

Name: _____ Date: _____ Period: _____

USH Homework: The Carolinas and Georgia (MYP-VG)

Directions:

1. **Actively** read the information below about the Carolina and Georgia colonies (highlight key facts, circle and look up vocabulary words you don't know, and make notes in the margin)
2. Using the Handmade Thinking handout as a reference, create TWO Handmade Thinking panels – one for the Carolinas, and one for Georgia.

Excerpts from *Give Me Liberty*, by Eric Foner (Norton, Second Edition, 2009) Adapted for younger readers

1. The Founding of Carolina (p. 90 – 92 and p. 133 - 34)

In 1663, Charles II gave eight proprietors the right to establish a colony to the north of Florida. Not until 1670 did the first settlers arrive to found **Carolina**. Carolina began as an offshoot of the tiny island of Barbados in the Caribbean. In the mid-seventeenth century, Barbados was the Caribbean's richest plantation economy, but there was a shortage of available land, and this led wealthy planters to seek opportunities in Carolina for their sons. At first, Carolinians armed friendly American Indians and employed them on raids into Spanish Florida. They enslaved other American Indians, shipping them to other mainland colonies and the West Indies (Caribbean). Between 1670 and 1720, the number of Indian slaves exported from Charleston (Carolina's main harbor city) was larger than the number of African slaves imported. In 1715, the Yamasee and Creek, alarmed by the enormous debts they had acquired in trade with the settlers and by slave traders' raids into their territory, rebelled. The uprising was crushed, and most of the remaining Indians were enslaved or driven out of the colony into Spanish Florida, from where they occasionally launched raids against English settlements.

The proprietors of Carolina issued a document, the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina, in 1669. In it, they proposed creating a feudal society with a hereditary nobility, serfs, and slaves. Needing to attract settlers quickly, however, the proprietors also provided for an elected assembly and religious toleration. They also instituted a **headright** system – a system in which male heads of households would get 150 acres for each member of an arriving family.

Carolina did not actually develop into a feudal system. Slavery, not feudalism, made Carolina an extremely hierarchical society. The proprietors put in place a strict legal code that promised slave owners "absolute power and authority" over their human property and included imported slaves in the headright system. This allowed any persons who settled in Carolina and brought with them slaves, including planters from Barbados who resettled in the colony, to instantly get large new landholdings. In its early days, however, the economy centered on cattle raising and trade with local Indians, not agriculture. Carolina grew slowly until planters discovered the staple – rice – that would make them the wealthiest elite in English North America and their colony an epicenter of mainland slavery.

And as in Virginia, the introduction of a marketable staple crop, in this case rice, led directly to economic development, the large-scale importation of slaves, and a growing divide between white and black. South Carolina was the first mainland colony to achieve a black majority. By the 1730s (by which time North Carolina had become a separate colony), two-thirds of its population was black. In the 1740s, another staple, indigo (a crop used in producing blue dye), was developed. Like rice, indigo required large-scale cultivation and was grown by slaves.

