

Unit 1: Colonial America (1492-1754)

Interactions among Europeans, Africans, and American Indians

1. The explorations and settlements of the English in the American colonies and Spanish in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America, often led to **violent conflicts** (Land Control) with the American Indians. The Indians lost their traditional territories and fell **victim to diseases** carried from Europe.
2. By contrast, **French** exploration of Canada did not lead to large-scale immigration from France, and relations with native peoples were generally **more cooperative**.
3. The growth of an **agricultural economy** based on large landholdings in the Southern colonies and in the Caribbean led to the introduction of **slavery** in the New World. The first Africans were brought against their will to Jamestown in **1619** to work on tobacco **plantations**.

The development of indentured servitude and slavery

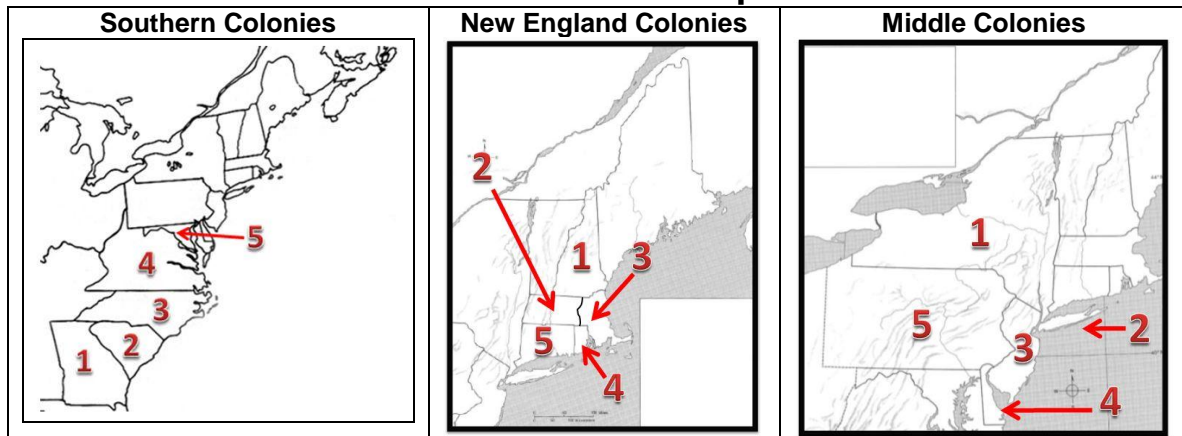
1. The growth of a plantation-based agricultural economy in the hot, humid coastal lowlands of the Southern colonies required cheap labor on a large scale. Some of the labor needs, especially in Virginia, were met by **indentured servants**, who were often poor persons from England, Scotland, or Ireland who agreed to work on plantations for a period of time in return for their passage from Europe or relief from debts.
2. Most plantation labor needs eventually came to be satisfied by the forcible importation of African slaves. Although some Africans worked as **indentured servants**, earned their freedom, and lived as free citizens during the Colonial Era, over time larger and larger numbers of enslaved Africans were forcibly brought to the Southern colonies (the **“Middle Passage”**).
3. The development of a **slavery-based agricultural economy in the Southern colonies** eventually led to conflict between the North and South and the American Civil War.



Characteristics of early exploration and settlements in the New World

1. **New England** was settled by **Puritans** seeking freedom from religious persecution in Europe. They formed a “**covenant community**” based on the principles of the **Mayflower Compact** and Puritan religious beliefs and were often intolerant of those not sharing their religion. They also sought economic opportunity and practiced a form of direct democracy through town meetings.
2. The **Middle Atlantic** region was settled chiefly by English, Dutch, and German-speaking immigrants seeking religious freedom and economic opportunity.
3. Virginia and the other **Southern colonies** were settled by people seeking economic opportunities. Some of the early Virginia settlers were “**cavaliers**” i.e., English nobility who received large land grants in eastern Virginia from the King of England. Poor English immigrants also came seeking better lives as small farmers or artisans and settled in the Shenandoah Valley or western Virginia, or as **indentured servants** who agreed to work on tobacco plantations for a period of time to pay for passage to the New World.
4. **Jamestown**, established in **1607** by the **Virginia Company of London** as a business venture, was the first permanent English settlement in North America. The Virginia **House of Burgesses**, established by the 1640s, was the first elected assembly in the New World. It has operated continuously and is known today as the **General Assembly of Virginia**.

