

2 The English Colonies

TERMS & NAMES

Jamestown
House of Burgesses
Pilgrims
Mayflower
Compact
Puritans
triangular trade
French and Indian War
Treaty of Paris

MAIN IDEA

Britain established a group of diverse colonies in North America.

WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The United States grew out of the British colonies in North America.

ONE AMERICAN'S STORY

John White traveled with the first English expedition to Roanoke, an island off North Carolina, in 1585. White sailed back to England in 1586 and then returned to Roanoke as governor the next year, bringing with him more than 100 settlers. White's daughter Elinor gave birth to a baby girl, Virginia Dare, during their stay. John White described the event.

A VOICE FROM THE PAST

On August 18 a daughter was born to Elinor, . . . wife of Ananias Dare. . . . The child was christened on the following Sunday and was named Virginia because she was the first Christian born in Virginia.

John White, *The New World*

In 1587, White sailed back to England to get supplies. White did not return to Roanoke until 1590. To his shock and grief, the colonists he left behind had all disappeared. The only clues to their fate were the letters *CRO* carved in a tree and the word *Croatoan* carved in a doorpost. White never discovered the fate of his family and the other colonists. In this section, you will learn why English settlers such as White came to America despite such dangers.



Drawing by John White of an old man of the Pomeiock tribe.

Jamestown

England tried to start several American colonies. Before 1607, all of them failed. Then in 1607, the Virginia Company of London financed the **Jamestown** colony near Chesapeake Bay. It became the first permanent English settlement in the Americas.

The Jamestown colonists faced hardship. Even though 800 more English settlers arrived in 1609, only 60 colonists were still alive by 1610. In 1612, the colonists learned to grow tobacco and began to earn profits for the Virginia Company.

Indentured servants, people who sold their labor to the person who paid their passage to the colony, began to arrive. After working for several years, they were free to farm or take up a trade. In addition to these workers, African servants were first brought to Jamestown in 1619.

The Virginia colonists became annoyed at the strict rule of the governor, who represented the Virginia Company in London. To provide more local control, the company created the **House of Burgesses** in 1619. It became the first representative assembly in the American colonies.

New England Colonies

In the early 1600s, a religious group called the Separatists wanted to separate from the Church of England. The **Pilgrims** were a Separatist group. To escape harsh treatment from the king, they sailed to America.

Their ship, the *Mayflower*, arrived off the Massachusetts coast in 1620. The men aboard the *Mayflower* signed an agreement called the **Mayflower Compact**. In it, they vowed to obey laws agreed upon for the good of the colony. The Mayflower Compact helped establish the idea of self-government.

Like the early settlers at Jamestown, the Pilgrims faced hardship. Half the group had died by spring. However, the Pilgrims developed friendly relations with the Native Americans, who showed them how to survive in their new environment.

Between about 1630 and 1640, a religious group called the **Puritans** left England. The Puritans wanted to reform, or “purify,” the Church of England. About 1,000 Puritans arrived in America in 1630.

The growing population of colonists led to conflict with Native Americans. In 1675–1676, the colonists won a brutal war against the Wampanoag tribe. The colonists took control of more Native American land.

