VOCABULARY LISTS

General Vocabulary

Plantation – a large farm that uses slaves or workers to grow crops to sell
Reconstruction – the period immediately after the Civil War ending in 1877, characterized by great physical hardship and political turmoil throughout the South
Apprentice – young person who works with a tradesman to learn the trade
Tabby – mixture of oyster shells, lime, sand, and water used as a building material

Agriculture and Livestock

Plow – tool used by farmers to turn the earth in preparation for planting
Farrier – tradesman who shoes horses
Cash crop – crop sold to make money for the planters
Fowl – different types of birds, some of which are chickens, ducks, geese, guineas, peacocks, pigeons, and swans, which supplied eggs, meat, and feathers for beds and pillows.

Rice Culture Vocabulary

Carolina gold – the variety of rice that dominated South Carolina's commercial production; a long-grain type named for the color of the plant in the fields at harvest time
Mortar– the large wooden vessel used in beating rice
Pestle-the pounding tool used in beating rice
Flail – tool used to separate rice from the stalk
Fanner basket – a wide, round, shallow basket used to "fan" or separate rice kernels from the hulls after pounding; fanner baskets are nowadays made of sweetgrass though originally they were made using rushes, a heavier material more suited to a work basket
Pounding rice – the process of removing the tough outer cuticle or hull from rice grains with a mortar and pestle
Polishing rice – the technique of removing the layer of bran from freshly beaten rice using a mortar and pestle; bran is nutritious but apt to spoil during long storage.
Rough rice – rice with the hull still on; on a plantation without a pounding mill, rice was often sold as rough rice
Rice hook – sickle used to harvest rice
Trunk gate – the flood-gate system devised for tidal-irrigated rice fields

Slavery Tour Vocabulary

Slave – a person who is owned by another person, not paid for work, and has no rights or freedom
Slavery – practice of owning slaves
Skilled slave – slave who special training in a trade making him/her more valuable than an unskilled slave
Swept yard – an African tradition of maintaining a grass-free area around one's dwelling, adopted by many people throughout the South until late in the 20th century
Subsistence farming – the practice of growing most of one's food oneself, reducing dependence on outside sources; may sometimes be done in conjunction with growing a cash crop for sale
Work songs – among African Americans, a form of music that included secular songs and spirituals; work songs not only set the pace for certain tasks and relieved the monotony of them, but could also double as coded communication between workers

Task system – system of slave management by which each slave was given a talk to complete in a day; when done, they had the remainder of the day to tend their own gardens or livestock, to fish or hunt, or pursue other interests
Gullah – the culture originated from the blend of African slave culture with the colonial culture
Middle Passage – the voyage of slaves across the Atlantic Ocean to North America or the Caribbean