**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.

**Enduring Understanding:**

The human mosaic of the South Carolina colony was composed of indigenous, immigrant, and enslaved populations. To understand how these differing backgrounds melded into an entirely new and different culture the student will . . .

**8-1.5: Explain how South Carolinians used their natural, human, and political resources uniquely to gain economic prosperity, including settlement by and trade with the people of Barbados, rice and indigo planting, and the practice of mercantilism.**

**It is essential for students to know:**

South Carolina’s natural resources included abundant deer that could be hunted for its skins and pine forests to harvest. Carolina also had broad expanses of fertile land, a mild climate, and a long growing season. Geographic conditions in the Lowcountry made it suitable for rice planting. A good port at Charleston and navigable waterways along the coast and into the interior made shipping goods to market possible.

As a result of the use of its natural resources by its people, a flourishing trade made the Carolinas a profitable colony. Initially, traders obtained furs and deerskins from Native Americans in exchange for beads, trinkets, guns and alcohol. When some Native Americans were forced into slavery, this good relationship ended. Because the early Carolina settlers came from Barbados, South Carolinians established a thriving trade with this Caribbean island. Carolinians sold cattle and Native American slaves to the people of Barbados. South Carolina pine trees were a source of pitch and tar (naval stores) which the British used for making ships watertight. The growing African slave trade brought not only laborers but also their knowledge of cattle herding and rice planting to the Carolinas (8-1.4). Rice became known as “Carolina Gold,” a staple crop and the source of long-term prosperity. The determination of the settlers and the hard work of their slaves resulted in a growing agricultural economy. As an immigrant from Antigua, Eliza Lucas planted indigo because she was determined to make the family plantation successful. Indigo was a plant used to make a highly valued blue dye and the British government was offering a subsidy as an incentive to

anyone who would grow it. Eventually, Eliza Lucas succeeded and shared her success with other area planters. Indigo became a new cash crop for South Carolina. Political factors also contributed to South Carolina’s prosperity. Mercantilism was an economic system in which the mother country controlled trade in order to export more goods than it imported. By enforcing mercantilist policies, the mother country would amass more gold and silver and become wealthy and powerful. South Carolina served as both a source of raw materials and a market for British manufactured goods. This lessened the mother country’s dependence on foreign trade and thus improved her balance of trade (exports over imports). The British government encouraged the development of new products such as indigo by offering subsidies (or bounties) to planters who grew it. Both rice and indigo were on the ‘enumerated’ list of products that could be sold only to England. Carolina planters therefore had a secure market in which to sell their crops. However the British government did not enforce this part of the law on Carolina rice, thus giving South Carolina the economic advantage of a wider market. Indeed the British government was lax in its enforcement of most mercantilist laws (a condition known as salutary neglect) and so the people of British North America were free to develop their economies without much interference from the mother country.