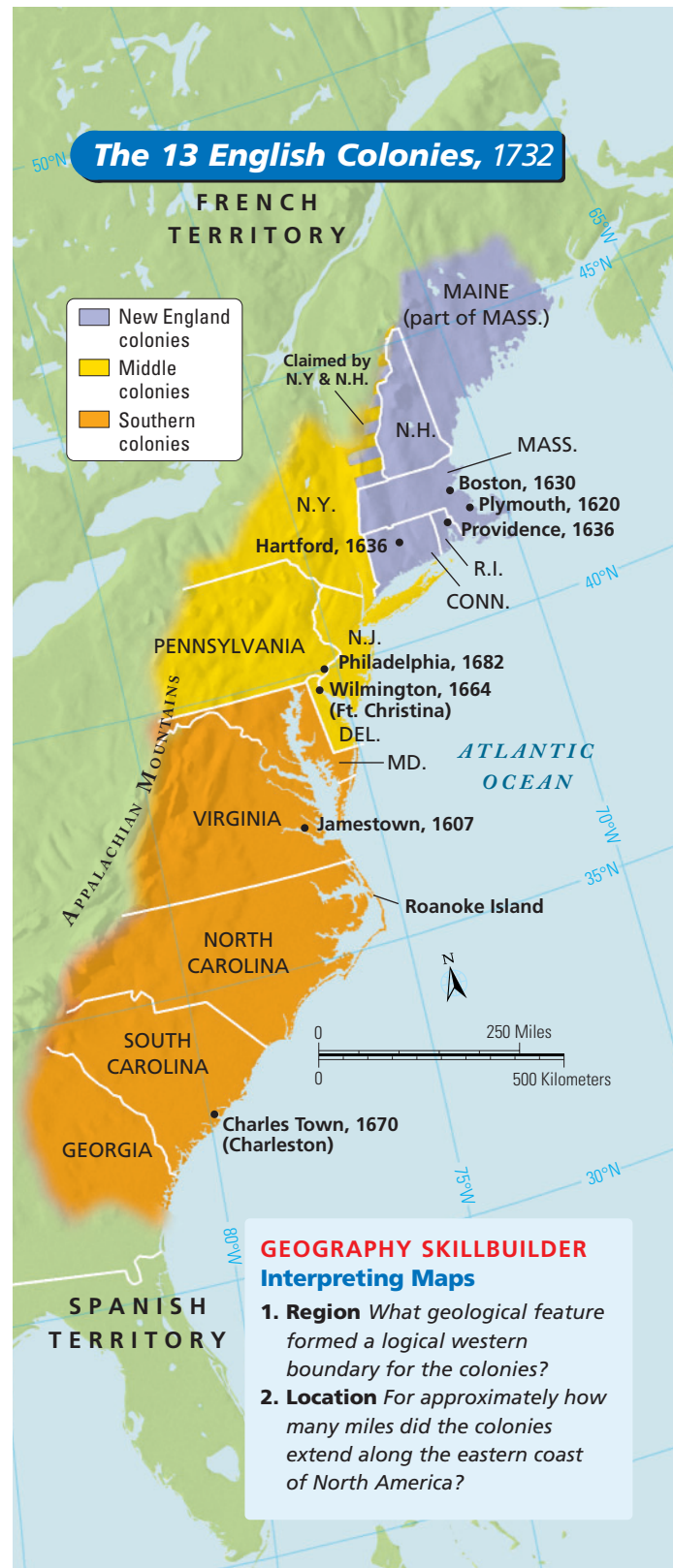
Middle and Southern Colonies

The Middle Colonies included New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. They were located between New England to the north

ReadingHistory

A. Comparing

How was the Pilgrims' early experience at Plymouth similar to that of the Jamestown colonists?



and the Chesapeake region to the south. Religious freedom attracted many groups, including Catholics, Quakers, and Jews, to these colonies.

In 1624, Dutch settlers financed by the Dutch West India Company founded the colony of New Netherland. New Netherland included the Hudson River valley, Long Island, and the land along the Delaware River. In 1664, the English took control of the colony from the Dutch. They renamed the colony New York.

In 1681, England's King Charles II gave William Penn a large piece of land in America. That territory came to be called Pennsylvania. Penn was a Quaker. He used this land to create a colony where Quakers could live according to their beliefs. They welcomed different religions and ethnic groups. Penn especially wanted the Native Americans to be treated fairly.

In addition to Virginia, more Southern Colonies were established. Lord Baltimore established Maryland in 1632 for Roman Catholics fleeing persecution in England. In 1663, Carolina was founded. Carolina's colonists needed laborers to grow rice and indigo. The English settlers encouraged the use of enslaved Africans. In 1732, James Oglethorpe founded Georgia as a refuge for debtors.

Colonial Economies

In New England, most farmers practiced subsistence farming. That is, they produced just enough food for themselves and sometimes a little extra to trade in town. Other New Englanders earned their living by fishing.

The Middle Colonies, 1750

The Southern Colonies, 1750



GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER Interpreting Maps

- Place** What are the three major rivers in the Middle Colonies?
- Location** The Southern Colonies were South of what latitude?

ReadingHistory

B. Comparing and Contrasting

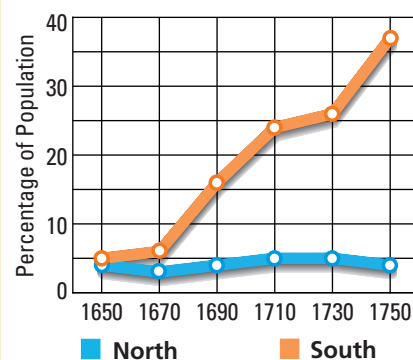
How did Penn's policies toward Native Americans compare with those of other colonies you have read about?

