

[Map 1](#) and [Map 2](#) shows where sugarcane originated and spread. Students can compare this information with sugar production today and then [read how sugar spread to the Western Hemisphere](#). Students may answer these accompanying questions.

Map 1 and Map 2

1. Look at Map 1.
  - a. What is the modern name of the country where sugar first originated?
  - b. Approximately when was this? What year?
  - c. Where is the country located in the world - what continent? What region of the continent?
2. According to Map 1, what modern-day countries did sugar production next spread to?
3. How do you think sugar spread to other parts of the world?
4. According to Map 1 and Map 2, what direction did the cultivation of sugar travel?
5. According to Map 2, by when did Europeans start to cultivate sugar and spread it throughout the world?

How Sugar Spread to the Western World

6. Why do you think British (European) colonists called sugar “white gold?”
7. According to the article, what European first brought sugar to “the New World” in 1492?
8. Who grew and developed much of the sugar that was brought to and grown in North and South American countries like the United States and Brazil? How did the production of sugar in North and South America contribute to the enslavement of Africans?
9. How did the production and selling of sugar in the Americas impact European countries and the people who lived there? Did it help or hurt them? Explain.
10. How did the production and selling of sugar in the Americas impact African countries and the people who lived there? Did it help or hurt them? Explain.