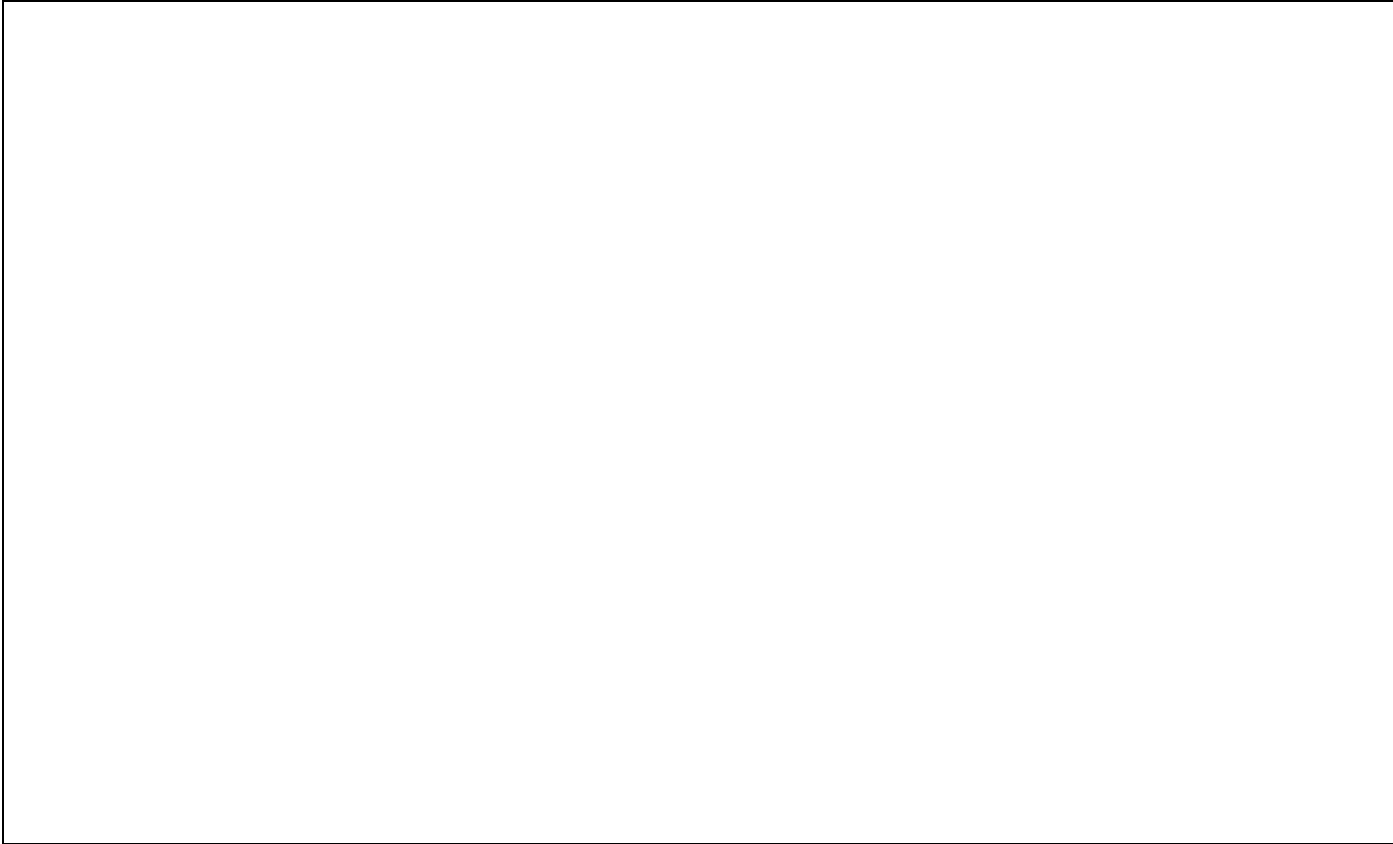
2. The Georgia Experiment (p. 134 – 135)

Rice cultivation also spread into Georgia in the mid-eighteenth century. The colony was founded in 1733 by a group of philanthropists led by James Oglethorpe, a wealthy reformer whose causes included improved conditions for English people in debt and the abolition of slavery. Oglethorpe hoped to establish a haven (safe place) where the poor of England could start a new life with economic opportunity. The government in London supported the creation of Georgia as a buffer against the Spanish and their Indian allies in Florida.

Initially, the proprietors banned the introduction of both alcohol and slaves, leading to continual battles with settlers, who wanted both. By the 1740s, Georgia colonists were asking for the "English liberty" of self-government so that they could enact laws introducing slavery. In 1751, the proprietors surrendered the colony to the king. The colonists quickly won the right to an elected assembly, which met in Savannah, Georgia's main settlement. It repealed the ban on slavery (and liquor), as well as an early measure that had limited landholdings to 500 acres. Georgia became a miniature version of South Carolina. By 1770, as many as 15,000 slaves labored on its coastal rice plantations.

Handmade Thinking Notes: Choose one of the Handmade Thinking formats and use it to create one panel for each of these readings! You can use the space below OR use a separate sheet of paper.

Carolinas: Format = _____



Georgia: Format = _____

