

Capitalism and Socialism, Locke on Property

As you're reading the selection from John Locke's *Second Treatise of Government* (Chapter V), consider the questions below.

1. According to Locke, for what purpose has God "given the earth to the children of men?"
2. How does one acquire legitimate title to property (i.e. ownership), according to Locke?
3. What two things are "mixed" to create property?
4. Does acquiring property require the agreement of others? Why might we think it should? Does acquiring property require the existence of government?
5. Is there any limit to how much property we can own in the state of nature?
6. What is the purpose of the right to property, according to Locke? How does this affect whether there is any limitation to the accumulation of property?
7. Why is it legitimate for someone to "inclose" land and make it their own property, according to Locke? How does this serve everyone else?
8. What is the origin of money according to Locke?
9. How does money change the permissibility of accumulating property? What do you think the effect of this would be on material inequality?
10. What does the right to property have to do with capitalism?