

British North America and South Carolina

Great Britain established colonies in North America to make itself wealthy. Each colony had different resources and climates. Each of the colonies produced money for Britain in different ways. Some colonies provided lumber, furs, and ship building. The colony of South Carolina had fertile soil and a mild climate, which was perfect for **cash crops**. Cash crops are very profitable crops, such as cotton, tobacco, indigo, and rice. Due to their **plantation system**, South Carolina was one of the richest colonies, and the king of England enjoyed the wealth he got from South Carolina.

The southern part of the colony had large plantations, which were owned by wealthy men. They were often educated and involved in politics. Many played large roles in the politics of the colonies. The majority of these wealthy plantation owners were English. The northern part of South Carolina was still a **frontier**, or unowned by the British. People moved here from Pennsylvania and Virginia. These people wanted to live a remote life in an undeveloped area of the colony.

Demand for crops from South Carolina was high, and Great Britain wanted to increase the size of the crops. The plantation system required large amounts of labor. This meant that more enslaved people were desired for their labor. They came from the Caribbean and Africa. They were forced to work long hours in terrible conditions to grow the crops. South Carolina had one of the largest populations of enslaved people in the colonies, and by the early 1700s most of the population was enslaved.

The colony of South Carolina included many different religions. Some people in Europe wanted to move to the colony of South Carolina to escape religious persecution and gain religious freedom. One of the major groups was the Huguenots. They were French Protestants looking for religious freedom. Many were wealthy and educated. They helped the colony grow in many ways. Enslaved people also brought religions such as Bakongo from the Caribbean and other religions from Africa. Some enslaved people slowly converted to Christianity, but many still practiced their traditional religions.

The King of Britain made the colonies pay heavy taxes. Britain had just fought an expensive war and wanted the colonies to pay for it. The King created the English Navigation Acts. This was a group of laws that made the colony of South Carolina pay taxes on goods being shipped. Colonists were angry about these new expensive taxes. Some people even began smuggling goods to avoid paying taxes. South Carolina also had pirates. Many colonists in South Carolina wanted to declare independence from Great Britain because of the unfair taxes and treatment. These people were called **patriots**. Others, called **loyalists**, wanted to remain loyal to Great Britain. This division caused tension within the colony.

Directions: Match the vocabulary term to its definition.

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| 1. _____ a way of planting crops that involved enslaved labor | a. Cash crops |
| 2. _____ people who wanted to fight the British | b. Frontier |
| 3. _____ crops that were very profitable | c. Patriots |
| 4. _____ land that did not belong to Britain | d. Plantation system |

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

- Which was not a cash crop?
 - Tobacco
 - Corn
 - Cotton
 - Rice
- Why did some people move to South Carolina?
 - To practice their religion
 - To live a remote life
 - To make money
 - All of the above
- Most of the large plantations were owned by _____ men.
 - Spanish
 - English
- Why did Britain begin taxing South Carolina?
 - Because they did not produce enough crops
 - Because of slavery
 - Because they had just fought an expensive war
 - All of the above
- According to the passage, what was not provided to Britain from the colonies?
 - Enslaved people
 - Furs
 - Lumber
 - Cash crops

6. Which one is a religion practiced in South Carolina?
- a. Bakongo
 - b. French Protestant
 - c. Christianity
 - d. All of the above
7. Enslaved people made up most of the population in South Carolina in the 1700s.
- a. True
 - b. False
8. Britain made South Carolina pay heavy taxes.
- a. True
 - b. False
9. In 2-3 sentences, describe what a cash crop is.

10. Explain different reasons why people moved to South Carolina.
