

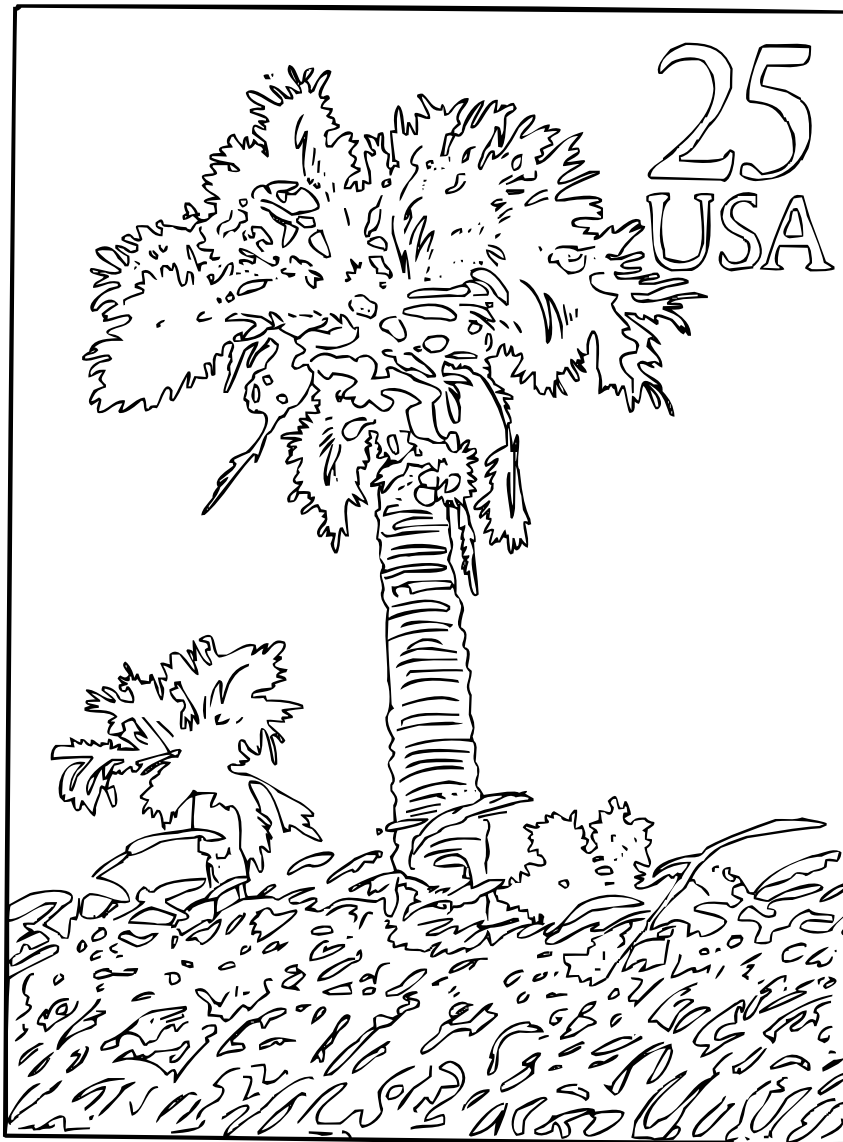
# SOUTH CAROLINA ACTIVITY PACKET



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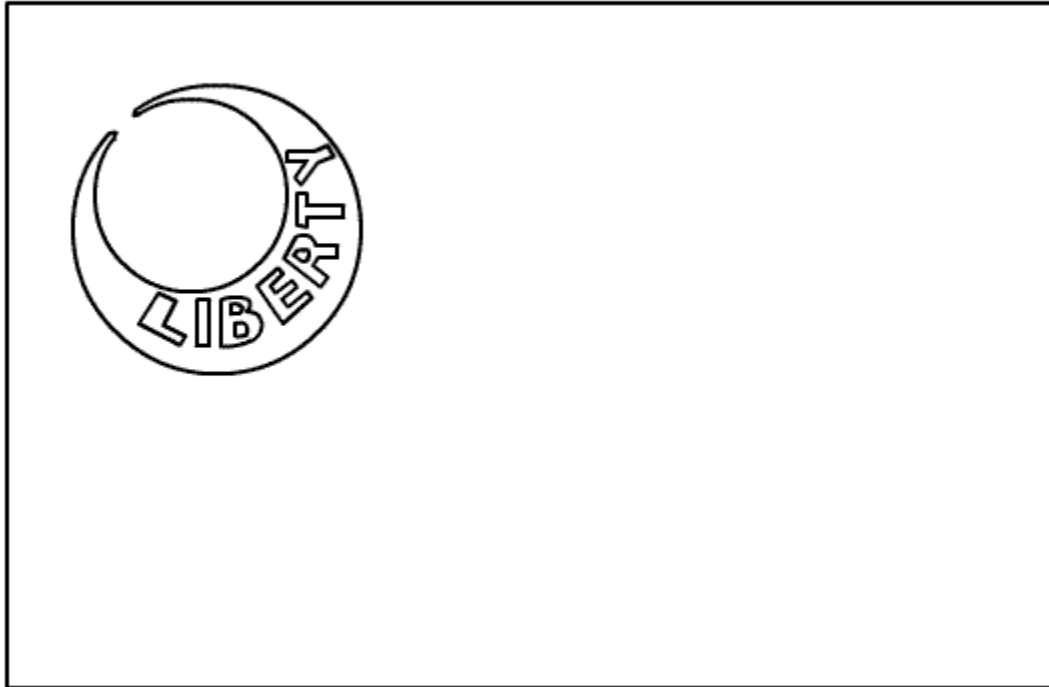


May 23, 1788

South Carolina

South Carolina stamp

**25** cents



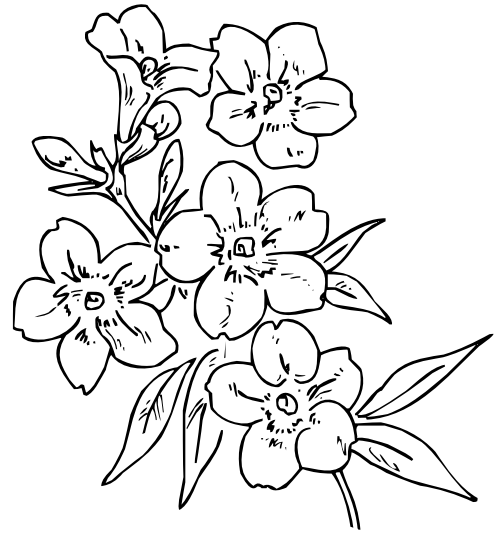
## Fort Moultrie Flag

Designed by South Carolina minutemen, the Fort Moultrie flag was flown over Fort William Moultrie near Charleston, South Carolina. Fort Moultrie, located on a small island, was built from native materials – palmetto logs and sand. It came under heavy bombardment by British naval troops on June 28, 1776. The flag itself, which was shot to pieces during the bombardment, features the crescent moon, which South Carolina soldiers wore on their hats. The flag was the first American flag flown in the southern states and had a major influence on South Carolina's current state flag which still features the crescent moon.





