary that the students know the answers to these questions, but to have them think about these questions before they arrive and participate in the program. While we are supplying answers to many of these questions, they are not necessarily the only answers or definitions.

1. **Where is Drayton Hall located?**

It is located on the Ashley River.

2. **Can you find Drayton Hall on a map? Can you find Charleston, SC, on a map?**

3. **How far is Drayton Hall from Charleston?**

It is approximately 13 miles upriver from Charleston.

4. **Why was Drayton Hall located on the Ashley River?**

The river was the main source of travel for people and goods when Drayton Hall was built.

5. **What is a plantation?**

A plantation is a farm where a cash crop is grown and the workforce lives on site.

6. **What were the main cash crops that were grown in Charleston and at Drayton Hall?**

The main cash crops were rice and indigo in the 18th century and rice and cotton in the 19th century.

7. **What was the main workforce that worked on plantations before the Civil War?**

Enslaved Africans and African Americans were the major workforce on plantations before the Civil War.

8. **What is a slave?**

A slave is human being that is forced into bondage and must obey the commands of their enslaver. They have no rights and are often required to work without pay and are subject to various punishments if it appears they disobey any rule or command given to them. To the enslaver, this human being is their legal property.

9. **Who made up the majority of slaves in South Carolina?**

Most of the slaves in South Carolina came from various countries in western Africa.

10. **Can you find Africa on a map?**

11. **What is a colony?**

A group of settlers in a new country (whether or not already inhabited) fully or partially subject to their mother country. They are bound by the government of the mother country and must send profitable goods (raw materials, crops, etc) from the colony to the mother country.

12. **From where did most of South Carolina's European colonists emigrate?**

Most of South Carolina's colonists came from England, many of whom came from Barbados.

13. **Were there any inhabitants already living here when the colonists came?**

Yes, the Native Americans such as the Kiawah Indians.

14. **Who owned South Carolina before the American Revolution?**

South Carolina was a colony of England.

15. **What is a nation?**

A group/community of people composed of one or more nationalities possessing a defined territory and a unifying government.

16. **Can you find England on a map?**

Eighth-Grade Additions/Alternative Options

1. **Define Georgian architecture.**

Georgian architecture is a style popular in England and the North American colonies during the reign of the four Kings George, following rules of design and proportion based on concepts of architects from the Italian Renaissance, particularly Andrea Palladio.

2. **Who was Andrea Palladio?**

Andrea Palladio was an architect of the Italian Renaissance (1508-50) who had studied classical Roman architecture and published his concepts in The Four Books of Architecture.

In addition to asking students questions prior to your visit to Drayton Hall, you may want your students to engage in pre-visit writing exercises that they can expand upon after their visit. Some suggested activities are:

1. *Ask the students to imagine that they are Drayton children during the 1700s. Have the students write a letter to a relative who lives in England. Have them detail their day, including chores (if any), lessons, and free time. After visiting Drayton Hall the students can compare their letters to what they learned at Drayton Hall.*
2. *Ask the students to imagine that they are slave children at Drayton Hall during the 18th century. Have each student compose a journal entry detailing his or her day, including what time he or she got up, what time he or she went to bed, what he or she ate, what he or she did for work, and what he or she did during free time. After visiting Drayton Hall, have the students compare their journal entries to what they learned during their visit.*
3. *Plantations tried to be self sufficient. Prior to your visit to Drayton Hall, have students list what the plantation would need to produce to be self sustaining. After your visit, have the students make a new list based on the information they learned at Drayton Hall. Compare and contrast both lists.*
4. *Together as a class, have the students list the things that are important to them in the 21st century. After your visit to Drayton Hall, have the students list what was important to the Draytons and their slaves during the 18th century. Compare and contrast the lists. Have things changed much in 250 years?*