13 Colonies Maps



Economic characteristics of the Colonial Period

1. The **New England** colonies developed an economy based on shipbuilding, fishing, lumbering, small-scale subsistence farming, and eventually, manufacturing. The colonies prospered, reflecting the Puritans’ strong belief in the values of **hard work and thrift (Protestant work ethic)**.
2. The **middle colonies** of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware developed economies based on shipbuilding, small-scale farming, and trading. Cities such as New York and Philadelphia began to grow as **seaports and/or commercial centers**.
3. **Southern colonies** developed economies in the eastern coastal lowlands based on large plantations that grew “**cash crops**” such as **tobacco, rice, and indigo** for export to Europe. Farther **inland**, however, in the mountains and valleys of the Appalachian foothills, the economy was based on small-scale subsistence **farming, hunting, and trading**.

4. A **strong belief in private ownership of property and free enterprise** characterized colonial life everywhere.

Social characteristics of the colonies

1. **New England's colonial** society was based on religious standing. The **Puritans grew increasingly intolerant** of dissenters who challenged the Puritans' belief in the connection between religion and government. Rhode Island was founded by dissenters fleeing persecution by Puritans in Massachusetts.
2. The **middle colonies** were home to multiple religious groups who generally believed in **religious tolerance**, including **Quakers** in Pennsylvania, Huguenots and Jews in New York, and Presbyterians in New Jersey. These colonies had more flexible social structures and began to develop a **middle class** of skilled artisans, entrepreneurs (business owners), and small farmers.
3. **Virginia and the other Southern colonies** had a **social structure based on family status and the ownership of land**. Large landowners in the eastern lowlands dominated colonial government and society and maintained an **allegiance to the Church of England and closer social ties to Britain** than did those in the other colonies. In the mountains and valleys further inland, however, society was characterized by small subsistence farmers, hunters, and traders of Scots-Irish and English descent.
4. The "**Great Awakening**" was a religious movement that swept both Europe and the colonies during the mid-1700s. It led to the rapid growth of evangelical religions, such as Methodist and Baptist, and challenged the established religious and governmental orders. It laid one of the social foundations for the American Revolution.

Political life in the colonies

1. **New England colonies** used town meetings (an "Athenian" (**direct democracy** model) in the operation of government.
2. **Middle colonies** incorporated a number of democratic principles that reflected the **basic rights of Englishmen**.
3. **Southern colonies** maintained stronger ties with Britain, with planters playing leading roles in **representative** colonial legislatures.

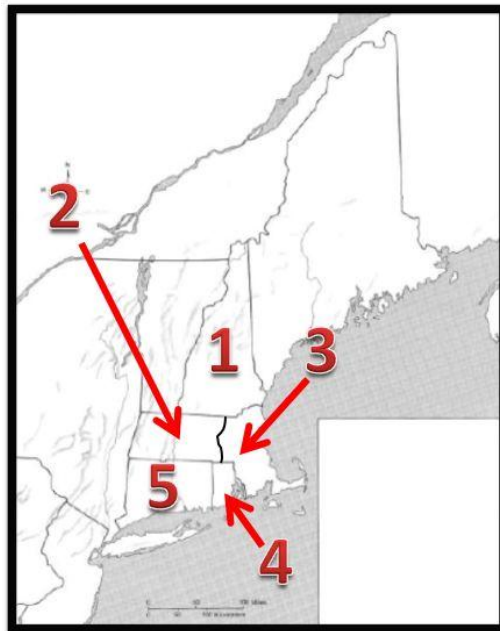
Southern colonies

Colony	Date	Region	Founded By	Reasons	Importance
Jamestown	1607	Southern	Virginia Company	Trade & Farming	Established self-government under VA House of Burgesses
Virginia	1624	Southern	Becomes royal colony under James I	Trade & Farming	Continues House of Burgesses
Maryland	1632	Southern	Land grant from Charles I to Lord Baltimore ; first proprietary colony	Religious & political freedom	Roman Catholics ; elected assemblies; Act of Toleration
The Carolinas	1663	Southern	Land Grant from Charles II to 8 proprietors	Trade, farming, religious freedom	Rice & Indigo cultivation; need for large numbers of laborers = African enslavement
North Carolina	1712				
South Carolina	1729	Southern	Proprietors sold their rights to the King; became royal colonies	Trade, farming, religious freedom	Establishes representative assemblies
Georgia	1732	Southern	James Oglethorpe , proprietary colony	Have for debtors; buffer against Spanish Florida	Originally southern part of SC; initially only small farms & no slavery; grows slowly & Oglethorpe allows slavery & plantations



