

European Settlement in South Carolina

The Spanish and French made attempts to settle in South Carolina, but the English were the first Europeans to establish a permanent settlement there. The colony prospered because of its profitable plantations and because it was an important trading center. The lesson below discusses some of the important groups in colonial South Carolina.

Early European Settlements in South Carolina

The Spanish built **San Miguel de Gualdape** in 1526 near the Waccamaw River and the present-day city of Georgetown. It was the first European settlement in South Carolina. Many of the early settlers died of starvation or disease, and in January of 1527, the surviving settlers left and went to Santo Domingo, an island in the Caribbean.

The French were the next group to establish a settlement when they built **Charlesfort** on Parris Island in 1562. The settlement, named after King Charles IX of France, only lasted a short time before the settlers returned to France.

In 1566, the Spanish built **Fort San Felipe** on Parris Island on the same location where the French had built Charlesfort. This was the second attempt by the Spanish to start a settlement in South Carolina. After Native Americans attacked the fort in 1576, the settlers abandoned it and fled to the Spanish settlement of St. Augustine in Florida.

In 1670, the English established a settlement at **Albemarle Point** along the Ashley River. This was the original location of Charleston, the first English settlement in South Carolina. Ten years later, the settlement was moved further south down the river to the present-day location of Charleston.

Colonial South Carolina

In 1663, King Charles II of England granted eight proprietors, known as the **Lord Proprietors**, the charter for the Carolina colony. The Lord Proprietors were all friends of the king and were given the charter as a reward for their loyalty to the king. The proprietors owned the land and hoped to earn a great deal of money from the colony. The proprietors would charge rent to people who settled on the land, and then the proprietors would have to pay rent to the king.

The Lords Proprietors were also in charge of the government of South Carolina. The **Grand Council** served as the first government within the colony, and it controlled all branches of government. The proprietors signed the **Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina** in March 1669. This document established the Church of England as the official church of the colony, though it did allow people to practice other religions. In 1719, the people of South Carolina revolted against the proprietors because they felt the proprietors had not been effectively ruling the colony.

South Carolina succeeded as a colony because the warm climate made it a good place to grow crops like rice and indigo which were exported to England for a profit. The use of the **plantation system** was an important factor in making South Carolina one of the wealthiest colonies in the British Empire. One of the reasons the plantations were so profitable was because of the use of slave labor.

The colonial population of South Carolina was made up of people from many different European ethnic groups and African slaves. While people of English descent made up the largest ethnic group in South

Carolina, there were many other groups of Europeans including people who were Scottish, German, Irish, Jewish, and Welsh. African slaves also made up a large portion of the population. Another group was the French **Huguenots** who settled in South Carolina in the late 1600s because they wanted to live in a place where they could freely practice their religion.

1. There were numerous plantations in colonial South Carolina. What would have been the most important factor in deciding which crop to grow on a plantation?

- ☐ A. having crops that could be stored for a long time
 - ☐ B. having crops that could be exported at a high price
 - ☐ C. growing food that could be sold to Native Americans
 - ☐ D. providing enough food to feed the colonists
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2. In 1566, the Spanish built Fort San Felipe. Which of the following best describes where the fort was located?

- ☐ A. It was in the location which later became the city of Charleston.
 - ☐ B. It was on along the Congaree River, near where Columbia is today.
 - ☐ C. It was in the same place where the French had built Charlesfort.
 - ☐ D. It was in the same place where the settlement of San Miguel de Gualdape had been.
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3. The Lords Proprietors were in charge of the government of South Carolina when it began as an English colony in 1663. In 1719, the people of South Carolina revolted against the proprietors because

- ☐ A. they thought the proprietors were too involved with local issues.
 - ☐ B. they felt the proprietors were not loyal to the British monarch.
 - ☐ C. they felt the proprietors had not been effectively ruling the colony.
 - ☐ D. they no longer wanted to be ruled by the British.
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4. The Grand Council served as the first government within the Carolina colony. Which of the following is true of the Grand Council?

