

# CONVERSATIONS ON SC HISTORY

## with Dr. Walter Edgar

### Lesson 5: Colonial Black Experience

#### Focus Points:

- South Carolina, Wealthiest Colony in British North America
  - Average estate \$194,000. in 1774
    - Based upon enslaved African American Labor
- Slavery in South Carolina
  - Slaves exceeded white population
  - 15th century – Spanish, Portuguese and Dutch brought slaves from West Africa
  - English – brought slaves from Barbados
  - West African Slaves – 25 ethnicities
- Cultivation of Rice
  - 1690's – accepted as commercial product
  - 1730's – major cash crop
- Blending of Cultures
  - Southern food – Native American, West African and European
  - Language
    - Gullah – combination of West African and European language
  - Religious beliefs
  - Plantation System
    - Task system of labor
    - Slave cabins mirrored West African cabins
  - Traditions
    - Brer Rabbit Stories
    - Sweet Grass Baskets

#### Discussion:

Explain the impact of economic development on South Carolina's wealth. How was the plantation system impacted by the variety of West African cultures? What slave traditions can be seen in our present day culture?

#### Readings:

Edgar, South Carolina, A History. pp.63-81.

Paul Horne & Patricia Klien, South Carolina, The History of an American State. pp.128-137.

## **South Carolina Social Studies Standards:**

**Standard 8-1:** The student will demonstrate an understanding of the settlement of South Carolina and the United States by Native Americans, Europeans, and Africans.

**Indicator 8-1.3:** Summarize the history of European settlement in Carolina from the first attempts to settle at San Miguel de Gualdape, Charlesfort, San Felipe, and Albemarle Point to the time of South Carolina's establishment as an economically important British colony, including the diverse origins of the settlers, the early government, the importance of the plantation system and slavery, and the impact of the natural environment on the development of the colony. (H, G, P, E)

**Indicator 8-1.4:** Explain the growth of the African American population during the colonial period and the significance of African Americans in the developing culture (e.g., Gullah) and economy of South Carolina, including the origins of African American slaves, the growth of the slave trade, the impact of population imbalance between African and European Americans, and the Stono Rebellion and subsequent laws to control the slave population. (H, G, P, E)

**Indicator 8-1.6:** Explain how South Carolinians used natural, human and political resources to gain economic prosperity, including trade with Barbados, rice planting, Eliza Lucas Pinckney and indigo planting, the slave trade, and the practice of mercantilism. (H, G, E)

### **Literacy Elements:**

- A. Distinguish between past, present and future time
- D. Create and interpret data on time lines
- E. Explain change and continuity over time
- F. Ask geographic questions: Where is it located? Why is it there? What is significant about its location? How is its location related to that of other people, places and environments?
- G. Make and record observations about the physical and human characteristics of places
- J. Demonstrate responsible citizenship within the school community and the local and national communities
- O. Consider multiple perspectives of documents and stories