Who were they? and Where did they live?
Indians or Native Americans were the first people to live on the land that is now South Carolina. Some people think that there were originally between 40-50 different tribes in S.C. The three main tribes or groups that occupied S.C. are the Catawba Indians, the Cherokee Indians, and the Yemassee Indians. The Native Americans lived throughout the state. Some lived near the coast, some lived in the lowlands, and some lived into the mountainous areas of S.C.
South Carolina’s largest tribe of Native Americans were the Cherokee tribe. The Cherokee Indians lived in the northwestern part of the state. Towns built up along rivers of the Up Country. They spoke Iroquois language. The Cherokee Indians built towns along rivers to have access for fishing and traveling by canoe to other Cherokee towns for trading. The Cherokee tribes did lots of fishing and hunting. They hunted bear, deer, and turkey. Most of the women did the farming of fruits and vegetables like maize, beans, squash, and melons. The women also gathered nuts.
The Cherokee Indian homes were built around the Council House, the house where they village council met to make laws and decisions. The village council was more powerful than the chief. Their homes were usually built in a rectangular shape from logs or branches and were covered in clay. They held festivals to honor their culture. The Cherokee Indians used fire to bake bread and cook meat. They also used fire to help them clear the land for farming, to make clay pottery, and to soften wood for building canoes.
To learn more information about the Cherokee Indian Tribe, visit the website below:

http://www.sciway.net/hist/indians/cherokee.html
South Carolina’s second largest tribe of Native Americans was the Catawba tribe. The Catawba Indians lived in the Piedmont region of South Carolina. Their name means “River People.” They settled near the Catawba River. The Rock Hill area is home to many of the descendents of the Catawba. The Catawba Indians spoke Sioux language. In order to get food, the Catawba used long poles and snares to fish. They also hunted, sometimes using fires to capture and kill animals. The men and women farmed and grew corn, beans, and squash.
The Catawba Indian homes were round or oval and made from young trees. They were then covered in bark. There was a fireplace inside. Each Catawba village had a council that made laws and decisions. The village chief was the council leader.
To learn more information about the Catawba Indian Tribe, visit the website below:

http://www.sciway.net/hist/indians/catawba.html
Another tribe in South Carolina was the Yemassee tribe. Not much is known about the Yemassee tribe of long ago. The Yemassee lived along the coast of Florida and Georgia until the Spanish tried to make them laborers so they traveled to the Low Country of South Carolina. They built towns near the Savannah River and the Combahee River. Building near rivers made it easy for them to fish, cook, wash, drink, and travel by canoe to other villages and towns for trade. The Yemassee spoke Muskogean language. Their land was farmed by the men and women. They ate shellfish such as clams and oysters that they caught in the ocean. They also hunted animals.
The Yemassee tribe lived in homes near the beach during warmer months, but moved inland to villages during the colder months. Their homes were round and covered with palmetto fronds or other leaves.

The Yemassee tribe was treated badly by the English. Because of their treatment, they attacked the area around Beaufort, S.C. killing around 400 colonists. This was known as the Yemassee War from 1715-1717. If the Yemassee War had lasted much longer the colony of South Carolina may not have survived.
To learn more information about the Yemassee Indian Tribe, visit the website below:

http://www.sciway.net/hist/indians/yemassee.html