



Smithsonian's History Explorer Podcast

Teacher Guide



Sugars and Sweeteners in American History

with curator Deborah Warner

Podcast Link: <http://amhistory.si.edu/thinkfinity/podcast/sugar.mp3>

Discussion Questions:

- How was the production and sale of sugar involved in slavery in America and the global slave trade in general?
- What other products were involved in the global colonial trade system that Deborah Warner talks about?
- Deborah talks about how sugar and molasses were products that have some connections to disputes between American colonists and the British. What other everyday products have ties to colonial unrest and the American Revolution?
- Think of some of the products you eat that contain sweeteners. Do they contain natural sugar made from things like cane or beets? Artificial sweeteners like saccharin? Lab altered high fructose corn syrup? Why do you think certain foods use different types of sweeteners? What could be the advantage of using these different options?

Related Resources—for continued instruction or resources for your students' research

National Museum of American History:

- On the Water— <http://americanhistory.si.edu/onthewater/>
- America on the Move: Plantation Locomotive
http://amhistory.si.edu/onthemove/collection/object_725.html

Thinkfinity:

- Artificial Sweeteners—ScienceNetLinks
<http://sciencenetlinks.com/science-news/science-updates/artificial-sweeteners/>
- When Is Sugar Too Much of a Good Thing?—Wonderopolis
<http://wonderopolis.org/wonder/when-is-sugar-too-much-of-a-good-thing/>

National Standards—from the National Center for History in the Schools

- U.S. History—Era 2: Colonization and Settlement (1585-1763)
 - Standard 3: How the values and institutions of European economic life took root in the colonies, and how slavery reshaped European and African life in the Americas
- U.S. History—Era 10: Contemporary United States (1968-present)
 - Standard 2: Economic, social, and cultural developments in contemporary United States

Have your students email their question, comments, and discoveries to thinkfinity@si.edu

Find this podcast and more at <http://americanhistory.si.edu/podcasts>



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Name:

Date:

Period:

Topic:

Listen to the podcast, take notes, and answer the questions.

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