

Somerset Place Post-Visit Questions

1. What are some of the defining characteristics of a wealthy planter's estate?
2. Somerset Place was an active plantation for eighty-years. What were the plantation's major cash crops?
3. What are some of the differences in how people lived during the antebellum period and how we live today?
4. How did antebellum foodways vary among the different socio-economic groups at Somerset Place?
5. How did the Emancipation Proclamation and the Union occupation of coastal North Carolina affect the Collins Family and the enslaved community?
6. Compare and contrast the lifestyles of the wealthy planters (Collins Family) and the enslaved community at Somerset Place?
7. What were some of the circumstances the enslaved community and overseers at Somerset Place faced during the American Civil War?
8. Why did Josiah Collins name the plantation Somerset Place?
9. How many enslaved people lived in the twenty-six homes at Somerset Place by 1843?
10. The former enslaved community of Somerset plantation dug twenty-miles of deep canals and eighty miles of intersecting cross ditches throughout the property. For what were these waterways used?