Questions to be answered from chapter two in Howard Zinn’s A People’s History of the United States:

1. What incentived the early English colonists in North America to turn towards African slavery? Why were they “frustrated”?
2. What were some of the differences between African slavery and American slavery? What is Zinn’s assertion about what causes American slavery to be so ruthlessly brutal?
3. What are some of the differences between how an indentured servant may come over from England versus how an African slave is transported? (Zinn doesn’t discuss indentured servants in this chapter so focus on how Africans are captured, transported, and sold)
4. What caused the growth of plantation slavery and “racism”?
5. In what ways did slaves resist their treatment?
6. What was the one fear greater than a slave rebellion? Why did Virginia start giving ex-indentured servants land and provisions? How does this help prove that racism isn’t “natural”?
7. Is racism natural?