**Task: Use the graphic organizer to identify and describe the three reasons for the settlement of Georgia.**

**-Paste the chart in your composition book**

Reasons for Settlement

Arguably, the most important reason for Georgia’s founding was defense. In the 1730s, South

Carolina was a profitable British colony that was constantly threatened by the Spanish in Florida.

Georgia’s primary role was to serve as a military “buffer” between the two. In other words, Georgia

was created to defend South Carolina from the Spanish. This is evident from the forts that Oglethorpe

constructed and his bringing the martial Highland Scots to reoccupy the abandoned Fort King George.

During the Battle of Bloody Marsh the Georgia colonists repelled a Spanish attack, and after this

battle the Spanish threat to both Georgia and South Carolina was eliminated.

The second reason Georgia was founded was due to the economic policy of Mercantilism (see

Teacher Notes: SS8H1c). The Trustees hoped that Georgia would be able to produce four agricultural

products that could not be grown successfully in England. These products were rice, indigo, wine,

and most importantly silk. In fact, silk was so important to the trustees that all colonists were required

to set aside land to grow mulberry trees which the silk worms feed on. Like Virginia, and the other

southern colonies, some Georgia colonists grew tobacco, but this did not become an important crop

until the late colonial period and early statehood.

For the most part, none of these products reached the levels of success that the Trustees had hoped.

Georgia’s wine industry never developed during the colonial period, and the silk industry, for the most

part, was unsuccessful as well (though by 1767 the Salzburgers did produce and export over a ton of

silk to England). Rice, indigo, and tobacco became more successful during the Royal period and

early statehood.

Note: In order to help students remember these agricultural products used the acronym W.R.I.S.(T).

and call them the “Wrist Crops.” (Wine, Rice, Indigo, Silk, Tobacco)

**The Charter of 1732 set up several rules that would eventually lead to discontent amongst the colonists.**

**-Write five things colonists had to do to be part of the colony.**

**First, due to the idea that the colony would be one for the “worthy poor,” the Trustees forbade rum (alcohol) and slavery in fears that both would make the colonists lazy and unwilling to work hard.**

**Second, the trustees barred liquor dealers, lawyers, and Catholics from the colony. Other rules of the colony included that the colonists were required to defend the colony, grow mulberry trees, they could not sell their land, their land could not be passed down to female heirs, and they had to obey all of the Trustees’ rules.**

**The Trustees also included a prohibition of Jews settling in Georgia in the original charter; however, a group of Jews arrived in the colony soon after it was established. In the group was a doctor, Samuel Nunes, who is often credited for “saving the colony.” Against the rules of the Trustees, Oglethorpe allowed the Jewish immigrants to settle in Savannah.**

**Fact that “alcohol” was not allowed in the colony, but the colonists were required to produce wine. During this time period, due to poor water supplies, beer and wine were viewed differently than they are today. Because of the unhealthy water quality, many people,**

**including children, drank beer and wine. The trustees meant “hard liquor,” such as rum, was banned.**

**Rules concerning landownership, rum, and slavery were relaxed or ended during the twilight of the**

**Trustee period and the colony of Georgia profoundly changed during the Royal period. The trustees,**

**frustrated with the lack of economic and social success of the colony, returned the colony to the king;**

**one year before the expiration of the Charter of 1732.**

**“Royal Georgia”**

**Land Ownership/Slavery during the Royal Period, Georgia’s population grew due to new land policies, land gains from Native Americans and the Spanish, and the surge of settlers and slaves this new land brought. Many of the new settlers were Scots-Irish immigrants who were considered “undesirable” by the established**

**Georgia colonists and were given the derogatory name “crackers.” This group often worked and laid claim to lands in the frontier of the colony. Slaves, on the other hand, were forced to come to Georgia. With the restrictions on slavery removed, the colony’s slave population increased from 500 in 1750 to 18,000 in 1775.**

**The French and Indian War**

**The traditional immediate and long-term causes of the Revolution did not have the same direct impact on Georgia as they did on other colonies. For example, the French and Indian War (1754-1763), a conflict between France and England for control of the rich fur area of the Ohio River valley, was fought far from Georgia’s borders and initially had a small impact on the state. However, after the British won the French and Indian War, which was part of a larger worldwide war called the Seven Years War, they obtained Canada and all land west to the Mississippi River. Though not directly involved, Georgia’s borders expanded to the St. Mary’s River to the South, the Mississippi River to the West, and land around Augusta to the North. Due to the economic cost of this war, there were two important events that led to conflict between Britain and its colonies. The first was the Proclamation of 1763, and the second was a series of taxes, including the Stamp Act (1765), that led to colonial discontent.**

