**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 . . .

**8-1.2** Compare the motives, activities, and accomplishments of the exploration of South Carolina and North America by the Spanish, French, and English.

It is essential for students to know:

As a result of the explorations of Columbus and later Spanish explorers, and the actions of the conquistadors, the Spanish claimed large areas of Central and South America. Initially explorers searched for gold but soon set up encomiendas [large plantations] on which the native peoples were put to work to produce more wealth for their Spanish masters. Disease and overwork soon decimated the native population and the Spanish brought in African slaves to work the plantations and mines. They built cities and established universities, transferring a complex social class system, their style of government, and their Catholic religion to the New World. Spanish explorers extended their search for gold and their claim of land into North America, establishing settlements in what is now Florida and South Carolina and the southwestern parts of the continent. By the time of the American Revolution, the Spanish established missions along the Pacific coast, enhancing their claim to the area.

French explorers, searching for the Northwest Passage, sailed down the St. Lawrence River and claimed the region for France. They established settlements at Montreal and Quebec. Although relatively few Frenchmen settled in these cold climates, they brought their culture with them. French Protestants were not allowed to immigrate to the New World so the French colony was Catholic. French traders established good relations with the native peoples on whom they relied for trade in furs. Frenchmen traveled along the rivers, including the Mississippi River, and claimed those lands for France, naming it Louisiana after their king.

Not to be outdone, English explorers also sailed along the coast of North America, claiming these lands for the English King, They would later establish permanent settlements along the eastern coast naming them Virginia and New England. Some settlers were attracted to these regions by the hope for the discovery of gold and stayed to grow tobacco. Others were fleeing from religious persecution in England and founded societies based on their shared religious values. All English settlers brought their culture, including their language, Protestant religions, and ideas about self-government, with them to the New World.

Spain, France, and England vied for a foothold in South Carolina as part of the competition for colonies that would enrich the mother country. Although a Spanish explorer, Hernan de Soto, traveled through what is now South Carolina looking for gold, neither Spain nor France were able to establish a permanent settlement. Conditions at the settlements and problems in the mother countries led to lack of support for the settlements and resulted in their abandonment. Spain founded the San Miguel de Gualdape settlement along the Waccamaw River near what is now Georgetown [1520s] but abandoned it. The French founded Charlesfort near present day Beaufort but also abandoned it [1560s]. The Spanish again tried to establish a foothold and founded San Felipe, which was built on the abandoned settlement of Charlesfort. This settlement survived for ten years until it was attacked by Native Americans. Survivors fled to St. Augustine, Florida. Finally the English founded a settlement which became the first permanent colony (Charles Town) in South Carolina [1670].

Students should know the general locations of the Spanish, French and English colonies in the New World.