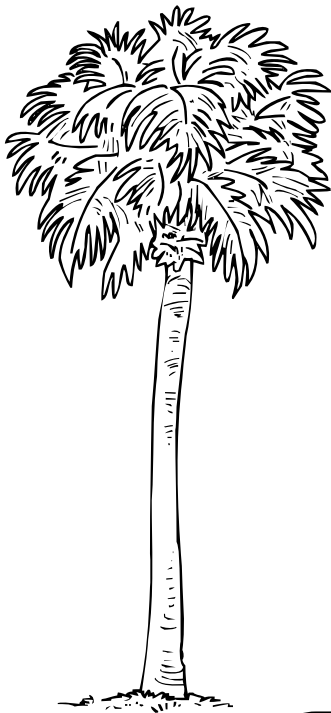
**Carolina Wren**



**Yellow Jessamine**



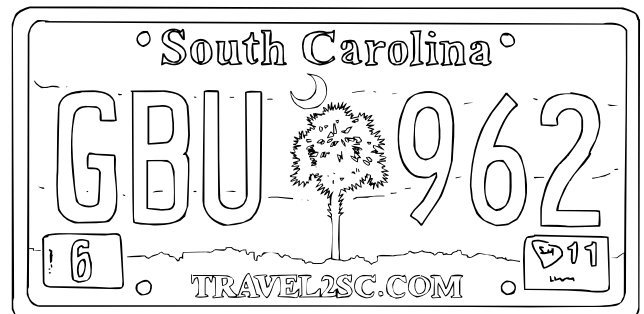
**South Carolina**

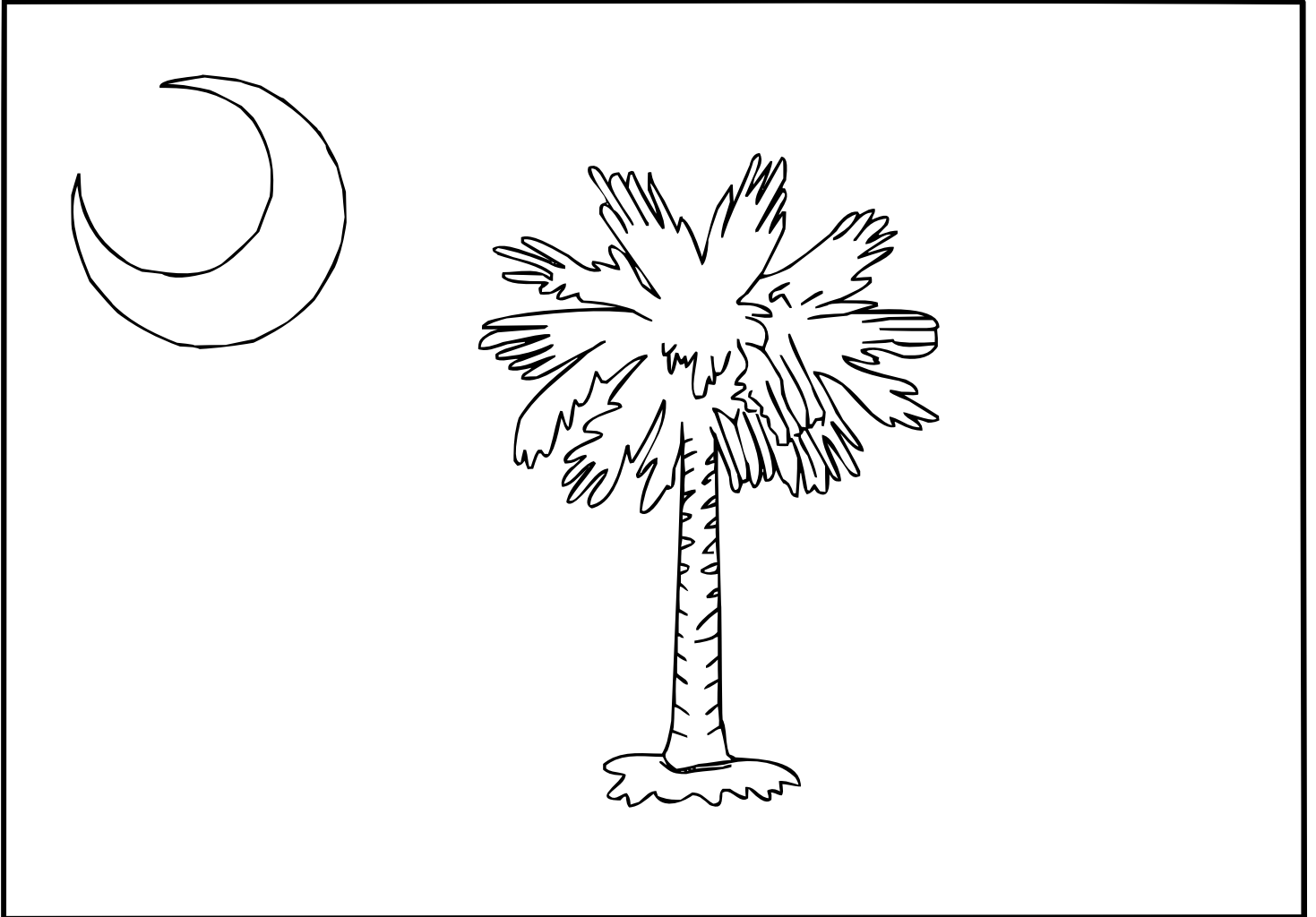


