**CWB**

1. Early NC settlers dreamed of becoming rich. This didn’t happen. What were the problems?

North Carolina’s proprietors envisioned elaborate courts, feudal manors, and silk production, but managing a colony was more complicated than they’d expected. In the colony’s first fifty years, North Carolina’s settlers faced corrupt officials, violent rebellion, Indian war, isolation, disease, hurricanes, and pirates. North Carolina grew slowly, but by the third quarter of the eighteenth century, complex and thriving communities had spread across the coastal plain and the Piedmont.

**A PROPRIETARY COLONY**

2.Who owned and made all the laws for NC?

3.Who had the most power in the English gov’t: The king or the elected parliament?

The eight men to whom Carolina was granted were called Lords Proprietors. The idea of a proprietary colony — a colony owned by one or a few people — is a strange one today. Under the Charter of Carolina, not only were the Lords Proprietors the owners of Carolina, but they were to rule everyone else living there! England, after all, was a monarchy, ruled by a king. Although the people and nobles of England had a say in their government, through Parliament, Parliament convened only when the king called it, and kings could rule for years at a time without calling a Parliament. (Charles II ruled without Parliament from 1679 until his death in 1685.)

4.Was English law fair to all citizens? Why or why not?

Much of English law regarding people’s rights and privileges, and especially the way land could be held, bought and sold, and inherited, was still based on the feudal system of the Middle Ages. Under the feudal system, everyone was subject to a higher lord, in a chain that led from the lowest agricultural workers all the way to the king. Political and military power in this system came from above — ultimately, from the king — rather than from the people.

5. What were the Lord Proprietors in NC similar to?

In this context, a proprietary colony starts to make sense. The Lords Proprietors were granted an extreme form of feudal lordship over Carolina, and settlers would be subject to them just as the proprietors themselves were subject to the king. The Lords Proprietors ruled Carolina in the king’s name. They could pass laws with the assent of a legislative body (like a mini-Parliament), establish towns and ports, tax residents, raise armies, and make war on enemies.

6. Besides selling oil, wines, indigo and sugar, how did the Lord Proprietor plan to make most of their money?

7. What job is this similar to today?

The Lords Proprietors expected to make a great deal of money from their new colony. Land in Europe was scarce, and they planned to sell land in Carolina to Europeans who had money but no land. They would collect quitrents on all this land — essentially a form of real estate tax. They also expected profits from products such as whale oil, wines, indigo, sugar, and cotton that Europeans wanted to buy.

**THE FUNDAMENTAL CONSTITUTIONS**

8. How did Mr. D learn from the NC constitution when making his class rules?

The Lords Proprietors tried several times to set out rules for governing their colony. In 1669, they adopted the Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina, a long document that turned out to be far too complicated for the relatively wild conditions of Carolina — as you might guess if you try to read it.

Through the Fundamental Constitutions, the Lords Proprietors tried to set up a feudal society in Carolina, complete with hereditary nobility. English law prevented them from granting titles already in use in England, such as Earl or Baron. Instead, the Lords Proprietors created two new titles, cazique and landgrave, that would be passed down from father to son. (Christoph von Graffenried, the founder of New Bern, was made a landgrave.) Titles might help to lure wealthy men to Carolina, and they gave the colony an air of legitimacy — they made it seem like less of a backwater. Two-thirds of the colony, in fact, was to be owned by the Lords Proprietors and the aristocracy they created.

9. What marketing plan did the proprietor’s use to lure buyers?

10 Was this a good plan?

11. What marketing plans have you feel for in the past?

At the other end of the social scale, the Fundamental Constitutions established hereditary serfs, called leetmen who would be legally tied to the land they worked — as would their children. Like slaves, serfs had to work for their master — the lord of the manor on which they lived and worked — and could not leave without his permission, although serfs or leetmen also had certain rights guaranteed to them. The Fundamental Constitutions also provided for slavery, the outright ownership of one person by another.

12. Why didn’t free Englishman migrate to NC?

12. What was a serf in NC called?

Not surprisingly, free men and women in England did not volunteer to migrate to Carolina to become serfs. But other provisions of the Fundamental Constitutions established the more liberal society that would take root in Carolina.

13. Are you Liberal? Why or why not?

*Liberal* in the colonial era described laws or beliefs that encouraged individual freedom, private ownership of property, democratically elected legislatures, and religious tolerance.

The Fundamental Constitutions provided for an assembly, or legislature, that was elected by the people of Carolina. Only men who owned land could vote or hold office, but that was true in England as well, and men needed less land to be eligible to vote in Carolina than they did in England. (Women could not vote anywhere in Europe or European America at this time.) And although the Church of England was the official church of Carolina and was to be supported by tax money, dissenters — people who did not belong to the Church of England — could vote and hold office in Carolina, even though they could not in England.

14. What did you need to vote?

**Trouble from the start**

15. Give an example of a big plan or dream that you had that did not work out.

Running a colony — particularly the colony of Carolina — turned out to be more difficult and more complicated than the Lords Proprietors expected. Their grand ideas didn’t suit the rough men and escaped servants who had already settled the Albemarle, and the Fundamental Constitutions were never fully put into effect.

16. Why couldn’t ONE government rule the Carolinas?

Settlements were too scattered even to have a single government. The settlements in the Albemarle, on Cape Fear, and around what would become Charleston each needed its own government, with a governor appointed by the Lords Proprietors, a council who advised the governor (serving the combined roles of the Senate and President’s Cabinet today), and a legislative assembly elected by landowners.

In order to govern Carolina effectively, the Lords Proprietors needed to take an active role in its affairs, but it seems that they were more interested in the idea of having a colony — and in the money they could make from it — than in the day-to-day matters of governing it. In less than twenty years, the conflict between the Lords Proprietors’ grand ideas and the personalities of the rough and unruly men who settled Carolina would explode into open rebellion.

17. Why were the lord proprietors’ bad at their jobs?

BIG IDEA

18. What are your thoughts on the way charter schools and the lord proprietors operate?

19. What are some of the conflicts between educating students and making money?

Charter schools are similar to colonial Carolina. Charter schools attempt to educate students, but unlike traditional public schools, Charter’s also attempt to make money. The Lord Proprietors had to govern the colonies, and also attempted to make money. The two goals of charter schools and the lord proprietors do not always go together?