



Lesson 5.2: Colonies – World Orientation

Answers

Question 1

Why did the Netherlands have colonies there?

Answer: Initially it started with small trading posts to enable trade with the local inhabitants. Gradually they began building plantations and began to colonize the area. On the plantations crops were grown that were in high demand in countries such as the Netherlands: coffee, cotton, sugar cane, tobacco, cacao, etc. The labor costs were kept low due to the use of slaves on the plantations.

Question 2

Answer: Essequibo.

Question 3

Answer: Berbice, Essequibo en Demerary.

In what part of the world were these colonies located?

Answer: Geographically speaking in South-America, but often these colonies are counted as part of the Caribbean region from a historical, cultural, linguistic and socio-economic viewpoint.

Question 4

What is Essequibo?

Answer: a river in the colony bearing the same name.

The former colony Essequibo lies in which current country?

Answer: Guyana

Why were there many plantations in this specific region?

Answer: a river brings water to the plantations and goods could be transported to and from there by ship.

Question 5

What was grown on the plantations?

Answer: sugarcane, cotton, coffee, cacao, tobacco, amongst other things.

Who did the heavy work on the plantations?

Answer: the slaves.

Why did plantation owners find it necessary to bring slaves from Africa to do the work?

Answer: the native inhabitants were not suitable for heavy labor, many died, also due to the contagious diseases brought by the Europeans. They needed to find a cheap labor force capable of doing heavy work. They found them in Africa.

Question 6

What kind of food did they get?

Answer: bananas, turnips, carrots, potatoes and rice, fish and water.

Why was it still important to take proper care of the slaves?

Answer: the slaves had to do tough physical labor. In those conditions it is extra important to eat enough/sufficient food. There were even rules about slave nutrition on the plantations, although most plantations owners did not abide by these rules. Food was often very minimal.

Question 7

Answer:

House slaves – work in the plantation owner's home.

Field slaves – work 'in the field' on the plantation.

Factory slaves – work in the sugarcane factory, for instance.

Foetoeboys – personal slaves. They were required to remain close by (the feet of) the master.