- ☐ A. It was the first colonial government to give women the right to vote.
- ☐ B. It was entirely made up of elected representatives.
- ☐ C. It controlled all branches of the government.
- ☐ D. It was controlled directly by the proprietors.

5. Which of the following best describes the settlement of San Miguel de Gualdape?

- ☐ A. It was built by the English near Charleston.
 - ☐ B. It was the first settlement in South Carolina to have 1000 residents.
 - ☐ C. It was started by the French on Parris Island.
 - ☐ D. It was the first European settlement in South Carolina.
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6. In 1566, the Spanish built Fort San Felipe on Parris Island. This was the second attempt by the Spanish to start a settlement in South Carolina. Which of the following best explains why the settlement did not last?

- ☐ A. The fort was attacked by the French.
 - ☐ B. All of the settlers died from disease.
 - ☐ C. The fort was attacked by Native Americans.
 - ☐ D. All of the settlers starved to death.
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7. Which of the following was one of the ways the natural environment of South Carolina had an impact on the development of the colony?

- ☐ A. The access to major rivers made trade with the inland areas of North America possible.
 - ☐ B. There were plentiful supplies of gold and silver which made it an excellent place for mining.
 - ☐ C. The mountains of South Carolina made it very isolated from other colonies.
 - ☐ D. The warm climate made it a good place to grow crops like rice and indigo.
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8. The French Huguenots were one of the ethnic groups that settled in South Carolina in the late 1600s. Which of the following best describes why they came there?

- ☐ A. They wanted to trade with the other European colonists in the region.
 - ☐ B. They wanted to live in a place where they could freely practice their religion.
 - ☐ C. They wanted to convert Native Americans to Christianity.
 - ☐ D. They wanted to live in a place where they could have slaves.
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9. What was one of the significant features of the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina?

- ☐ A. It contained a bill of rights.
 - ☐ B. It allowed some religious freedom in Carolina.
 - ☐ C. It was the first plan of government in North America.
 - ☐ D. It limited the power of the king.
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10. San Miguel de Gualdape, a Spanish settlement near the Waccamaw River, was built in 1526. Which present-day city is nearest to where this settlement was located?

- ☐ **A.** Charleston
 - ☐ **B.** Columbia
 - ☐ **C.** Rock Hill
 - ☐ **D.** Georgetown
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11. Which of the following best explains how the Lords Proprietors gained control of South Carolina?

- ☐ **A.** They were wealthy businessmen in England who offered to buy the colony from the King of England.
 - ☐ **B.** They were the first eight Englishmen to land in South Carolina, and they claimed it for themselves.
 - ☐ **C.** They were hired by the King of England to govern the colony on his behalf.
 - ☐ **D.** They were friends of King Charles II, and he granted them a charter giving them ownership of the colony.
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12. Which of the following best describes the location of Charlesfort, the first French settlement in South Carolina?

- ☐ **A.** It was on Albemarle Point.
 - ☐ **B.** It was along the Waccamaw River.
 - ☐ **C.** It was on Parris Island.
 - ☐ **D.** It was on Hilton Head Island.
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13. Which of the following best describes the colonial population of South Carolina?

- ☐ **A.** The population was equally divided between English and French settlers.
 - ☐ **B.** Only people who were from England were allowed to settle in South Carolina.
 - ☐ **C.** The majority of people who lived in South Carolina were of Spanish descent.
 - ☐ **D.** It was made up of people from many different European ethnic groups and African slaves.
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14. Albemarle Point along the Ashley River in South Carolina is an important location because

- ☐ **A.** it is where the English built their first settlement in South Carolina.
 - ☐ **B.** it is where the English defeated the Spanish and gained control of South Carolina.
 - ☐ **C.** it is where the first capital of South Carolina was located.
 - ☐ **D.** it is where the English and the Native Americans signed their first treaty.
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15. The use of the plantation system was an important factor in making South Carolina one of the wealthiest colonies in the British Empire. Which of the following contributed most to the success of the plantations?

- ☐ **A.** the use of slave labor
- ☐ **B.** the use of indentured servants
- ☐ **C.** the use of sharecroppers
- ☐ **D.** the use of wage laborers