10-2006

Celebrating the Barbados-Carolina Connection! - 2006

South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology--University of South Carolina

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Publication Info
Published in 2006.
South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology--University of South Carolina. Archaeology Month Poster - Celebrating the Barbados-Carolina Connection!, 2006. Columbia, SC: University of South Carolina, South Carolina Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, 2006.
http://www.cas.sc.edu/sciaa/
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South Carolina Archaeology Month
October 4 - November 4, 2006

Celebrating The Barbados-Carolina Connection!

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Barbados, South Carolina, and the Connection

The Caribbean slave trade contributed to the founding of both South Carolina and Barbados, and the legacies of slavery continue to shape both regions today. This essay explores the historical connections between these two places, focusing on the role of sugarcane production and the transatlantic slave trade.

Barbados, the island in the Caribbean, was one of the first British colonies in the region. It was established as a sugar plantation in the mid-17th century and became a major center of the Atlantic slave trade. The enslaved African labor force was brought to Barbados for the purpose of producing sugar cane, which was then exported to Europe.

In the early 18th century, the British government began to explore the possibility of establishing a colony in the southern Atlantic Ocean. South Carolina was founded in 1670, and the early settlers were primarily interested in the production of indigo dye, which was used to make blue material. However, the settlers soon turned their attention to the production of rice, which was cultivated using slave labor imported from Barbados.

The legacies of slavery continue to shape both regions today. Both South Carolina and Barbados have a rich history of slave resistance and abolitionism. In South Carolina, the Underground Railroad played a significant role in helping enslaved African Americans escape to freedom. In Barbados, the movement for emancipation was led by a group of African-born leaders who sought to end the system of slavery.

In conclusion, the historical connections between Barbados and South Carolina are deeply intertwined with the transatlantic slave trade. The production of sugarcane in Barbados and the production of rice in South Carolina both depended on enslaved African labor. The legacies of slavery continue to shape these two regions today, and the struggle for freedom and justice in both places remains an important part of their identity.

Celebrating the Barbados-Charleston Connection

The South Carolina - Bahamas Connection

The South Carolina - Bahamas connection is another important aspect of the region's history. The Bahamas became a British possession in 1718, and the two regions share a rich history of trade and cultural exchange. The Bahamas were an important destination for enslaved African Americans fleeing to freedom, and many South Carolinians also sought refuge in the Bahamas during the American Revolution.

The Bahamas have a unique culture that is a blend of African, Spanish, and British influences. The Bahamian people have a strong sense of community and a deep love for their island home. The Bahamian government is committed to preserving the island's cultural heritage, and the Bahamian people continue to celebrate their rich history and traditions.

In conclusion, the connections between South Carolina and the Bahamas are an important part of the region's history. The shared legacy of slavery and the unique cultural heritage of the Bahamas continue to shape the region today. The relationship between these two places is a testament to the strength of human spirit and the enduring legacy of the transatlantic slave trade.