**Essential Understandings**

**Unit 2 - European Explorers**

1. European explorers wanted to find a shorter route to the spices of Asia and to find gold,

silver, precious metals or other valuables such as furs.

1. Explorers were sent out to claim new lands for “king and country.”
2. Hernando de Soto explored for Spain in search of gold and slaves.
3. Jean Ribault, exploring for France, came to South Carolina to compete with the Spanish for

land in the New World.

1. Juan Pardo, exploring for Spain, arrived at Parris Island and claimed the land for Spain.
2. Henry Woodward’s group established the first English settlement in South Carolina on the

Ashley River and named it Charles Fort.

1. William Hilton was hired by English settlers in Barbados to explore the coast of present day
2. South Carolina to find more lush land for plantations.
3. The English were the first to establish a permanent colony in the area.
4. The king of England gave the land to eight Lords Proprietors in payment of a debt.
5. The Huguenots were French Protestants who were persecuted in Catholic France. They  came to South Carolina for religious freedom.
6. European Jews were also attracted to the colony because of its religious toleration.
7. The German and Scotch-Irish people settled the backcountry, which became the breadbasket of the colony.
8. English settlers from Barbados brought with them the knowledge of the plantation system which was dependent on slave labor.
9. The blending of African traditions led to the Gullah culture which has its own music, stories and art forms, such as sweetgrass basket weaving.