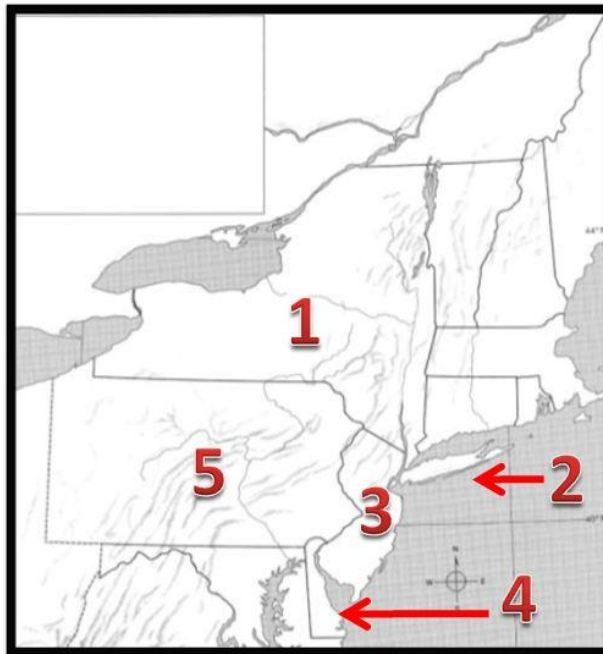
New England colonies

Colony	Date	Region	Founded By	Reasons	Importance
Plymouth	1620	New England	William Bradford Pilgrims	Religious freedom	Mayflower Compact
Massachusetts Bay	1630	New England	John Winthrop Puritans, Massachusetts Bay Company	Religious Freedom; build a "City on the Hill"	Representative government (Town Hall Meeting) through election to general court
Plymouth & Massachusetts Bay joined together	1691	New England			
New Hampshire & Maine	1622	New England	John Mason, Sir Ferdinando Gorges	Profits from trade & fishing	Colonists from Mass. move into the area; by 1650s under Mass. Control
New Hampshire	1679		Royal charter from Charles II		
Connecticut	1636	New England	Thomas Hooker	Expansion of trade, religious & political freedoms; limited government	Fundamental Orders of Connecticut
	1662		Receives charter from King & becomes a separate Royal Colony		
Rhode Island	1636	New England	Roger Williams buys land from Native Americans	Religious toleration	Separation of church & state, unlike Mass. Bay Colony



Middle colonies

Colony	Date	Region	Founded By	Reasons	Importance
New Netherlands	1624	Middle	Dutch under Peter Minuit	Trade, religious freedom	Diverse population
New York	1664		Royal charter from Charles II to his brother, James, Duke of York	Takes valuable trade and land from rivals	
Delaware	1638	Middle	Swedish settlers	Trade	Provides Pennsylvania with coastline
	1664		Seized by English	Take land from rival	
	1682		Land grant to William Penn, proprietary colony	Known as lower countries	
New Jersey	1664	Middle	Lord Berkeley, Sir George Carteret, proprietary colony	Division of NY b/c too large too govern; trade & religious & political freedoms	Few colonists; remains mostly Native American lands Protection of religious freedom & right of assembly to vote on local matters
	1702		Becomes a Royal colony		
Pennsylvania	1682	Middle	William Penn, proprietary colony	Religious & political freedoms	Quakers "Holy Experiment;" attracts diverse population; pays Native Americans for land



Unit 2: American Revolution (1754-1783)

The ideas of John Locke

1. The period known as the “**Enlightenment**” in Europe during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries saw the development of new ideas about the rights of people and their relationship to their rulers. John Locke was an Enlightenment philosopher whose ideas, more than any other’s, influenced the American belief in self-government. Locke wrote the following:
2. All people are free, equal, and have “**natural rights**” of **life, liberty, and property** that rulers cannot take away.
3. All original power resides in the people, and they consent to enter into a “**social contract**” among themselves to form a government to protect their rights. In return, the people promise to obey the laws and rules established by their government, establishing a system of “**ordered liberty.**”
4. Government’s powers are limited to those the people have consented to give to it. **Whenever government becomes a threat to the people’s natural rights, it breaks the social contract, and the people have the right to alter or overthrow it.**
5. Locke’s ideas about the sovereignty and rights of the people were radical and challenged the centuries-old practice throughout the world of dictatorial rule by kings, emperors, and tribal chieftains.

Thomas Paine and Common Sense

1. Thomas Paine was an English immigrant to America who produced a pamphlet known as **Common Sense** that challenged the rule of the American colonies by the King of England.
2. **Common Sense** was read and acclaimed by many American colonists during the mid-1700s and contributed to a growing sentiment for independence from Great Britain.

