Standard 8-2: The student will demonstrate an understanding of the causes of the American Revolution and the beginnings of the new nation, with an emphasis on South Carolina’s role in the development of that nation.

Enduring Understanding: The events surrounding the American Revolution transformed British colonists into American citizens. To understand South Carolina’s pivotal role in this process, the student will …

**8-2.2 Summarize the response of South Carolina to events leading to the American Revolution, including the Stamp Act, the Tea Acts, and the Sons of Liberty.**

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

Events leading to the American Revolutionary War were largely the result of the attempt by the British crown and Parliament to impose taxes on the colonies in order to pay for the French and Indian War. Colonists believed it was the right of their colonial assemblies to impose taxes, not the prerogative of the King or Parliament.

The most important tax imposed by Parliament was authorized by the Stamp Act. This act placed a tax or a duty on paper, such as legal documents and newspapers which the colonists paid directly. Taxes prior to this one were indirect taxes, paid by the merchants. Incensed colonists protested “No taxation without representation” because colonists did not have their own representative in

Parliament and therefore believed that they had no colonial voice in Parliament. Colonists wanted the rights of their own colonial assemblies to impose taxes to continue. Colonists organized a Stamp Act Congress and a boycott on British goods that led to the repeal of the Stamp Act. They also organized the Sons and Daughters of Liberty in order to protest British taxes. The Sons of Liberty played a significant role in enforcing the boycotts through persuasion and intimidation. The Daughters of Liberty engaged in spinning bees and refused to buy British products, finding substitutes instead. The British then imposed another indirect tax through the Townshend duties, which were import taxes on paint, paper, tea, and a variety of other goods. The colonists at this point were unwilling even to accept an import tax because it was designed to collect revenue, not to

regulate trade. Again the colonists used a boycott. As a result of the boycott, the Townshend duties were repealed except for the tax on tea.

The Tea Act was not a tax. This act gave the British East India Company exclusive rights to sell tea in the colonies because the East India Tea Company had financial problems and Parliament wanted to help the company. Colonists were boycotting tea because of a tax imposed under the Townshend Acts. Although most of the Townshend duties had been repealed as a result of a successful colonial boycott, the tax on tea remained. The Sons of Liberty feared that the availability of cheap tea would threaten the effectiveness of the boycott. In Boston they threw the tea overboard. Georgetown and Charles Town had small “tea parties” that were not as large as the Boston protest, but did not allow the tea to be sold. The Boston Tea Party resulted in Parliament’s passage of what the colonists called the Intolerable Acts. Colonists sent delegates to a Continental Congress in order to address the problem of the Intolerable Acts.

In 1774, representatives from across the South Carolina colony met in Charles Town to elect representatives to the Continental Congress to be held in Philadelphia. They also established a General Committee of 99 to govern the colony instead of the royal governor. The Continental Congress, under the leadership of Henry Middleton of South Carolina, who was elected its president, established a non-importation and non-exportation agreement. However, South Carolina delegates successfully argued that rice was essential to the survival of their colony, so trade in rice was allowed. After Lexington and Concord, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia. Students should understand the sequence of events that led to the Declaration of Independence including the Intolerable Acts, First Continental Congress, Lexington and Concord, Second Continental Congress and war.