



# Fort Frederick Timeline

*Created by Meg Gaillard, SCDNR Heritage Trust Archaeologist (2015).*

## Grade Levels

K – 8<sup>th</sup>, High School English and World Geography

## Estimated Time

1-2 hours (does not include optional steps)

## Goal

Students will be able to visually compare the historical events that took place on and/or near the property of Fort Frederick Heritage Preserve by completing a timeline.

## Objectives

After completion of the activity and viewing of the *Fort Frederick History* documentary, students will be able to:

1. *Observe* historical events featured in the Fort Frederick History documentary.
2. *Summarize* key events of the documentary.
3. *Identify* the location of Fort Frederick in South Carolina.
4. *Construct* a timeline from key events in the history of Fort Frederick.
5. *Arrange* historical events into chronological *order*.
6. *Discuss* historical events featured in the Fort Frederick History documentary and teacher's overview.
7. *Evaluate* the completed activity for accuracy.

## Academic Standards

### *English Language Arts*

- K-2 The student will begin to read and comprehend a variety of informational texts in print and nonprint formats.
- 1-2 The student will read and comprehend a variety of informational texts in print and nonprint formats.
- 2-2 The student will read and comprehend a variety of informational texts in print and nonprint formats.
- 3-2 The student will read and comprehend a variety of informational texts in print and nonprint formats.

- 4-2 The student will read and comprehend a variety of informational texts in print and nonprint formats.
- 5-2 The student will read and comprehend a variety of informational texts in print and nonprint formats.
- 6-2 The student will read and comprehend a variety of informational texts in print and nonprint formats.
- 7-2 The student will read and comprehend a variety of informational texts in print and nonprint formats.
- 8-2 The student will read and comprehend a variety of informational texts in print and nonprint formats.
- E1-2 The student will read and comprehend a variety of informational texts in print and nonprint formats.
- E2-2 The student will read and comprehend a variety of informational texts in print and nonprint formats.
- E3-2 The student will read and comprehend a variety of informational texts in print and nonprint formats.
- E4-2 The student will read and comprehend a variety of informational texts in print and nonprint formats.

### ***Social Studies***

- 3-2.2 Summarize the motives, activities, and accomplishments of the exploration of South Carolina by the Spanish, French, and English.
- 3-2.4 Summarize the development of the Carolina colony under the Lords Proprietors and the royal colonial government, including settlement by and trade with the people of Barbados and the influence of other immigrant groups.
- 4-1.3 Explain the political, economic, and technological factors that led to the exploration of the new world by Spain, Portugal, France, the Netherlands, and England, including the competition between nations, the expansion of international trade, and the technological advances in shipbuilding and navigation.
- 6-6.4 Compare the economic, political, and religious incentives of the various European countries to explore and settle new lands.
- 7-1.1 Compare the colonial claims and the expansion of European powers through 1770.
- 8-1.2 Compare the motives, activities, and accomplishments of the exploration of South Carolina and North America by the Spanish, French, and English.
- WG-4 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the characteristics of culture, the patterns of culture, and cultural change.
- WG-5 The student will demonstrate an understanding of the role that geography plays in economic development.

## Activity Type: In-Class

This activity is to be done as an in-class activity. The teacher will provide materials required for this activity.

## Materials

Timeline Worksheet

Pencil, colored pencils, markers, or crayons

Blank paper (colored paper or butcher block paper for timeline strip)

Scissors

Glue

## Historical Background

- Fort Frederick was built by the British colonial government to protect approaches to Beaufort Towne from the Atlantic Ocean by way of Port Royal Sound and the Beaufort River.
- Estimates for the construction costs of the fort were presented on 20 January 1726 to the South Carolina Commons House of Assembly by Colonel William Rhett. Rhett had overseen construction of the defenses surrounding Charles Towne in 1707.
- Funding for the construction of Fort Frederick was authorized in 1730.
- Barracks were probably completed before January 1733 because James Oglethorpe lodged a large group of Georgia's first settlers in the building while he looked for lands to settle around Savannah.
- Construction of the fort was complete, except for platforms, in 1734.
- The architect/engineer of the fort is not known, and the original plans for the fort have been lost.
- The best historical information we now have about the original construction of the fort is in the verbal description given by Robert Brewton who examined the nearly completed fort on behalf of the South Carolina Commons House of Assembly in 1734. Brewton stated that he saw four lines and two bastions, observing that the tabby walls were five feet high and five feet thick at the top. The fort contained a magazine, and this was described as leaky in 1739/1740. Brewton also mentioned barracks but does not give any location or dimensions leaving open the question as to whether or not such accommodations were constructed within the fort's enclosing walls. That is one of the research questions archaeologists working at the fort in 2014/2015 determined with their excavations.
- Fort Frederick was built by "Messrs. Bond and Delabere." A partial payment for construction was made on 24 January 1734 in the amount of £1,600.
- The fort was garrisoned from 1734/1735 until it was abandoned in 1757 following the construction of Fort Lyttelton.