The Middle Colonies had a longer growing season than New England and a soil rich enough to grow cash crops. These crops were sold for money. The South's soil and long growing season were ideal for plantation crops, such as rice, indigo, and tobacco. During the 1600s, Southern planters turned to enslaved Africans for labor.

Many colonial merchants participated in the **triangular trade**. This type of trade had a route with three stops. For example, a ship might leave New England with a cargo of rum and iron. In Africa, the captain traded his cargo for slaves. Slaves then endured the middle passage to the West Indies, where they were exchanged for sugar and molasses. Traders took the sugar and molasses back to New England. There, the colonists used the molasses to make rum, and the pattern started over.

By 1750, over 235,000 enslaved Africans were in America. About 7 percent of these people lived in the Middle Colonies and around 85 percent lived in the Southern Colonies. On Southern plantations, enslaved persons performed exhausting work. If slaves did not appear to be working hard, they were often whipped. Slaves resisted slavery in many ways. They sometimes worked slowly, damaged goods, or purposely carried out orders the wrong way. At times, slaves became so angry and frustrated by their loss of freedom that they ran away. Others rebelled.

U.S. Slave Population



Source: Fogel and Engerman, *Time on the Cross*, 1974

ReadingHistory

C. Finding Main Ideas How did enslaved Africans resist slavery?

Roots of Representative Government

American colonists expected certain rights that came from living under an English government. These “rights of Englishmen” had developed over centuries. In 1215, a group of English noblemen forced King John to accept the Magna Carta (Great Charter). This document guaranteed important rights to noblemen and freemen. Over time, the rights the Magna Carta listed were granted to all English people.

One of the most important English rights was the right to elect representatives to government. Parliament, England's chief lawmaking body, was the colonists' model for representative government.

English colonists formed their own representative assemblies. Even so, England had authority over them. In the late 1600s, King James II appointed Edmund Andros as governor of New England. Andros angered the colonists by ending their representative assemblies.

In 1688, James, a Catholic, fled England when Protestants offered the throne to his Protestant daughter, Mary, and her husband, William of Orange. This change of leadership was called England's Glorious Revolution. William and Mary agreed to uphold the English Bill of Rights. This was an agreement to respect the rights of English citizens and of Parliament. The American colonists were quick to claim these rights.

The New England colonists regained some amount of self-government.



This 1903 painting by Edward Deming shows an attack on British forces in 1755.

But they still had a governor appointed by the crown. The governor could strike down laws passed by the colonial assembly, but the assembly was responsible for the governor's salary. If he blocked the assembly, the assembly might refuse to pay him.

The French and Indian War

By the late 1600s, France claimed territory from the Appalachian Mountains to the Rocky Mountains. The English competed with the French in the region over the fur trade. The Huron and Algonquin peoples were allied with the French. The Iroquois were allied with the English. When British fur traders moved into the west in the 1750s, the French and their Native American allies destroyed a British trading post.

The English colonists tried to reestablish an outpost in the region but were again defeated by the French and their allies. This started the **French and Indian War** (1754–1763).

The British took control of Canada in 1760, but the British and French continued fighting in other parts of the world for almost three more years. Finally, Britain won the war. By the **Treaty of Paris**, Britain claimed all of North America east of the Mississippi River. The treaty ended French power in North America.

ReadingHistory

D. Recognizing Effects How did the fur trade lead to the French and Indian War?

Section 2 Assessment

1. Terms & Names

Explain the significance of:

- Jamestown
- House of Burgesses
- Pilgrims
- Mayflower Compact
- Puritans
- triangular trade
- French and Indian War
- Treaty of Paris

2. Taking Notes

Review the section and find four events to place on a time line that shows how the English colonies developed.

English Colonies Develop



Which event do you think is the most important? Why?

3. Main Ideas

- What is the Mayflower Compact?
- What effect did the Glorious Revolution of 1688 have on the colonies?
- What was the result of the French and Indian War?

4. Critical Thinking

Summarizing

How did the triangular trade work?

THINK ABOUT

- trade
- raw products
- finished goods

ACTIVITY OPTIONS

ART

LANGUAGE ARTS

You need indentured servants to work on your plantation. Draw a **poster** or write an **advertisement** that will attract people to your plantation.