**Sabal Palm**

**The Palmetto State**

**State license plate**





**SOUTH CAROLINA**

South Carolina Quarter



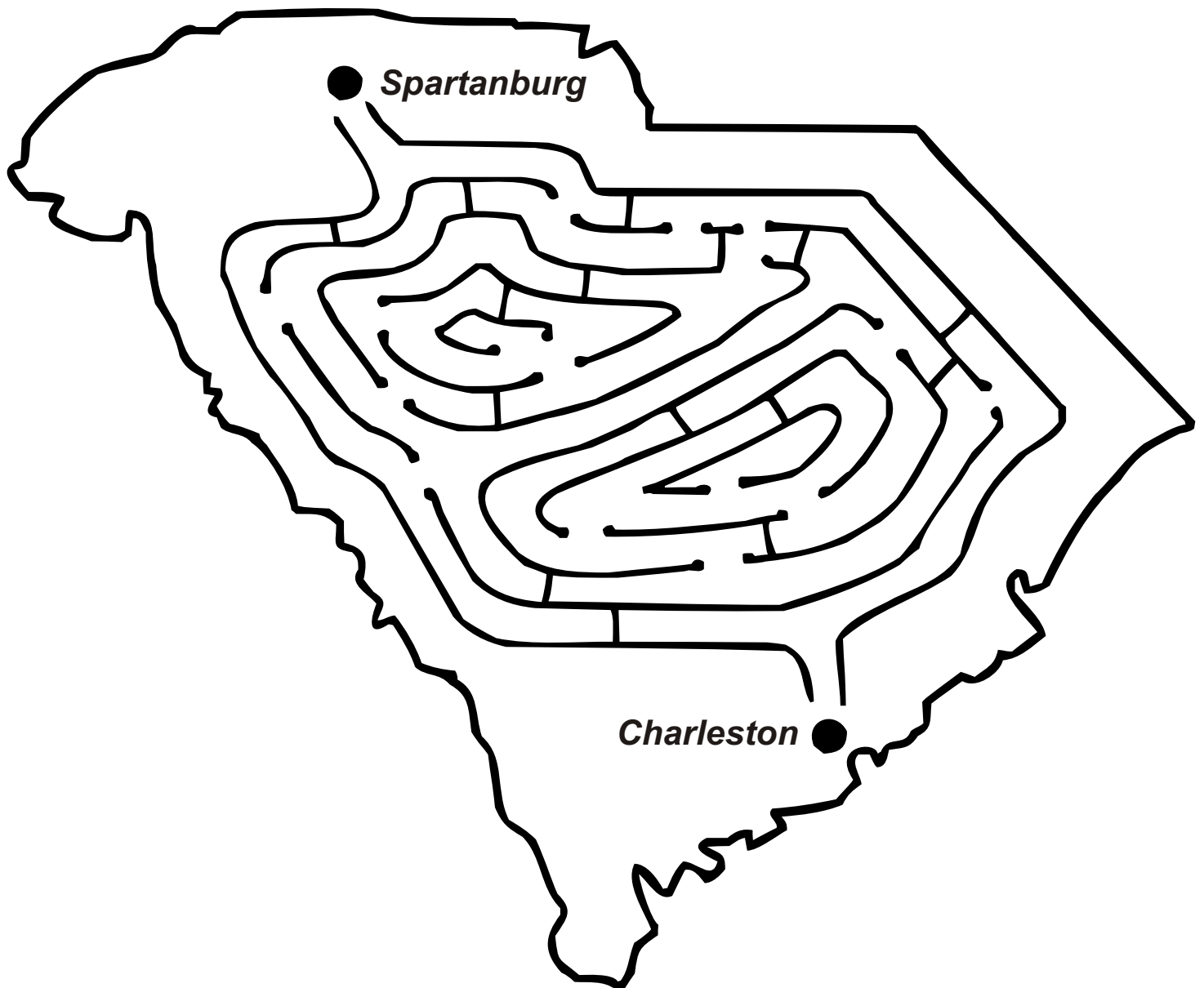
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SOUTH CAROLINA

