

The Growing of Virginia Tobacco

Name: _____

An analysis of resources

Directions: Read the following account of how tobacco was grown in the Virginia colony. Make three lists: capital, natural, and human resources. As you read, fill in the list. In a paragraph under the list, describe which resource you think is in the most demand, natural, human, or capital and explain why.

In March, a small bed is sown with the seeds; which in a week, or two, shoots up young plants. When these are of sufficient strength for transplantation, holes are dug in a suitable field of rich high land, (previously prepared by the plough and harrow for that purpose) at the distance of three feet asunder; and the plant is therein carefully inserted. Hoeing and weeding them from grass, is absolutely necessary; as scarcely any plant requires stronger soils, or sooner impoverishes them. As the tobacco increases in strength, the earth is drawn up to its roots; and it is carefully picked of worms and caterpillars, which are peculiarly destructive to it. During their growth they are occasionally topped, to make the leaves longer and thicker; this however; promotes suckers, which must be pulled off: and hence topping should be used with prudence, and rather late in season. When the tobacco is ripe, it is cut close to the ground, and thence is carried to the curing house; which generally made of logs, is well ventilated. The stalks, with the leaves adhering to them, are here hung up in pairs, on poles placed parallel to each other, along the building; leaving a space between them, that the plants may not touch each other. They thus remain, to sweat and dry in the shade; and when sufficiently so, the leaves are stripped from the stalks; and are classed according to their respective goodness. They are then tied in small bundles, with one of the leaves, and remain thus in small heaps, until perfectly aired. After which, they are pressed into hogsheads, made of oak, containing from 1200 to 1600 lbs. weight; and being duly inspected at the different tobacco inspection houses appointed for that purpose, throughout the state, the tobacco is then ready for exportation to foreign markets (Drayton 1802:136).

Capital Resources	Natural Resources	Tasks that require human labor