The Declaration of Independence

1. The eventual draft of the Declaration of Independence, **authored by Thomas Jefferson** of Virginia, **reflected the ideas of Locke and Paine**. Jefferson wrote:
 - “**We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.**”
 - “**That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.**”
 - “**That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or abolish it, and to institute new Government....**”
2. Jefferson then went on to detail many of the **grievances** against the King of England that Paine had earlier described in **Common Sense**.

The key principles of the Declaration of Independence increased political, social, and economic participation in the American experience over a period of time.

1. Political participation (equality)

- Extending the franchise
- Upholding due process of law
- Providing free public education

2. Social participation (liberty)

- Abolishing slavery
- Extending civil rights to women and other groups

3. Economic participation (pursuit of happiness)

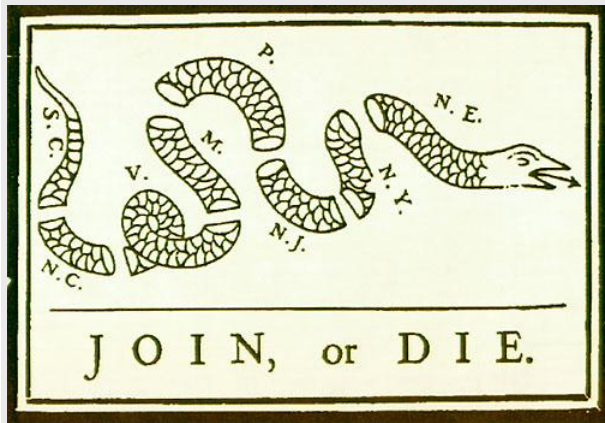
- Regulating the free enterprise system
- Promoting economic opportunity
- Protecting property rights

Anglo-French rivalry leading to conflict with the colonies

1. The rivalry in North America between Britain and France led to the **French and Indian War**, in which the French were driven out of Canada and their territories west of the Appalachian Mountains.
2. As a result of the war, Britain took several actions that angered the American colonies and led to the American Revolution. These included
 - **Proclamation of 1763**, which prohibited settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains, a region that was costly for the British to protect.



- **new taxes** on legal documents (the “**Stamp Act**”), tea, and sugar, to pay costs incurred during the French and Indian War and for British troops to protect colonists.
- **(No Taxation without representation)**



The beginning of the American Revolution

1. Resistance to British rule in the colonies mounted, leading to war: **Proclamation of 1763**
2. **New Taxes & (Son of Liberty)/(No Taxation without representation)**
3. The **Boston Massacre** took place when British troops fired on anti-British demonstrators
4. The **First Continental Congress** was called, to which all of the colonies except Georgia sent representatives—the first time most of the colonies had acted together.
5. The **Boston Tea Party** leads to **Intolerable Acts**.
6. **Olive Branch Petition** reject by England
7. War began when the “**Minutemen**” in Massachusetts fought a brief skirmish with British troops at **Lexington and Concord**.

Differences among the colonists

The colonists were divided into three main groups during the Revolution:

1. Patriots

- Believed in complete independence from Britain
- Inspired by the ideas of Locke and Paine and the words of Virginian **Patrick Henry** (“Give me liberty, or give me death!”)
- Provided the troops for the American Army, led by Virginian **George Washington**

2. Loyalists (Tories)

- Remained loyal to Britain because of cultural and economic ties
- Believed that taxation of the colonies was justified to pay for British troops to protect American settlers from Indian attacks

3. Neutrals

- The many colonists who tried to stay as uninvolved in the war as possible

Revolutionary War timeline

Event	Date	Significance
Lexington & Concord (Mass)	April 1775	War began when the “ Minutemen ” in Massachusetts fought a brief skirmish with British troops
Bunker Hill (Mass)	June 1775	1/6 of all British officers killed in war die here. Only battle in long siege of Boston. England takes control of Boston
Declaration of Independence	July 1776	2nd Continental Congress issues formal declaration of separation from British (Jefferson) (Locke/Paine influence)
Trenton (NJ)	Dec. 1776	Hessian army crushed in Washington’s raid across the Delaware River. Casualties: U.S. :4, British: 900
Saratoga (NY)	Oct 1777	Turning point of war. Convinced French of U.S. strength. Burgoyne surrenders 5800 men.
Treaty of Alliance	Oct 1777	Benjamin Franklin negotiated a Treaty of Alliance with France
Savannah (GA)	Dec 1778	Beginning of British push in the South
Charleston (SC)	Dec 1779	British gain control of South with victory here
Yorktown (VA)	Oct 1781	Cornwallis surrenders to Washington as French and American forces trap British on peninsula.
Treaty of Paris	1783	Formally end the Revolutionary War & establishes the original border from Atlantic Ocean to Mississippi River

Factors leading to colonial victory in Revolutionary War

1. Diplomatic

- **Benjamin Franklin** negotiated a **Treaty of Alliance** with France.
- The war did not have popular support in Great Britain.

