

The South Carolina Colony Reading Comprehension

South Carolina, part of the original Province of Carolina, was founded in 1663 when King Charles II gave the land to eight noblemen known as The Lords Proprietors. At the time, the province included both North Carolina and South Carolina. North and South Carolina became separate royal colonies in 1729.

The Spanish and French vied over the rights to the coast of South Carolina in the 1500s. In 1562, French soldiers unsuccessfully attempted to start a settlement on Parris Island off the coast of present-day South Carolina. In 1566, the Spanish built the colony of Santa Elena near the site of the original French settlement. Santa Elena was abandoned in 1576 after being attacked by Indians. Although the settlement was rebuilt, the Spanish concentrated their forces in Florida after British pirate Sir Francis Drake destroyed St. Augustine. The British would be the next to colonize the area.

In 1670, the first permanent English settlement in South Carolina was established at Albemarle Point. Many of the original settlers came from the Caribbean island of Barbados, including the new governor, William Sayle. A year before, in 1669, prospective Carolina settlers including John Locke wrote the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina, which served as an early form of government for the Carolina colony.

In 1680, the colony moved to Charles Town (later Charleston). Charles Town would quickly become the cultural and economic center of the Southern colonies. Because of the influence of the Caribbean settlers, the colony's original economy resembled the plantation colonies of the West Indies. It would become a major center for rice, tobacco, and indigo production, and the colony's plantation owners were among the wealthiest people in all the colonies. By the late 1700s, African-American slaves represented the majority of the population in South Carolina, as the number of cotton plantations increased.

1.) The British...

- a.) tried colonizing South Carolina before the French and Spanish.
- b.) tried colonizing South Carolina before the French but after the Spanish.
- c.) tried colonizing South Carolina before the Spanish but after the French.
- d.) tried colonizing South Carolina after the French and Spanish.

2.) Which of the following is true?

- a.) South and North Carolina were always separate colonies.
- b.) The original Carolina colony only included the land that is now South Carolina.
- c.) North and South Carolina would go to war against each other.
- d.) The Lords Proprietors founded South Carolina in 1663.

3.) The _____ established their first permanent settlement at Albemarle Point.

- a.) French
- b.) English
- c.) Spanish
- d.) Puritans

4.) Many of South Carolina's original settlers came from _____.

- a.) Barbados
- b.) Spain
- c.) France
- d.) England

5.) What question is answered in the third paragraph?

- a.) How was the new governor chosen?
- b.) Who wrote the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina?
- c.) Why did the colony move to Charles Town?
- d.) What did John Locke believe about religion?

6.) Charles Town would become a major center for the export of _____.

- a.) soybeans
- b.) peanuts
- c.) cotton
- d.) rice

7.) Which of the following is NOT true about the South Carolina colony?

- a.) Eventually, the majority of the population would be slaves.
- b.) It would have a large number of cotton plantations.
- c.) It was influenced by the West Indies.
- d.) William Sayle came to South Carolina from England.

8.) Plantation owners in South Carolina were _____.

- a.) poor
- b.) fairly wealthy
- c.) very wealthy
- d.) the passage doesn't say

9.) Which of the following is a RESULT of the increasing number of cotton plantations in South Carolina in the 1700s?

- a.) The King of England exerted more and more control over South Carolina.
- b.) The population of African-American slaves in South Carolina increased.
- c.) The economic center of South Carolina shifted away from Charles Town.
- d.) The Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina was revoked.

10.) Which of the following is NOT addressed by the passage?

- a.) Why did the colony move to Charles Town?
- b.) What products were exported from Charles Town?
- c.) What group made up the majority of the population in South Carolina by the late 1700s?
- d.) Where was the first permanent English settlement in South Carolina established?