

## Imports

Think of this as a keyhole through which you can peek into the past. The book *A Collection of Letters for the Improvement of Husbandry & Trade*, by John Houghton, published a listing of imports and exports from London between December 29, 1682, and February 1, 1683. As you are reading the list, notice that some of the spellings are different than you'd see today. Use the key to define the units of measurement. Then answer the following questions based on the import list.

As you look through the **import** list, what products do you use today?

How much of each of these products is imported?

Cinnamon

Nutmeg

Cloves

Ginger

Pepper

Which product is imported in the greatest quantity? Which is imported the least?

After reading about these goods on the Web site, where do you think they were grown before they reached London?

How much cotton is imported to London? (Hint: look through the whole list.) What would the English make out of cotton? Do you have anything made out of cotton?

Before you look at the list, what drink do you think was the most popular in England?

How much of these products is imported?

Coffee?

Cocoa?

Tea?

Which one has the greatest amount? Which one has the least?

After looking at the information, which drink was the most popular in England?

Which drink do you like best?

## Exports

What did people sell back in 1683? What did they buy? The book *A Collection of Letters for the Improvement of Husbandry & Trade*, by John Houghton, published a listing of imports and exports from London between December 29, 1682, and February 1, 1683. There were two types of exports, products actually produced in England, and goods imported from other places and then re-exported. The **Exportation Certificate** list is the re-exported goods. The Navigation Act of 1660 required that all English ships have an English captain and three-quarters of the crew be English. It also required that any “enumerated goods” produced in the English colonies (such as sugar, tobacco, cotton, ginger, and indigo) not be “shipped, carried conveyed or transported” out of the British Empire. That meant that if Virginia produced tobacco, it had to be sold to buyers in England and then exported to other places such as France, adding taxes and duties on the products and raising the prices. In 1663, the English Parliament added a requirement that almost all products that were to be sold in the English colonies be brought to England first and then exported with extra taxes and duties that raised the prices. For example, cocoa from Spanish colonies in Central and South America had to be transported by ship to England and then exported and shipped on an English vessel to the English colonies in America.

As you look at the **exports** (hint: Exportation Certificate list), find:

Cinnamon

Nutmeg

Cloves

Ginger

Pepper

List the amounts that were exported. Now compare the export number to the amount of each product that was imported. Which product had the biggest export? Which product did the English use the most at home?

While looking through both export lists, which items do you see as being “import exports” to the American colonies? What items were needed in the daily lives of colonists that they could not make at home? Do you use any of these items today?

How many pounds of tobacco were exported from England? Where do you think they shipped it? Virginia and Maryland were producing tobacco at this time. What countries might buy tobacco?