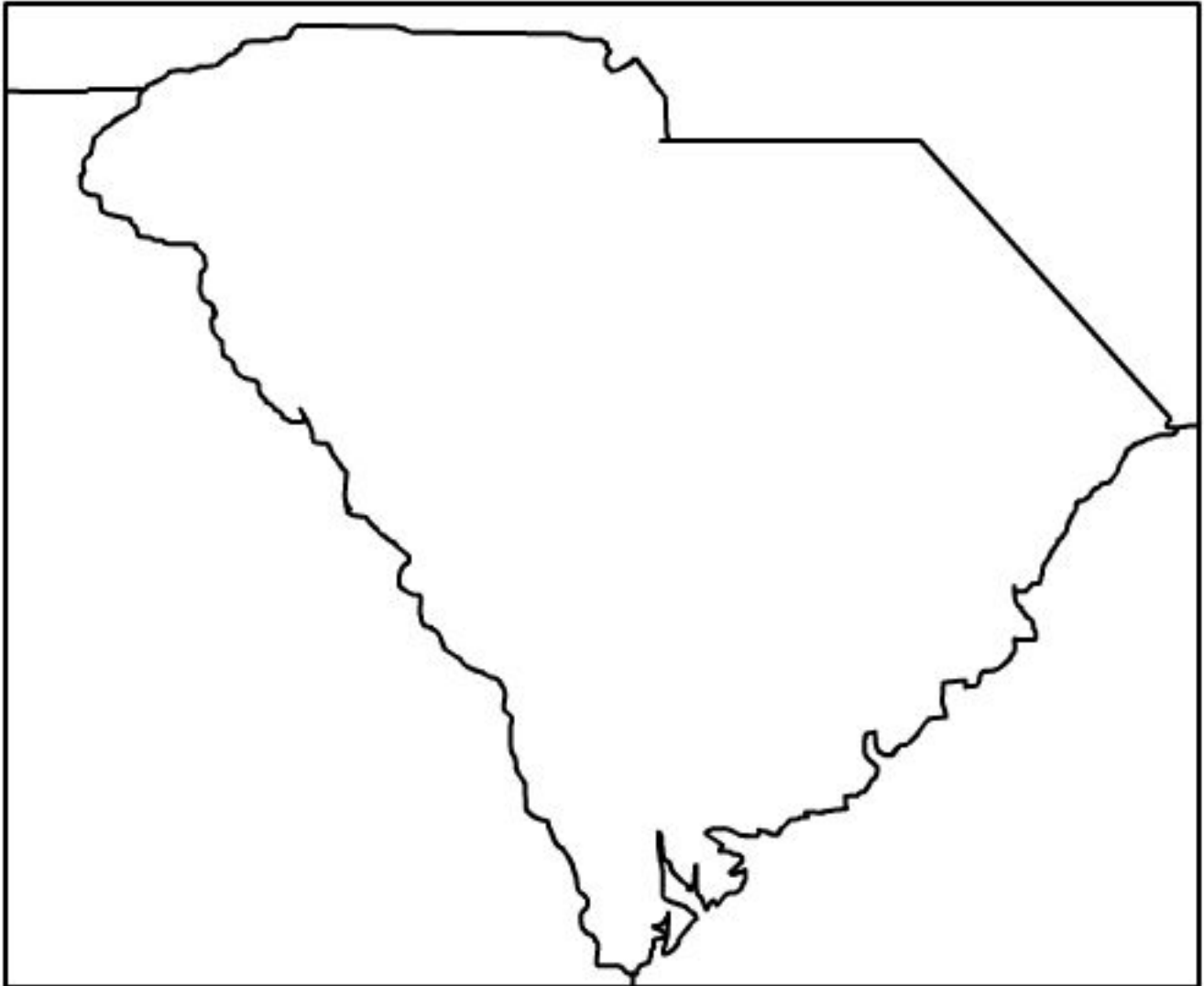


**South Carolina - The Palmetto State**





South Carolina Printable Outline Map



**Carolina Parakeet**

**Name** \_\_\_\_\_



Did you know that America was once the home of a kind of parrot known as the Carolina parakeet? These colorful birds were common across much of the eastern and central United States as late as the early 1800s. Unlike most parrots throughout the world, the Carolina parakeet could thrive in non-tropical areas, and may have lived as far north as Canada!

The Carolina parakeet was mostly green. It had a yellow head and red face. It weighed about four ounces, or, about a quarter of a pound. These birds lived in forests and swamps and fed on seeds and fruit. Carolina parakeets were thought to benefit farmers because they ate an agricultural pest known as the cocklebur. For this reason, Carolina parakeets were also thought to be toxic to cats. These birds nested in tree cavities and often congregated in noisy flocks of hundreds of birds. They made easy targets for hunters, who killed them by the dozens.

Hunting and habitat loss played a critical role in the rapid decline of parakeet populations in the mid and late 1800s. Other factors such as disease probably played a large role as well, though scientists still aren't sure how or why the population collapsed so rapidly. By the early 1900s, Carolina parakeets were well on their way to extinction. The last bird, named Incas, died in the Cincinnati Zoo in 1918. Coincidentally, it died in the same cage as Martha, the last passenger pigeon, who died four years earlier.

**1. How was the Carolina Parakeet different from other parrots?**

- A. It had a green body
- B. It had a red face
- C. It lived in non-tropical areas
- D. It fed on seeds

- 2. What probably happened on American farms as populations of Carolina parakeets continued to decline?**
- A. Pests like the cocklebur became more harmful
  - B. Pests like the cocklebur died out
  - C. Carolina parakeets became easier targets for hunters
  - D. Carolina parakeets moved to more tropical locations
- 3. Which is NOT true about Carolina parakeets?**
- A. They weighed less than a pound
  - B. They lived north of Canada
  - C. They could sometimes be found in large, noisy flocks
  - D. They were common in America in the 1700s
- 4. Why did populations of Carolina parakeets decline so rapidly?**
- A. Scientists aren't sure
  - B. Habitat Loss
  - C. Disease
  - D. They were killed by cats
- 5. What do passenger pigeons and Carolina parakeets have in common?**
- A. They are both extinct
  - B. They are both endangered
  - C. They are both toxic to cats
  - D. They were both still common in the late 1800s
- 6. Which of the following is an example of irony?**
- A. Incas was the last Carolina parakeet
  - B. Passenger pigeons and Carolina parakeets were both endangered before they became extinct
  - C. Both Incas and Martha died in the same cage
  - D. Habitat loss played a role in the decline of both species
- 7. Which of the following is true?**
- A. Incas died four years before Martha
  - B. The passenger pigeon became extinct after the Carolina parakeet
  - C. Martha was the last Carolina parakeet
  - D. The Carolina parakeet became extinct after the passenger pigeon

Following the defeat at Saratoga and tactical draw at Monmouth Courthouse, the British military changed its strategy. It had failed to make significant progress in the northern and middle colonies and its ultimate plan to isolate New England along the line of the Hudson River had failed. Knowing that Loyalist support was greater in Georgia and the Carolinas, the British made a major military adjustment and began its Southern Campaign, designed to invade and occupy the southern colonies with help from colonists loyal to England. In December of 1778, the campaign officially began with the British seizure and subsequent occupation of Savannah, Georgia. The British next set their sights on a much bigger prize – Charleston.

Patriot military forces quickly realized Charleston would be a likely target for the British. Commander-in-Chief George Washington appointed Benjamin Lincoln in charge of the city's defenses in December 1779. Unfortunately for Lincoln, Washington could not afford to offer additional defenses or reinforcements because of the need to keep significant forces near New York. Upon arriving in Charleston, Lincoln realized it was a dire situation. Many of the fortifications protecting Charleston were inadequate or unfinished. While Lincoln and his soldiers worked feverishly to improve the fortifications, British lieutenant general Henry Clinton and 13,500 British and Hessian soldiers were closing in on Charleston from the sea. American efforts did little to halt the British advances, and by April 1, Charleston was under siege. By April 9, British forces had begun shelling Charleston from its harbor. Over the coming days, however, Lincoln refused several of the British demands for surrender. By April 22, the situation was totally hopeless for Lincoln. He proposed surrender terms to Clinton in which he would capitulate in exchange for the freedom of his soldiers. Clinton refused and the bombardment of the city intensified, resulting in several damaging fires that threatened to engulf the entire city. On May 12, with no bargaining power, Lincoln was forced to surrender under harsh terms. Clinton demanded the capture and incarceration of over 2,500 soldiers, many of whom would die in squalid British prisons. In addition, the Americans were forced to surrender 300 cannons and over 6,000 muskets.

Following the siege, the largest and most important city in the southern colonies was in British control. The surrender at Charleston would represent the single largest Patriot surrender of soldiers and weapons during the entire war.