**The Proclamation of 1763**

**The Proclamation of 1763 was issued by King George III and forbade colonists from settling lands west of the Appalachian Mountains. The Proclamation was issued in order to stabilize relations between Great Britain and the Native American tribes who lived in the area. Because the British were virtually bankrupt from the Seven Years War, they could not afford to fight another costly war with the Native Americans over territory. However, the colonists, many of whom participated in the war in hopes of gaining new land, were extremely upset by the Proclamation of 1763. In fact, many simply ignored the Proclamation and settled the new lands anyway.**

**The people of Georgia did not share the same reactions to the Proclamation of 1763 for two reasons.**

**First, the young Georgia colony was small and most colonists were still nestled on the Georgia coastline, a major trade route. Secondly, Georgia gained land and resources from the Spanish and their Native American allies after the French and Indian war. This new land was located south of the line drawn by the Proclamation of 1763, opening new coastal land for Georgians to settle.**

**The Stamp Act**

**Due to the debt that the war caused the British government, members of Parliament believed that the**

**colonists should be responsible for taking on some of the financial burden by paying new taxes. Up to that point, the British government had traditionally left the role of tax collection to the Colonial Assemblies. Being directly taxed for the first time, without colonial “representation” in the British Parliament, led to protests throughout the colonies.**

**One of the earliest and most controversial taxes was the Stamp Act of 1765. This act put a direct tax on items that were commonly used by almost every colonist, including newspapers, licenses, and legal documents. Reaction to this act in the colonies was swift and often violent. Colonial leaders made formal speeches against the act and joined to form the Stamp Act Congress. Average citizens reacted more violently and protested by hanging effigies of Parliamentary leaders and royal governors, attacking the homes of British officials, and tarring and feathering tax collectors. Some of these citizens, mainly from the middle and upper classes, joined a group called the “Sons of Liberty” in response to these taxes. Eventually, due to colonial pressure, the British Parliament repealed the Stamp Act, but issued others. These acts caused even more discontent and set the stage for the Revolutionary War.**

**Due to Georgia’s small population, strong royal governor, James Wright, and economic dependence**

**on Great Britain, its response to the Stamp Act was not as violent as it was in other colonies. In fact, Georgia was the only colony where a small number of stamps were sold. Nonetheless, there was some resistance to the Stamp Act. Several prominent Georgians spoke out against this act and on November 6, 1765, a group affiliated with the Sons of Liberty called the “Liberty Boys” was established to oppose the Stamp Act.**

**The Intolerable Acts**

**The 1773, *the Boston Tea Party* took place in Massachusetts as a protest of the Tea Act, another tax created to raise revenue for the British government. In response to the destruction of the tea, the British issued what the colonist called the Intolerable Acts which included four punitive acts designed to punish the Massachusetts colonist for the Boston Tea Party. The British refused to repeal these acts until the tea was paid for. Under these acts, the British closed the port of Boston, the Massachusetts colonists could not hold town meetings unless authorized by the Royal Governor, and any British official that committed a capital crime was sent back to England to stand trial. The final act made such an impression on the colonists that its prohibition was written into the U.S. Bill of Rights.**

**Quartering Act**

**This act, forced the citizens of Massachusetts to house and feed British soldiers at the citizens’ expense. The colonial reaction to these acts was even more intense than their reaction to the Stamp Act. These acts unified many colonial leaders in a belief that the British Parliament was violating their natural and constitutional rights. Due to their outrage, 12 colonies sent representatives to the First Continental Congress where the members agreed to support a colonial boycott of British goods and pledged military support to Massachusetts if they were attacked by the Great Britain.**

**Once again, Georgia’s response to the Intolerable Acts was minimal due to the colony’s divided loyalties. Royal governor James Wright was instrumental in slowing down the reactions of the Georgia**

**colonist; however, those outraged by the Intolerable Acts and loyal to the patriot cause, such as Noble W. Jones and Peter Tondee, began to gather strength in Georgia. Nevertheless, Georgia was the**

**Only colony that did not send a representative to the First Continental Congress.**