



Worksheet for Examining a Salem Impost Book

An “impost book” is a record of all the goods coming into a certain port at a certain time. Using the copy of the 1800s Salem Impost Book, and an atlas, draw a line on your blank map from each place named in the impost book to Salem. Use different colors for different types of goods. Purple= sweet items (sugar, molasses, cocoa), Yellow = cloth (hemp, cotton, indigo), Black = pepper, Green = coffee, Red= alcohol (brandy, wine), Blue= “merchandise” or other products. After you have completed your map, answer these questions on another sheet of paper.

- 1) How many different places are shown here?
- 2) List which items come from each continent;
 - a. N. America--
 - b. S. America--
 - c. Europe --
 - d. Asia –
 - e. Africa –
- 3) Why do you think Salem might have had so many different types of goods from so many different countries?
- 4) What does this tell you about Salem as a port?
- 5) If you had a store in Salem what would you put out for sale? List at least 5 items based on what you see in the impost book.
- 6) Create a “broadside” or poster to advertise your shop. Be sure to include the items listed above and the places where your goods are from.
- 7) Many people think “globalization” or trading between many parts of the world is a new pattern that started in the 2000s? Do you agree or disagree? Why?