**1. Why did the British change strategies?**

- A. They had defeated the Patriots in New England and wanted to end the war
- B. Their plan to isolate New England had succeeded
- C. They thought they'd achieve greater success where there were more Loyalists
- D. They had been defeated at Monmouth Courthouse and needed a new strategy

**2. What happened first?**

- A. The British seized Savannah, Georgia
- B. The Battle of Monmouth Courthouse
- C. Benjamin Lincoln is put in charge of Charleston's defenses
- D. January 1, 1780

**3. Why was Lincoln's situation at Charleston dire?**

- A. The fortifications were inadequate and Washington could not send reinforcements
- B. The British military would include both British and Hessian soldiers
- C. Because the other major southern port, Savannah, had been captured by the British in December
- D. Because he knew that surrender terms would be harsh

**4. What does "capitulate" mean in the following sentence?**

He proposed surrender terms to Clinton in which he would capitulate in exchange for the freedom of his soldiers.

- A. Negotiate
- B. Retreat
- C. Fight on
- D. Give up

**5. As April went on...**

- A. the British simply waited for the Patriots to surrender.
- B. the situation in Charleston improved for the Patriots.
- C. the situation became hopeless for the Patriots.
- D. the British bombardment began to subside.

**6. Which of the following is true about the Siege of Charleston?**

- A. It was the single largest Patriot surrender of soldiers and firepower in the war
- B. It meant that the Continental Army was mostly destroyed
- C. The most important city in the colonies was in British control
- D. The British were close to winning the entire war



**7. Which of the following best describes the Siege of Charleston?**

- A. The Siege of Charleston represented a Patriot change of strategy and brought them one step closer to winning the war
- B. The Siege of Charleston represented a change of strategy for the British and its success resulted in George Washington's surrender
- C. The Siege of Charleston was the first victory in England's Southern Campaign and resulted in the capture of thousands of soldiers and significant firepower
- D. The Siege of Charleston represented a major change in strategy for the British and resulted in Loyalists taking over the Carolinas.



## Fort Sumter Reading Comprehension

The Battle of Fort Sumter marked the first exchange of fire in the Civil War. After seven Southern states ratified their declarations of succession, the state of South Carolina demanded that federal (United States) troops stationed at Fort Moultrie (in Charleston Harbor) abandon the fort. On December 26, 1860, however, Union Major General Richard Anderson moved his troops from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter because he thought Fort Sumter was more easily defended. South Carolina subsequently seized all other federal forts in South Carolina except for Fort Sumter. About two weeks later, US president at the time James Buchanan authorized the delivery of reinforcements to Fort Sumter. The ship carrying the reinforcements was fired upon by batteries from the South Carolina shore, and the reinforcements never made it.

Over the course of the next few months, Confederate forces strengthened batteries around Fort Sumter. Furthermore, the new president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, appointed his first military officer, P.G. T. Beauregard, to command forces in Charleston. Ironically, Anderson and Beauregard were close friends, and Beauregard even served as Anderson's assistant after graduation from West Point.

Inside the fort, Anderson and his troops were running short on food and supplies as a siege began to form. New president Abraham Lincoln again tried to resupply the fort and notified South Carolina Governor Francis Pickens that he was sending in ships. In response, Confederate forces demanded the immediate surrender of the fort. After General Anderson refused the demand, Confederate forces began bombarding Fort Sumter at 4:30 in the morning on April 12, 1861.

Confederate forces firing on Fort Sumter quickly took their toll. Badly outgunned and outmanned, Anderson's forces inside the fort initially returned fire but were soon overwhelmed. After 34 hours, Major General Anderson agreed to evacuate the fort. No Union or Confederate soldiers were killed during the battle, though two Union soldiers would die as a result of a gun explosion during the surrender ceremonies on April 14.

Both the North and the South became galvanized in their war efforts after Fort Sumter. President Lincoln's request for the mobilization of 75,000 additional troops prompted the secession of four other states.

**1.) Fort Sumter...**

- a.) marked the last exchange of fire in the war.
- b.) marked the first exchange of fire in the war.
- c.) resulted in major loss of life for the Union.
- d.) resulted in major loss of life for the Confederacy.

**2.) Why did Major General Anderson move his troops to Fort Sumter?**

- a.) Fort Sumter was in a better position to attack the Confederates.
- b.) Fort Sumter was in better condition than Fort Moultrie.
- c.) Fort Moultrie was harder to defend than Fort Sumter.
- d.) He was ordered to move by President Buchanan.

**3.) Who was Jefferson Davis?**

- a.) President before Buchanan
- b.) President before Lincoln
- c.) The first military officer of the Confederacy.
- d.) President of the Confederacy

**4.) Why could no reinforcements make it to Fort Sumter?**

- a.) Ships carrying reinforcements were fired upon by Confederate forces.
- b.) The waters around the fort were too dangerous.
- c.) The Union did not have the resources to send reinforcements.
- d.) Confederate forces sunk any ships attempting to supply Fort Sumter.

**5.) Which of the following was true about the relationship between Beauregard and Anderson?**

- a.) Anderson worked for Beauregard.
- b.) Beauregard worked for Anderson.
- c.) They were archenemies.
- d.) They had never met.

**6.) Why is the following sentence ironic?**

Ironically, Anderson and Beauregard were close friends, and Beauregard even served as Anderson's assistant after graduation from West Point.

- a.) Because Beauregard would become the Confederacy's first military officer.
- b.) Because West Point was located in Union territory.
- c.) Because these two friends were battling each other in the war's first battle.
- d.) Because no one died at Fort Sumter.

**7.) What was the most likely reaction Francis Pickens had to Lincoln's notification that he was sending reinforcements?**

- a.) anger
- b.) indifference
- c.) joy
- d.) sadness

**8.) Who won the Battle of Fort Sumter?**

- a.) The Confederacy
- b.) The Union
- c.) Neither side
- d.) The battle was inconclusive.

**9.) What did the North and the South have in common after Fort Sumter?**

- a.) They both wanted to stop the war from escalating.
- b.) They wanted peace.
- c.) They expected no additional battles.
- d.) Both sides resolved to take steps to win the war.

**10.) What does the word "mobilization" mean in the following sentence:**

President Lincoln's request for the **mobilization** of 75,000 additional troops prompted the secession of four other states.

- a.) transport
- b.) transfer
- c.) preparation for action
- d.) military action

## **Comparing and Contrasting Georgia and South Carolina**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

### **Georgia**

In 1732, Georgia became the last of the original 13 colonies to receive a royal charter. It was originally a colony designed for people crowded into debtors prisons in England. Georgia became America's fourth state on January 2, 1788. It is located in the southeastern United States and borders Alabama, Florida, Tennessee, and North and South Carolina. It is nicknamed the Peach State. Atlanta is Georgia's capital and largest city. In 1996, it hosted the Olympic Summer Games. Atlanta's airport, Hartsfield International, is the world's busiest airport. With over 10.6 million people, Georgia is the eighth most populous state in America. Like many east coast states, Georgia features beautiful beaches on its east coast, piedmont in the central parts of the state, and mountains in the northwestern part of the state.

