



Evidence Card for Investigator #3 – spice plantations



Zanzibar is sometimes called the Spice Islands because spices (especially cloves) are such an important product. Cloves were introduced into the island in the 18th century and soon became the backbone of a slave-based economy. (Notice that Zanzibari people were not *always* slaves – it was inclusion in a capitalist world economy in early modern times that led to widespread slavery in Zanzibar.) Today not as many people are involved in cultivating spices. Many of the old plantations have been converted to take advantage of a more recent industry: tourism.