



AN INVITATION TO REVISE HISTORY!

The Santa Elena Foundation, based in Beaufort, SC, is inviting educators to participate in pilot projects focused on revising America’s exploration/colonization narrative. The impetus for the Foundation’s invitation comes from archaeological findings at the site of the Santa Elena settlement (on current day Parris Island), which confirm that Plymouth and Jamestown were settled much later. Indeed, in 1566 the Spanish designated Santa Elena as the capitol of “La Florida”, an area that included what today is the entire United States.

The National Parks Service (NPS) is spearheading a nationwide effort to re-educate Americans about our country’s origins. With funding from the Santa Elena Foundation, the NPS recently released the Charlesfort-Santa Helena lesson plan*, which is now a part of their Historic Places lesson plan catalog.

NPS Lesson Highlights. The Santa Elena lesson plan reflects 21st century needs for students to use higher order thinking (including creative problem solving) and demonstrate learning focused on evidence-based conclusions—all necessary for success in college, careers and personal life. The lessons...

- Engage students in inquiry that targets searching for facts and evidence in both print and visual sources.
- Conclude with students synthesizing material and demonstrating learning through a variety of projects including community-based connections.

The NPS plan is linked to National Social Studies Standards and offers Internet links to useful websites that include videos and other tools. The plan is adaptable for elementary, middle and high school use. Because the NPS material elaborates on the important role played by Spanish explorers, it can be an important asset in helping integrate Hispanic populations. For a link to the NPS material, go to...santa-elena.org and click on Education.

Invitation to Pilot. The Santa Elena Foundation encourages educators to consider piloting the plan, perhaps during Spanish Heritage Month (every September 15th to October 15th). The Foundation is looking for creative ways to adapt the plan that can then be publicized to K-12 educators across the country. ContactUs@santa-elena.org.

*NOTE: The Charlesfort-Santa Elena plan was cooperatively created by the National Park Service, the Santa Elena Foundation and the Kingdom of Spain. Historian and education specialist Jaclyn Jecha wrote the plan with assistance from Dr. Paul E. Hoffman of Louisiana State University. The project was initiated on behalf of the Foundation by the National Park Service Archeology Program through a Memorandum of Understanding with the Kingdom of Spain and supported by the Spanish Embassy.