### **South Carolina**

Nicknamed the Palmetto State, South Carolina is located in the southeastern United States. It is bordered to the north by North Carolina and to the south and west by Georgia. The Atlantic Ocean washes ashore on its east coast. Its beach destinations such as Myrtle Beach and Hilton Head draw millions of visitors each year. South Carolina was one of America's original 13 colonies. It became the eighth state on May 23, 1788. Before the Civil War, it became the first state to leave the United States. South Carolina's capital is Columbia and its largest city is Charleston. The eastern portion of South Carolina is dominated by the Atlantic Coastal Plain. Here, the Savannah River forms the border between it and Georgia. Central South Carolina features the piedmont, and western South Carolina is hilly and mountainous. Today, a little more than five million people live in South Carolina.

Which facts belong in each category?

<b>Called the Palmetto State</b>
<b>Capital is Columbia</b>
<b>Its capital and largest city are the same</b>
<b>Has mountains</b>
<b>Has more people</b>
<b>Has beaches</b>
<b>One of the original 13 colonies</b>
<b>Became the first state to leave the United States before the Civil War</b>
<b>Has the busiest airport in the world</b>
<b>Borders more states</b>

<b>Georgia</b>
<b>Both</b>
<b>South Carolina</b>
<b>Neither</b>



**Answers:**

**Georgia**

**Its capital and largest city are the same**  
**Has more people**  
**Has the busiest airport in the world**  
**Borders more states**

**Both**

**Has mountains**  
**Has beaches**  
**One of the original 13 colonies**

**South Carolina**

**Called the Palmetto States**  
**Capital is Columbia**  
**Became the first state to leave the United States before the Civil War**

**Neither**

## Indigo in South Carolina

In the 1600s and 1700s, Charleston, South Carolina, was an important port for the trading of rice, tobacco, and indigo. While most people could easily explain the first two products, most have no idea what indigo is, other than a dark blue color.

Indigo is a dark blue dye that can be made from the "peas" of certain tropical plants. Indigo was used to dye clothes blue. It was very valuable to plantation owners and farmers in South Carolina because it could grow on land that was not suited for tobacco or rice. Indigo would prove to be South Carolina's second most valuable crop. Some called it "blue gold." Over time, however, indigo production in South Carolina declined. After the Revolutionary War, English merchants started getting indigo from India. South Carolina farmers, however, weren't too sad. They soon turned their attention to growing a far more valuable crop --- cotton.

**1. Which was not a crop grown in South Carolina?**

- A. tobacco
- B. corn
- C. cotton
- D. rice

**2. Why do you think indigo was called "blue gold"?**

- A. Because it has blues and gold in it
- B. Because there were different kinds of plants that could be used to make indigo
- C. Because it was blue; and valuable like gold
- D. Because English merchants began getting it from India

**3. Why was indigo such a valuable crop to farmers?**

- A. Because it could only be grown on land with tobacco
- B. Because it could only be grown on land in which tobacco and rice were already being grown
- C. Because it could be grown on land that tobacco and rice could not be grown on
- D. Because people in India wanted it

**4. Which is true?**

- A. South Carolina farmers were upset that English merchants began getting indigo from India
- B. Indigo was less valuable as a crop to South Carolina farmers than tobacco and cotton
- C. After the Revolutionary War, English merchants began buying cotton in India
- D. South Carolina merchants turned to growing cotton after English merchants began getting indigo from India.



## **The South Carolina Colony Reading Comprehension**

South Carolina, part of the original Province of Carolina, was founded in 1663 when King Charles II gave the land to eight noblemen known as The Lords Proprietors. At the time, the province included both North Carolina and South Carolina. North and South Carolina became separate royal colonies in 1729.

The Spanish and French vied over the rights to the coast of South Carolina in the 1500s. In 1562, French soldiers unsuccessfully attempted to start a settlement on Parris Island off the coast of present-day South Carolina. In 1566, the Spanish built the colony of Santa Elena near the site of the original French settlement. Santa Elena was abandoned in 1576 after being attacked by Indians. Although the settlement was rebuilt, the Spanish concentrated their forces in Florida after British pirate Sir Francis Drake destroyed St. Augustine. The British would be the next to colonize the area.

In 1670, the first permanent English settlement in South Carolina was established at Albemarle Point. Many of the original settlers came from the Caribbean island of Barbados, including the new governor, William Sayle. A year before, in 1669, prospective Carolina settlers including John Locke wrote the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina, which served as an early form of government for the Carolina colony.

In 1680, the colony moved to Charles Town (later Charleston). Charles Town would quickly become the cultural and economic center of the Southern colonies. Because of the influence of the Caribbean settlers, the colony's original economy resembled the plantation colonies of the West Indies. It would become a major center for rice, tobacco, and indigo production, and the colony's plantation owners were among the wealthiest people in all the colonies. By the late 1700s, African-American slaves represented the majority of the population in South Carolina, as the number of cotton plantations increased.

**1.) The British...**

- a.) tried colonizing South Carolina before the French and Spanish.
- b.) tried colonizing South Carolina before the French but after the Spanish.
- c.) tried colonizing South Carolina before the Spanish but after the French.
- d.) tried colonizing South Carolina after the French and Spanish.

**2.) Which of the following is true?**

- a.) South and North Carolina were always separate colonies.
- b.) The original Carolina colony only included the land that is now South Carolina.
- c.) North and South Carolina would go to war against each other.
- d.) The Lords Proprietors founded South Carolina in 1663.

**3.) The \_\_\_\_\_ established their first permanent settlement at Albemarle Point.**

- a.) French
- b.) English
- c.) Spanish
- d.) Puritans

**4.) Many of South Carolina's original settlers came from \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a.) Barbados
- b.) Spain
- c.) France
- d.) England

**5.) What question is answered in the third paragraph?**

- a.) How was the new governor chosen?
- b.) Who wrote the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina?
- c.) Why did the colony move to Charles Town?
- d.) What did John Locke believe about religion?

**6.) Charles Town would become a major center for the export of \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a.) soybeans
- b.) peanuts
- c.) cotton
- d.) rice

**7.) Which of the following is NOT true about the South Carolina colony?**

- a.) Eventually, the majority of the population would be slaves.
- b.) It would have a large number of cotton plantations.
- c.) It was influenced by the West Indies.
- d.) William Sayle came to South Carolina from England.

