The Loyalist in the Bahamas

The Loyalists were a group of men who wanted to continue to be loyal to the king of England. Therefore, they came from St. Augustine in Florida and from New York and other places in America. By the 1780s, the United States was no longer an English colony and at that time they wanted to be ruled by Britain. The Loyalists left American and then travelled to The Bahamas which was still a British colony. The Loyalists who came were sometimes called "**Tories**". The Loyalists arrived to the Bahamas between 1784 and 1785. They brought their slave with them and the population grew in the Bahamas from 4,000 to 11,300. They set up large cotton plantations. **Plantation** is a large area of land where crops are grown.

The Loyalists established cotton plantations on the family islands. These plantations comprised of a house, large fields and slaves. Large amounts of cotton were exported to America and in the off seasons, slaves were made to rake salt from the salts ponds. Not all Loyalists were plantation owners, some were fishermen, carpenters, boat builders, and farmers. Many of them settled on Abaco and Eleuthera Island, they were skilled fishermen. Most Loyalists were Anglicans so they build **Christ Church Cathedral and St. Matthew's Anglican Church**, and also the **Balcony House** location in New Providence. They started building schools and roads on our islands. A man by the name of **John Wells** setup the first newspaper called **The Gazette**. The Loyalist also made sure that docks and wharves were improved in New Providence. They build a market place with a roof and construct new streets and kept them clean. The Loyalist setup a new government. The House of Assembly at that time was a group of men (representatives) who organized affairs in The Bahamas. Five new members were added to The House of Assembly to represent the new Loyalist settlements. They represented the island of **Exuma, Abaco Long Island, Andros, and Cat Island**. This new government made new laws to protect home owners from fire. Laws were passed to improve the cemeteries which was overcrowded. The loyalist also set up a police station on the colony. The loyalist left the islands after the price of cotton fell and lost money. But many of their slaves stayed and made a living by keeping sheep and goats.

1. Define the word Plantation. (1)

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2. Who were the Loyalists? (1)

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3. What did the Loyalists grow on the plantation? (1)

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4. Name the group of people sent here to work on the plantations. (1)

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5. What were the occupation of the Loyalists who lived in Eleuthera and Abaco? (1)

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6. Name the two churches built by The Loyalists. (2)

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7. Name three things created or improved by The Loyalists. (3)

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8. What is the name of the newspaper created by John Wells? (1)

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9. Name five islands represented by the Loyalists in the House of Assembly. (5)

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10. Why did the Loyalists leave? (2)

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11. What did the slaves that stayed do on the islands? (2)

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