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 …

**8-2.1 Explain the political and economic consequences of the French and Indian War on the relationship of the South Carolina colonists with Native Americans and England.**

It is essential for students to know:

South Carolina and the other American colonies became involved in the military and economic rivalry between the French and the English. The economic policy of mercantilism was practiced by both the French and the British in order to prevent colonies from trading with anyone except their mother country. Although the British did not enforce their policies strictly, following a policy of salutary neglect towards the colonies, the rivalry with the French was rooted in longstanding animosities. This rivalry led to a series of wars in Europe which had counterparts in North America. The French and Indian War, the last in this series of wars, began in the colonies when the French moved into the Ohio River Valley. The war later spread to Europe where it was known as the Seven Years War. The French and Indian War was so named because Great Britain was fighting France and France’s Indian allies.

Although South Carolina had little military involvement in the French and Indian War, the war contributed to the Cherokee War in South Carolina. Conditions for war with the Cherokee had been building since colonists moved into the Upcountry. When French fur traders moved in to the upstate region, English settlers were prompted to seek a treaty with the Cherokee. The Cherokee interpreted this treaty to be an alliance while the British saw it as an acknowledgement of British sovereignty. Although peace lasted for 30 years, it was broken during the French and Indian War. Although the Cherokee favored the British, the British failed to protect the Cherokee when the French and their Indian allies attacked. Cherokee warriors, feeling cheated by the British, took possession of horses belonging to settlers, whites attacked and Cherokee retaliated. The royal governor of South Carolina tried to control the Cherokee by stopping all trade and making hostages of the Cherokee peace emissaries. The Cherokee War lasted about two years and resulted in many deaths among the Cherokee. The treaty that ended the war forced the Cherokee to give up much of their land and created a boundary dividing the colony and the Cherokee territory.

The French and Indian War ended with British victory. France lost her possessions in North America and Spain lost control of Florida to the British. A British-controlled Florida and the expansion of the indigo trade were both good results for South Carolina. However, the war changed the relationship of the colonies with the mother country, Great Britain. During the war the British gave up their policy of salutary neglect and attempted to enforce their mercantilist policies. The Sugar Act was designed to stop illegal trade with France and collect revenues to fund the war effort. Smugglers were be prosecuted in vice admiralty courts, which did not use juries. While colonists acknowledged the right of Parliament to control trade, they saw the vice admiralty courts as a violation of the right to a trial by a jury of one’s peers promised in the Magna Carta and English common law. More importantly, as a result of the war, Great Britain incurred a significant debt that they thought the American colonists should pay. This led to the attempts to impose other taxes which the colonists resisted.