**8.) Plantation owners in South Carolina were \_\_\_\_\_.**

- a.) poor
- b.) fairly wealthy
- c.) very wealthy
- d.) the passage doesn't say

**9.) Which of the following is a RESULT of the increasing number of cotton plantations in South Carolina in the 1700s?**

- a.) The King of England exerted more and more control over South Carolina.
- b.) The population of African-American slaves in South Carolina increased.
- c.) The economic center of South Carolina shifted away from Charles Town.
- d.) The Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina was revoked.

**10.) Which of the following is NOT addressed by the passage?**

- a.) Why did the colony move to Charles Town?
- b.) What products were exported from Charles Town?
- c.) What group made up the majority of the population in South Carolina by the late 1700s?
- d.) Where was the first permanent English settlement in South Carolina established?



Directions: Fill in the correct blanks

South Carolina was America's eighth state. This means it was the eighth state to ratify (accept) the United States Constitution. South Carolina was originally one of the 13 British colonies. Its

\_\_\_\_\_ city, Charleston, was one of the most \_\_\_\_\_ cities in the southern colonies.

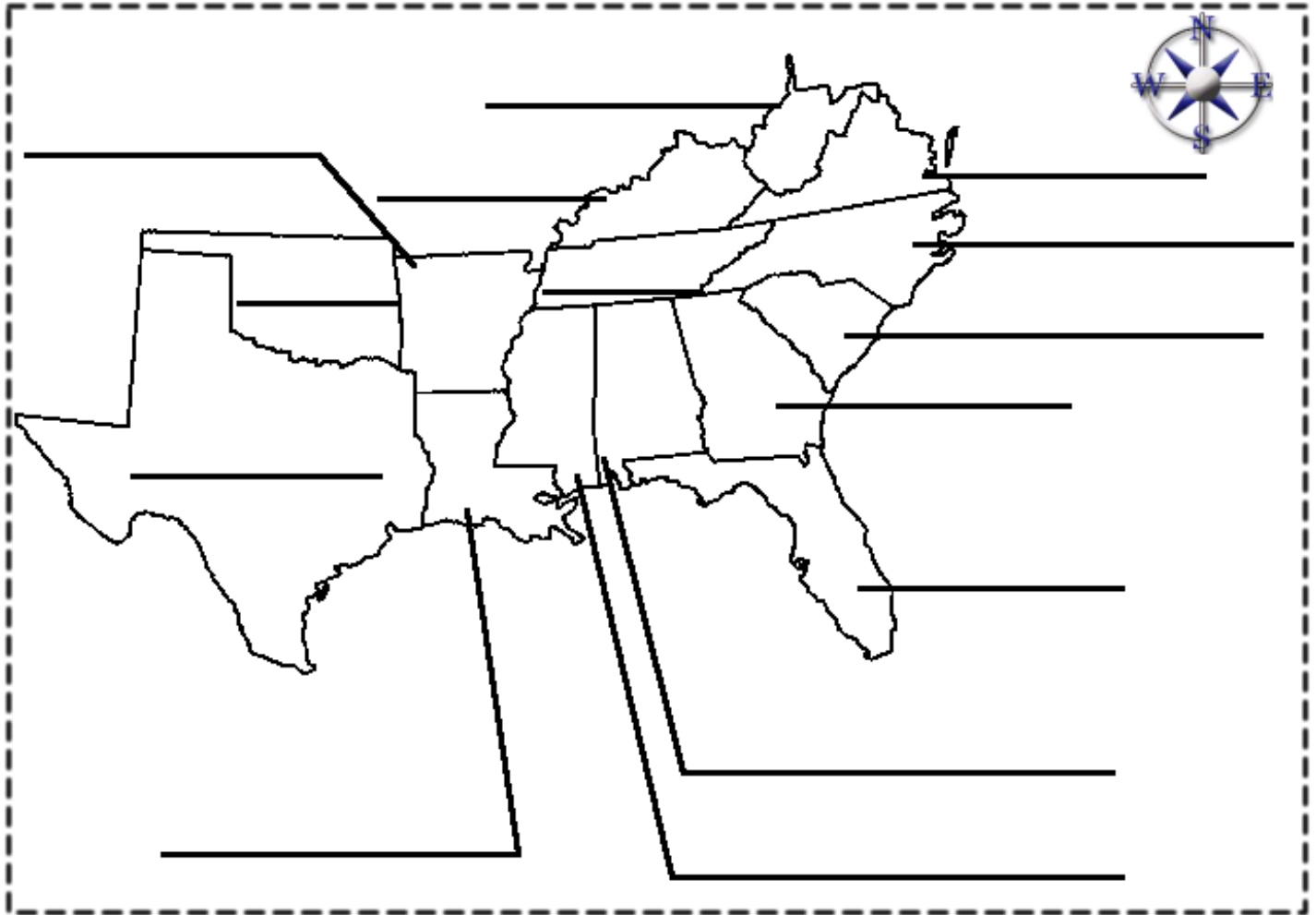
Charleston was a major port city, \_\_\_\_\_ means boats and ships came from \_\_\_\_\_ parts of the world to trade in Charleston. Charleston was the place where people came to get rice, tobacco, and indigo. Today, many people

\_\_\_\_\_ to South Charleston to visit its \_\_\_\_\_ downtown area and to \_\_\_\_\_ on its beaches.

Words:

which
important
historic
bask
largest
travel
different

Southern States Label Map



**Fact or Fiction?**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

Below is a passage on Fort Sumter. On the following page is a chart with ten statements. Indicate whether each statement is fact or fiction.

## **From Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter**

The Battle of Fort Sumter marked the first exchange of fire in the Civil War. After seven southern states ratified their declarations of secession, the state of South Carolina demanded that Federal (United States) troops stationed at Fort Moultrie (in Charleston Harbor) abandon the fort. On December 26, 1860, however, Union Major General Richard Anderson moved his troops from Fort Moultrie to Fort Sumter, because he thought Fort Sumter was more easily defended. South Carolina subsequently seized all other Federal forts in South Carolina except for Fort Sumter. About two weeks later, U.S. president at the time James Buchanan authorized the delivery of reinforcements to Fort Sumter. The ship carrying the reinforcements was fired upon by batteries from the South Carolina shore and the reinforcements never made it.