2. Military

- **George Washington**, general of the American army, avoided any situation that threatened the destruction of his army, and his leadership kept the army together when defeat seemed inevitable.
- Americans benefited from the presence of the French army and navy at the **Battle of Yorktown**, which ended the war with an American victory.

Revolutionary Era People

Benjamin Franklin	He were persuaded the French to support the colonists in the Revolutionary war and sign a Treaty of Alliance in 1778.
Sam Adams	Helped organize the Sons of Liberty. He is believed to have lead the Boston Tea Party. He served in the Continental Congress throughout the Revolution
George Washington	He was general of the American army, avoided any situation that threatened the destruction of his army, & his leadership kept the army together when defeat seemed inevitable.
George III	Became King of England in 1760, and reigned during the American Revolution.
Thomas Jefferson	A delegate from Virginia at the Second Continental Congress and wrote the Declaration of Independence.
Marquis de Lafayette	French major general who aided the colonies during the Revolutionary War.
Lord Cornwallis	British commander during the Revolutionary war. Surrendered to G. Washinton at Yorktown.

Unit 3: Creating the Constitution (1783-1789)

The Articles of Confederation

- American political leaders, **fearful of a powerful central government** like Britain's, created the **Articles of Confederation**, adopted at the end of the war.
- Provided for a **weak national government**
- **Gave Congress no power** to tax or regulate commerce among the states
- Provided for no common currency
- Gave each state one vote regardless of size (Equal Representation)
- Provided for **no executive or judicial branch**

Constitutional Convention Key issues and their resolutions

1. Made federal law the supreme law of the land when constitutional, but otherwise gave the states considerable leeway to govern themselves
2. Congressional Representation
 - **New Jersey Plan (Small State Plan)**: Gave each state one vote regardless of size (Equal Representation)
 - **Virginia Plan (Large State Plan/James Madison)**: Representation in Congress based on states population. Also called for the **Separation of Power** (Dividing gov't in to 3 Branches) & **Checks & Balance** system
 - **(Great Compromise/Connecticut Compromise: Roger Sherman)** Balanced power between **large and small states** by creating a **Senate**, where each state has two senators, and a **House of Representatives**, where membership is based on **population**. **(Mix of VA Plan & NJ Plan)**
3. Placated the Southern states by counting **slaves** as **three-fifths** of the population when determining representation in the United States House of Representatives
4. Avoided a too-powerful central government by establishing three **co-equal branches—legislative, executive, and judicial (Separation of Power)** —with numerous **checks and balances** among them
5. **Limited the powers of the federal government** to those identified in the Constitution

Key leaders

1. **George Washington**, president of the Convention
 - Washington presided at the Convention and, although seldom participating in the debates, lent his enormous prestige to the proceedings.
2. **James Madison, “Father of the Constitution”**
 - Madison, a Virginian and a brilliant political philosopher, often led the debate and kept copious notes of the proceedings—the best record historians have of what transpired at the Constitutional Convention.
 - At the Convention, he authored the “**Virginia Plan**,” which proposed a federal government of three separate branches (legislative, executive, judicial) and became the foundation for the structure of the new government.
 - He later authored much of the **Bill of Rights**.
3. **Virginia Declaration of Rights (George Mason)**
 - Reiterated the notion that basic human rights should not be violated by governments
4. **Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom (Thomas Jefferson)**
 - **Outlawed the established church**—that is, the practice of government support for one favored church

Bill of Rights

1. **James Madison** consulted the Virginia Declaration of Rights and the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom when drafting the amendments that eventually became the United States Bill of Rights.
2. **Federalists** advocated the importance of a **strong central government**, especially to promote economic development and public improvements (*The Federalist Papers*). Today, those who see a primary role for the federal government in solving national problems are heirs to this tradition. The leading Virginia **proponents** of ratification of the constitution were **George Washington and James Madison**.
3. **Anti-Federalists** feared an overly powerful central government destructive of the rights of individuals and the **prerogatives of the states**. Today, the more conservative thinkers echo these concerns and champion liberty, individual initiative, and free markets. The leading Virginia **opponents** of ratification of the constitution were **Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry (Give me Liberty or give me Death)** and **George Mason**
4. The leading Virginia opponents of ratification were **Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry (Give me Liberty or give me Death)** and **George Mason**; the leading Virginia proponents of ratification of the constitution were George Washington and James Madison.