

Group 1: The Roles of the Vernons and Captain Godfrey

1. What conclusions can you draw about the Vernons based on their letter? When and where did they live? Can you determine anything about their race and social class? What is their relationship to the *Hare* and to the slave trade?

2. Based on the salutations and closings of both the Vernons' letter to the Captain, and the Captain's letter to the Vernons, how would you describe the relationship between the two parties?

3. List five specific pieces of instruction given to the captain by the Vernons and try to determine the underlying concern behind each piece of instruction.

Instruction	Concern Underlying the Instruction
1.	1.
2.	2.
3.	3.
4.	4.
5.	5.

4. What seems to be main purpose of the Vernons' letter to the Captain?

5. Chose one word or phrase that best describes the tone of the Vernons' letter, and explain why you chose that word. (Is the tone angry, urgent, happy, matter-of-fact, etc?)

6. How does Captain Godfrey's letter address the Vernons' concerns?

7. On this voyage of the *Hare*, how much decision-making power did Captain Godfrey appear to have? What leads you to this conclusion?

Name: _____

Group 2: The Financial Dimension of the Voyage of the Hare

1. Based on your reading of the Vernons' letter, identify at least two of the financial risks for the investors in the *Hare* (i.e. What types of problems could put their financial investment at risk?)

2. According to the advertisement in *South-Carolina Gazette*, who was in charge of selling the slaves from the *Hare*? Does this appear to be the names of individuals or a company? What leads you to this conclusion?

For the next set of questions, you will need to examine "Henry Laurens's record of the sale of the slaves from the Hare." The monetary units used in this ledger is the Pound (£).

3. According to Laurens's record of sales from the *Hare*, what was the total number of slaves sold, and what was the total amount paid for those slaves?

4. According to Laurens's record of sales, what type of charges were incurred in South Carolina and what was the total amount of those charges?

5. In looking at the "Charges known" on the record of sales, it states that a duty was paid for the slaves. A duty is a type of import tax; to whom do you suppose this duty was paid?

A commission on sales was also charged; speculate as to who might have received this commission?

6. Based on Laurens's record of sales, what was the net proceeds from the *Hare*?

7. What other information is needed before one can determine whether or not the Vernons made a profit off of this voyage of the *Hare*?

8. Many different people had a financial stake in the voyage of the *Hare*. After reviewing all the documents, try to identify as many different financial stakeholders as you can find.

Group 3: Attitudes Toward Enslaved People

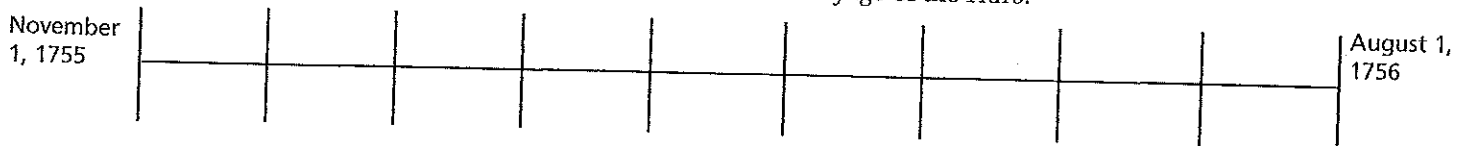
1. According to the Vernons' letter, why did the captain need to "Keep a watchful eye over 'em [slaves]"?
2. What appears to be the Vernons' attitude toward enslaved people and the institution of slavery? What words or phrases in their letter lead you to this conclusion?
3. Two images of enslaved people are provided in the advertisement from the *South-Carolina Gazette*. How would you describe the advertisement's portrayal of enslaved people? What characteristics stand out the most to you?
4. In the *Gazette's* advertisement, it describes the "Cargo" of slaves as being "Likely and Healthy"; the word 'likely' has several different meanings, including: 1) might be true; 2) apparently suitable; 3) appearing to have vigor or ability. Which of the above definitions do you think they meant here? Why would this be an important word to use in the advertisement?
5. a. According to Henry Laurens's record of sales, what was the gender and age breakdown of enslaved people on the *Hare* (how many men, women, boys, and girls)?
b. According to the Vernons' letter, would they be pleased or disappointed with this age and gender breakdown of the *Hare's* slave cargo? Explain.
6. In looking at Laurens's record of sales, you will see that a different duty (import tax) was applied to eleven of the sixty-three slaves. Why might this distinction be made when determining the duty amount?
7. Based on all the records provided from the *Hare*, do you think the Vernons' outlook toward enslaved people was in-line with the attitudes of the larger society or do they appear to be an exception to the rule? What leads you to this conclusion?

Name: _____

Group 4: Examining Time and Place

1. When did the Vernons write their letter of instructions to Captain Godfrey?
2. What instructions does the Vernons' letter provide regarding the times of departure from Rhode Island?
3. When did Captain Godfrey write his letter to the Vernons?
4. How much time elapsed between the writing of the two letters?
5. What happened between the writing of these two letters?
6. Based on the captain's letter, on what date was the *Hare* expected to set sail for 'Carolina'?
7. Based on the advertisement posted in the *South-Carolina Gazette*, approximately when did the *Hare* arrive in South Carolina?
8. How much time elapsed between the arrival of the *Hare* in South Carolina and the auctioning of slaves?

9. Using the above information, create a timeline for the voyage of the *Hare*.



10. There is a discrepancy between the number of slaves boarding the ship in Africa and the amount of slaves sold; what are some possible explanations for this discrepancy?