## **The South is Serious!**

Over the course of the next few months, Confederate forces strengthened batteries around Fort Sumter. Furthermore, the new president of the Confederacy, Jefferson Davis, appointed his first military officer, P.G. T. Beauregard, to command forces in Charleston. Ironically, Anderson and Beauregard were close friends and Beauregard even served as Anderson's assistant after graduation from West Point.

## **The Bombardment and Siege**

Inside the fort, Anderson and his troops were running short on food and supplies as a siege began to form. New president Abraham Lincoln again tried to resupply the fort and notified South Carolina Governor Francis Pickens that he was sending in ships. In response, Confederate forces demanded the immediate surrender of the fort. After General Anderson refused the demand, they began bombarding Fort Sumter at 4:30 in the morning on April 12, 1861.

## **Surrender**

Confederate forces firing on Fort Sumter quickly took their toll. Badly outgunned and outmanned, Anderson's forces inside the fort initially returned fire, but were soon overwhelmed. After 34 hours, Major General Anderson agreed to evacuate the fort. No American or Confederate soldiers were killed during the battle, though two soldiers would die as a result of a gun explosion during the surrender ceremonies on April 14.

	FACT	FICTION
The Battle of Fort Sumter marked the first exchange of fire in the Civil War.		
The battle occurred before seven states seceded from the Union.		
Following the demand for surrender, Richard Anderson moved his soldiers from Fort Sumter to Fort Moultrie.		
Richard Anderson and P.G.T. Beauregard were actually close friends.		
After General Anderson refused the order to surrender, Confederate forces opened fire on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861.		
Union forces inside Fort Sumter were no match of the Confederate firepower.		
One of the effects of the battle of Fort Sumter was President Lincoln's request for the mobilization of soldiers for the Union army.		
Two Union soldiers were killed during the fighting.		
P.G.T. Beauregard was the first military officer appointed in the Confederacy.		
Following Fort Sumter, four additional states seceded from the Union.		

**Answers:**

	<b>FACT</b>	<b>FICTION</b>
The Battle of Fort Sumter marked the first exchange of fire in the Civil War.	<b>X</b>	
The battle occurred before seven states seceded from the Union.		<b>X</b>
Following the demand for surrender, Richard Anderson moved his soldiers from Fort Sumter to Fort Moultrie.		<b>X</b>
Richard Anderson and P.G.T. Beauregard were actually close friends.	<b>X</b>	
After General Anderson refused the order to surrender, Confederate forces opened fire on Fort Sumter on April 12, 1861.	<b>X</b>	
Union forces inside Fort Sumter were no match of the Confederate firepower.	<b>X</b>	
One of the effects of the battle of Fort Sumter was President Lincoln's request for the mobilization of soldiers for the Union army.	<b>X</b>	
Two Union soldiers were killed during the fighting.		<b>X</b>
P.G.T. Beauregard was the first military officer appointed in the Confederacy.	<b>X</b>	
Following Fort Sumter, four additional state seceded from the Union.	<b>X</b>	



## Venus Fly Trap Reading Comprehension

Name \_\_\_\_\_

What has a gaping red mouth, long fearsome teeth, and can snap food from the air in the blink of an eye? A dragon? Some frightening beast? Few people would guess that this frightening creature is the humble Venus fly trap, a plant smaller than the size of your hand.

The fleshy “mouth” of a fly trap is not like the mouths of people or dogs or any other creatures. This trap is made of a tough plant fiber and snaps shut when crawling or flying insects brush past. Unlike many other carnivorous creatures, which have complex systems for processing food, all of the work of digestion in a Venus fly trap happens in its leafy trap. First, the trap has to ensure that insects cannot easily escape to freedom. Long tooth-like pieces called cilia frame the opening of the trap. The cilia cage the insects and prevent them from escaping the trap’s leafy jaws. From here, the fly trap faces a challenge. In the wild, pieces of debris can fall from passing animals and other plants to trigger the trap. Instead of wasting precious energy on inedible objects, the plant waits to feel the object move before beginning digestion. If the object is still, the trap will soon open and release the debris. The plant can then await its next victim. If a live insect is sensed, however, the trap will flood with wet digestive juices that will break down the body of its victim into usable nutrients.

Scientists believe that the hunt for nutrients is the reason why the ancient ancestors of Venus fly traps evolved methods to attract and digest insects. Venus fly traps and other carnivorous plants most commonly grow in bogs. The soil in boggy habitats is acidic and lacks sufficient nutrients for many plants to grow. It is possible that some bog plants developed a taste for insects as a novel way of obtaining nutrients. The snapping leaves of the Venus fly trap, however, are unique even among carnivorous plants. Other carnivorous plants use slippery leaves or sticky hairs to trap insects. Scientists think that the Venus fly trap is most closely related to the sticky hair type of carnivorous plant. The development of a trap mechanism meant that the Venus fly trap could better hold on to wriggly insect prey than its relatives with simpler sticky mechanisms.

**1. What is the author's purpose in the first paragraph?**

- a.) To excite the reader
- b.) To inform the reader
- c.) To persuade the reader
- d.) To confuse the reader

**2. Which part of a Venus Fly Trap is most similar to a human mouth?**

- a.) The cilia
- b.) The trap
- c.) The digestive juices
- d.) The sticky hairs

**3. What might happen to a Venus Fly Trap that is missing its cilia?**

- a.) The Venus Fly Trap would catch more prey than usual
- b.) The Venus Fly Trap would be stickier
- c.) The Venus Fly Trap would not spring closed as quickly
- d.) The Venus Fly Trap would have more prey escape its trap

**4. Based on the following sentence, what could be the best definition for the word "debris"?**

*In the wild, debris can fall from passing animals and other plants to trigger the trap.*

- a.) Leaves
- b.) Gravel
- c.) Particles
- d.) Trash

**5. Which of the following is not a step of the Venus Fly Trap's eating process?**

- a.) Digestive juices flood the trap
- b.) The plant waits to feel for movement from the caught object
- c.) Plant fibers move the insect into place for digestion
- d.) The trap springs shut when an object brushes by

**6. What would be the best choice as a heading for the final paragraph?**

- a.) "Unique Plants of the Bogs"
- b.) "The Family Tree of the Venus Fly Trap"
- c.) "Mechanisms of Carnivorous Plants"
- d.) "Nutrient Processing of the Venus Fly Trap"

**7. Which feature does the Venus Fly Trap not share with the other carnivorous plants?**

- a.) Lives in bog habitats
- b.) Eats insects to obtain nutrients
- c.) Lives in acidic soil
- d.) Uses a snapping trap mechanism to catch prey