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 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. 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.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1. Who were the Loyalist?

a. A group of men who wanted to continue to be loyal to Africa.
b. A group of men who wanted to continue to be loyal to the king of England.
c. A group of men who wanted to continue to be loyal to America.

2. Where did they came from?

a. They came from St. Augustine in Florida and from New York and other places in America.
b. They came from St. Augustine in Florida and from Ireland and Switzerland.
c. They came from St. Augustine in Florida and from New Zeeland.

3. Why did the Loyalist choose to settle in The Bahamas?

a. The Bahamas was very peaceful and beautiful.
b. The Bahamas was still a British colony.
c. The Bahamas was a very rich place.

4. The Loyalist arrive to The Bahamas between the year of

a. 1784 and 1785.
b. 1786 and 1787.
c. 1788 and 1789.

5. The population in The Bahamas grew to what amount?

a. From 4,000 to 11,300.
b. From 4,000 to 11,000.
c. From 4,000 to 11,800.

6. What is a plantation?

_____

7. Name two islands in The Bahamas they settled on.

_____, and _____

8. What was some of their occupations?

_____, _____ and _____

9. List the name of the two churches they build in The Bahamas.

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10. What was the man's name who had the first newspaper in the Bahamas and what was the new paper called?

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LIVEWORKSHEETS