

Diverse Groups in the South Carolina Colony

The South Carolina colony began in 1663 when it was founded by the British. It was one of the original 13 colonies established in North America. South Carolina was also part of the **colonial region** known as the Southern Colonies, along with Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, and Georgia. South Carolina had great land for farming and used a plantation system to grow crops. The plantation system used enslaved people to grow and harvest the crops to sell for a profit. The major crops grown were tobacco, cotton, rice, and indigo. South Carolina became a very wealthy colony from these crops. The plantation system was a large part of the way of life in the colony. There were 3 main groups of people living in and interacting with the South Carolina colony. Those groups were the Europeans, Africans, and Native Americans and each group was impacted differently during this time.

The economy of South Carolina depended on slavery in order to grow crops. The first settlers used enslaved people from the Caribbean. Later, enslaved people were brought from Africa. These enslaved people provided hard labor, working long hours in harsh conditions in order to grow the crops. The population of enslaved people increased as the demand for the crops increased. The more the plantations grew, the more the number of enslaved people grew. South Carolina was the location of a major port that almost half of enslaved Africans came through when they arrived in the colonies. Upon arrival, enslaved people were checked for diseases. African enslaved people were considered property and were bought and sold at **slave auctions**. Often times, families were torn apart and sold to different **slaveholders**. Most enslaved people were stripped of their culture and identity, often being forced to change their names. There was, however, some groups of enslaved Africans who ended up on the coast of South Carolina and the sea islands. These enslaved people came from various places and did not speak the same language, so they adapted and created their own language known as Gullah. These people were very skilled rice growers and were not watched as closely as enslaved people in other areas

U.S. History

Vocabulary

Colonial Region
Slave Auction
Slaveholders
Profitable

Reading Skills

MAIN
Understand the MAIN
IDEA
paragraph.

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because travel to the islands was difficult. Because of this, the Gullah culture was able to survive and is still present to this day.

Europeans in South Carolina also captured and enslaved the indigenous Native Americans. These natives were shipped to other British colonies in the Caribbean. Capturing and selling the Native Americans for slavery ended in the 1680s. The population of Native Americans declined when Europeans came to South Carolina. The Europeans brought diseases like smallpox that reduced the population of Native Americans quickly. The Native Americans also grew tired of the Europeans taking their land. The different tribes in Georgia were slowly forced out of the land that the colony of South Carolina was located on. There were also violent conflicts with certain tribes, like the Cherokees.

Europeans moved to the colony for different reasons, but mostly economic. The colony of South Carolina grew and became one of the most **profitable** colonies for the British. The colony accepted many different religious groups like Quakers, Baptists, Methodists, and Jews. Catholics were not allowed at first. The capital of South Carolina was Charleston. This city was a major port for shipping crops. The European population grew quickly around the city. There was an abundant amount of food and resources for the Europeans to live on. The colony also developed a system of self-government. The colony was still connected strongly to the British in some ways, but people wanted the colony to become independent from Britain. These people were called Patriots. Others wanted to remain loyal to Britain. These were called Loyalists. These divisions created different political groups in the colony. Eventually, South Carolina joined the American Revolution. South Carolina declared independence from Great Britain, leading to the formation of the United States of America.

The different groups of Africans, Europeans, and Native Americans shaped the development of South Carolina. Each of these groups had their own unique ethnic and cultural contributions. The relationships of each of these groups played a role in how the colony developed and grew. Some groups prospered while others did not. The Europeans forced the Native Americans to move and wiped out the population with disease. The enslaved people provided the labor for the plantation system in often terrible working and living conditions. The colony of South Carolina grew as more Europeans moved to the colony to take advantage of the plantation system and other opportunities.

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Directions: Match the vocabulary term to its definition.

- | | |
|--|---------------------|
| 1. _____ People who bought and sold slaves | a. Colonial regions |
| 2. _____ New England, Middle, and Southern | b. Slave auctions |
| 3. _____ where slaves were sold | c. Slaveholder |
| 4. _____ able to make money | d. Profitable |

Directions: Circle the best answer choice based on the passage.

- What caused the number of slaves in South Carolina to increase?
 - The decrease of the Native American population
 - The increase in factories
 - Great Britain forcing slaves onto ships
 - The demand for crops and need for labor
- What language was created by groups of slaves working in the Sea Islands??
 - English
 - Gullah
 - Swahili
 - None of the above
- Which of the following statements about Native Americans in South Carolina is true?
 - Many Native Americans were captured and forced into slavery
 - Europeans brought diseases that wiped out many Native Americans
 - Native Americans were angry with Europeans for taking over their land
 - All of the above
- The colony developed a system of _____.
 - Self-Government
 - Ship building
 - Bread making
 - All of the above
- South Carolina was apart of which colonial region?
 - New England
 - Middle
 - Southern

6. The South Carolina colony was accepting of many religious groups.

- a. True
- b. False

7. Loyalists wanted to stay under the control of Great Britain.

- a. True
- b. False

8. The South Carolina colony was never very successful for Great Britain.

- a. True
- b. False

9. How did African Americans contribute to the development of the colony of South Carolina?

10. How did Europeans impact the Native American population in South Carolina?
