**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 . . .

**8-1.6 Compare the development of representative government in South Carolina to representative government in the other colonial regions, including the proprietary regime, the period of royal government, and South Carolina’s Regulator Movement.**

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

South Carolina’s government became more democratic during the colonial period. South Carolina began as a proprietary colony when the land and political control over the land was granted to the eight Lords Proprietors by the king. In order to attract more settlers the proprietors began to share some of the political control of the colony with property owners. Carolina developed a

political elite as a result of the amassing of great wealth and political power in the hands of the largest plantation owners. Other colonies also developed a political elite based on economic status (8-1.3).

Just as in the other colonies, in Carolina there was a legislative assembly established to make laws, including tax laws, for the colony. Most English colonies had a bicameral (two house) assembly. In Carolina, the Proprietors and the elite had greater representation in the government than did the common people. The Grand Council decided that a majority of each group in the colonies – the representatives of the Proprietors, the colonial elite and the common people - should have equal voice in the government even though this representation would not be proportional to their numbers in the population. Later a separate house was established as the Commons House of Assembly to represent the people. In South Carolina representation for the Lowcountry continued to be greater than that for the backcountry.

By the end of the 1600s, most English colonies founded as the joint stock companies had lost their right to name the colonial governor and had become royal colonies. This meant that the king appointed the governor. Most often this change was the result of the king’s desire to control the

wealth or to limit the independence of the colony. South Carolina became a royal colony at the invitation of the colonists. Tension between the colonists and the Proprietors grew because the colonists felt neglected by the absentee landlord who collected rent but offered them little protection. The Proprietors thought that the colonists were disobedient and they were making little profit. The Council protested to the king about the neglect of the proprietors and appealed to the king to make Carolina a royal colony. The king reached a financial agreement with the Proprietors and Carolina became a royal colony and later was split into North and South Carolina. South Carolina continued to have self government through their representative assembly but now had a governor who was appointed by the king rather than by the proprietors. The power of the royal governor was limited because colonial assemblies controlled the taxes that paid the governor’s salary. Most often the king and Parliament left the colonies alone to control their own local government.

South Carolina enjoyed some economic advantages as a result of becoming a royal colony. The English government increased subsidies for naval stores and allowed merchants to sell rice directly to foreign countries (8-1.5). The English government through the royal governor established townships in the backcountry to encourage migration. Settlers moved there to establish subsistence farms. This intensified the animosity between the Lowcountry and the backcountry. The first white settlers to move to the backcountry were traders and woodsmen, so they were viewed by the Lowcountry elite as “uncivilized.” As the first area settled in the state, the Lowcountry along the Atlantic coast surrounding the city of Charleston was the home of plantation owners who grew rich from the export of rice and indigo.

As more coastal settlers moved inland and immigrants such as the Scotch Irish and the Germans traveled along the backcountry valleys from Pennsylvania, the backcountry’s white population grew to outnumber that of the Lowcountry. However the backcountry continued to have much less representation in the Assembly. Although they paid taxes, the backcountry folk got little in return from their colonial government. There was no law enforcement so settlers took the regulation of society in the backcountry into their own hands in what was called the Regulator movement. Because there were no courts, the Regulators operated as vigilantes. This movement to provide law and order through “self- regulation” turned lawless. The “guilty” were hanged or beaten to death without a jury trial, violating their rights as Englishmen. Eventually the government of South Carolina came to the aid of the backcountry settlers by setting up seven circuit courthouses around the colony to provide justice, law and order in the region. However representation in the General Assembly was still disproportional and the tensions between the Lowcountry and the backcountry continued.