- Within six years of the fort's completion, the tabby walls had partially disassociated along the western wall, the barracks had deteriorated, and the magazine was unfit for service. Other than a few minor patches to the fort, no major repairs or alterations were authorized.
- Openings along the fort walls may have been original or alterations during the Civil War to provide access for a landing stage.
- In the late 1750s, permission was sought to remove material from Fort Frederick in order to construct Fort Lyttelton. It cannot be determined if this actually took place.
- The fort varied in its number of occupants anywhere from two provincials to 100 British regulars.
- In 1785, the fort and its surrounding land were sold to Captain John Joyner on whose death in 1796 the property passed to his grandson John Joyner Smith (1790-1872). This tract of land was comprised of 700 acres by 1861 and was known during the late antebellum period as *Old Fort*, the *Smith Place*, or *Smith's Plantation*. By 1860, the history of the fort is assumed to have been forgotten as people called the fort *Old Spanish Fort* or *Smith's Fort*.
- The fort was occupied by Union forces following the Battle of Port Royal in November 1861. It became the headquarters for the 1<sup>st</sup> South Carolina Regiment of Volunteers, a regiment of African-American soldiers. The site was renamed Camp Saxton after General Rufus Saxton (self-styled Governor of the Sea Islands and leading advocate of the Port Royal Experiment).
- In 1863, the fort and its surrounding plantation land, as well as many other plantations on Port Royal Island were sold by the American government (Union authorities) for the non-payment of taxes. The amount owed on *Old Fort* plantation was \$93.40. The U.S. government purchased the property for \$1,000.
- In 1949, part of the site was developed as a U.S. Naval Hospital and associated housing.
- In 1974, Fort Frederick was nominated to the National Register of Historic Places.
- The preserve was acquired in 1997 by the South Carolina Department of Natural Resources with funds from the Heritage Land Trust Fund and by a donation from the National Park Service's Federal Land to Parks program.

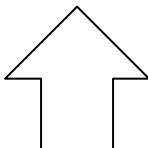
## Lesson

1. Give a brief history of Fort Frederick Heritage Preserve.
2. Show the *Fort Frederick History* documentary film.
3. Optional. Show the other Fort Frederick documentary films (Tours, Archaeology, and Tabby).
4. Review key historical events that took place on and/or near the Fort Frederick Heritage Preserve.
5. Pass out Timeline Worksheet.
6. Optional. A blank timeline sheet is provided to add more historical events to the timeline (i.e., American Revolution, Civil War, Civil Rights Movement).
7. Have students cut out the blocks with arrows from the Timeline Worksheet.
8. Pass out blank piece of paper (colored paper or butcher block) to students.

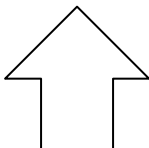
9. Working individually or in groups to complete their timelines, students will draw a line through the middle of the blank timeline paper.
10. Students will arrange their block and arrow timeline pieces in order below the timeline line.
11. Students will write the year associated with each event above the timeline line.
12. Students will glue their block and arrow timeline pieces in order under the appropriate dates.
13. Optional. Students can illustrate key events on their timelines.
14. Optional. Students can supplement their timelines with a writing exercise concerning one or more historical events that took place at Fort Frederick Heritage Preserve.
15. Following the activity, have the students evaluate their timelines for accuracy.

## Timeline Worksheet

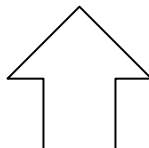
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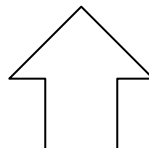
Construction of  
Fort Frederick  
began.



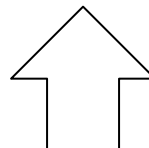
Construction of  
Fort Frederick was  
completed.



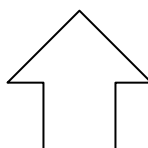
Fort Frederick was  
abandoned.



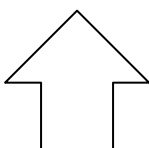
Fort Lyttelton was  
constructed.



Fort Frederick and  
its surrounding  
lands were sold to  
Captain John Joyner.



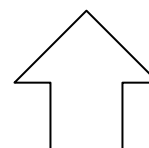
The fort was  
occupied by Union  
forces during the  
Civil War following  
the battle of Port  
Royal.



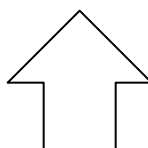
Fort Frederick and  
its surrounding  
plantation land  
were sold for non-  
payment of taxes.



The U.S. Naval  
Hospital was built.



Fort Frederick was  
listed on the  
National Register  
of Historic Places.



The South Carolina  
Department of  
Natural Resources  
acquired Fort  
Frederick.

# Timeline Worksheet

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