The First Parliament Part 1

Woodes Rogers

- First Royal Governor – Arrived in New Providence July 26th, 1718
- Pirates knew he was coming – some fled, some stayed and fought

New Providence

- The island was in a bad state
- The forts were in ruins – roads were overgrown – garbage was everywhere
- Hardly any crops were growing
- Rogers made a plan to bring law and order to the island for success

1st Parliament

- Woodes Rogers formed a council of 12 men to help him govern the islands.
- They cleaned up and rebuilt the town and repaired the fort.
- Spaniards tried to attack Nassau in 1720, and were driven back by Fort Nassau.

Pirates being Pardoned

- Rogers offered remaining pirates a pardon (release from punishment) for them to stop attacking ships
- 300 pirates gave up their way of life. Those who refused were put in prison.
- Many pirates were hanged. The islands were a safer place to live and trade.
- Motto: Explusis Piratis – Restituta Commercia – When the pirates were driven out, trade was restored.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

The First Parliament Part 2

How Parliament Began

- **Began when Woodes Rogers came from England to New Providence for his 2nd term as Governor – August 1729**
- **He gathered a group of men to help him rule The Bahamas**
- **Parliament was now called The House of Assembly**
- **First meeting was September 29, 1729.**
- **John Colebrooke was the 1st speaker of the House – he was in charge**
- **The HOA had 24 members – 16 in Nassau, 4 in Eleuthera, 4 in Harbour Island**

LIVEWORKSHEETS