

CONVERSATIONS ON SC HISTORY

with Dr. Walter Edgar

Lesson 8: The American Revolution in South Carolina The Low Country

Focus Points:

- The Richest Colony Enters the Revolution
 - More battles fought in SC than any other Colony
 - Major Issue – Local Control of Colony
 - Seceded from rule of Lords Proprietors 1719
 - Laurens – Leigh Affair 1770
 - Appropriation of support for local English Political Cause
 - Snobbery of British Aristocracy
 - Subjected to second rate bureaucrats
- Open Rebellion
 - September 1775 – Royal Governor fled South Carolina
 - Fall 1775 – Snow Campaign
 - General Richard Richardson
 - June 1776 – British assault on Palmetto Log Fort on Sullivan’s Island
 - General Moultrie
 - General William Thomson (Back Country) defended Breach Inlet
 - 1776-1779 – no fighting in SC
 - May 1780 – British captured Charleston
 - Greatest Military Disaster – General Benjamin Lincoln
 - All of SC gave up after Charleston surrendered
 - 1780 – British Blunder – Revoke
- State Flag
 - Crescent Moon representative of silver crescent on hats of Moultrie’s men
 - Tree representative of palmetto logs
 - June 28 – Palmetto Day

Discussion:

Why did the richest colony decide to rebel against the British? What were the major factors in South Carolina coming together to support the Revolution?

Readings:

Edgar, South Carolina, A History. pp. 226-244.

Paul Horne & Patricia Klien, South Carolina, The History of an American State. pp. 158-181.

South Carolina Social Studies Standards:

Standard 8-2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the American Revolution – the beginnings of the new American nation and South Carolina’s part in the development of that nation.

Indicator 8-2.1: Explain the interests and roles of South Carolinians in the events leading to the American Revolution, including the state’s reactions to the Stamp Act and the Tea Act; the role of Christopher Gadsden and the Sons of Liberty; and the role of the four South Carolina signers of the Declaration of Independence – Edward Rutledge, Henry Middleton, Thomas Lynch Jr., and Thomas Heyward Jr. (H, P, E)

Indicator 8-2.2: Compare the perspectives and roles of different South Carolinians during the American Revolution, including those of political leaders, soldiers, partisans, Patriots, Tories/Loyalists, women, African Americans, and Native Americans. (H, G, P, E)

Indicator 8-2.3: Summarize the course and key conflicts of the American Revolution in South Carolina and its effects on the state, including the attacks on Charleston; the Battle of Camden; the partisan warfare of Thomas Sumter, Andrew Pickens, and Francis Marion; the Battle of Cowpens; and the Battle of Kings Mountain. (H, G)

Standard USHC-2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the establishment of the United States as a new nation.

Indicator USHC-2.1: Summarize the early development of representative government and political rights in the American colonies, including the influence of the British political system, the rule of law and the conflict between the colonial legislatures and the royal governors. (P, H)

Indicator USHC-2.2: Explain the impact of the Declaration of Independence and the American Revolution on the American colonies and on the world at large. (H, P, 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
- O. Consider multiple perspectives of documents and stories