Colonies Take Root
1587 - 1752
Cold winters, short growing season, and a rugged landscape

Temperate climate, longer growing season, lowland landscape of fields and valleys

Warm climate, long growing season, landscape with broad fields and valleys

**New England**

**Middle Colonies**

**Southern Colonies**
Geography lent itself to fishing, lumber harvesting, and small-scale **subsistence farming**.

**New England**

Known as the “**bread basket**” of the colonies for exporting staple crops, such as wheat and grain.

**Middle Colonies**

Exported the labor-intensive **cash crops** of tobacco, rice, and indigo.
Life in New England was not easy. Because the growing season was short and the soil was rocky, most farmers practiced subsistence farming. They produced enough food for themselves and sometimes a little extra to trade in town.

New England villages developed in a unique way. Large plots of land were sold to groups of people, often the congregation of a Puritan church. Congregations divided the land among their members.

Usually a cluster of farmhouses surrounded a central square, called a green or common, and a meeting-house where public activities took place.
The Puritan religion began a gradual decline in the early 1700s. **The three factors led to this decline.**

1. **Economic success** competed with Puritan Ideas. Many colonists began to care as much about business and material things as much as they did about religion.

2. **Increasing competition** from other religious groups. Baptists and Anglicans established churches in New England.

3. **Political changes** also weakened the Puritan community. New charters guaranteed religious freedom and granted the right to vote based on property ownership instead of church membership.
## Major Industries of New England

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ECONOMIC ACTIVITY</th>
<th>BENEFITS TO COLONISTS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fishing</td>
<td>Fish could be sold for consumption or export.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Whaling</td>
<td>Whale oil provided oil for lamps and for export.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trading</td>
<td>Colonists made money from three types of Atlantic trade.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Smuggling</td>
<td>Smuggling was widespread, though illegal.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Middle Colonies

Area claimed by New York and New Hampshire

Products:
- Grain
- Fish
- Rum
- Cattle
- Lumber
- Iron

Map showing the locations of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania, with symbols indicating the types of products.
Terms and People

- **proprietary colony** – a colony created by a grant of land from a monarch to an individual or family
- **royal colony** – a colony controlled directly by the English king
- **William Penn** – a Quaker leader who established the Pennsylvania colony and its capital, Philadelphia
- **backcountry** – a frontier region extending through several colonies, from Pennsylvania to Georgia
Fort Nassau

In 1614, the Dutch built Fort Nassau near the site of modern Albany. The fort became a thriving fur trading post and Dutch investors took notice.
In 1624, the Dutch West India Company founded the colony of New Netherland which included the Hudson River Valley, Long Island and land along the Delaware River.

In 1626, the Dutch bought Manhattan Island from the Native Americans. The Dutch built the town of New Amsterdam and soon the settlement was profiting from the fur trade with Native Americans.
Mid-1600s → Sweden settled a small, under-funded colony called "New Sweden" on the Delaware River near New Netherland.

1655 → The Dutch under director-general Peter Stuyvesant attacked New Sweden.

- The main fort fell after a bloodless siege.
- New Sweden was absorbed into New Netherland.
New Netherland owed its economic success to trade with Native Americans and British colonies. However, New Netherland had only a small Dutch population, and its other colonists were sometimes hostile to Dutch rule.
To attract settlers to New Netherland, the Dutch West India Company established the *patroon system*. A *patroon* was a person who brought 50 settlers to New Netherland. In return, the company granted the *patroon* a large land grant and special privileges for hunting, fishing, and fur trading.

Although many different kinds of people were attracted to New Netherland, the colony’s population remained small compared to the English colonies in Virginia and Massachusetts.
Characteristics of New Netherlands

- Aristocratic → **patroonships**, feudal estates granted to promoters who would settle 50 people on them.
- Diversity → varied population with many different languages spoken.
England and Holland had tense relations because:

- New Netherland separated England’s northern colonies from its more southern colonies.
- New Netherland traded with English colonies, which violated Britain’s mercantile laws.
In 1664, England’s King Charles II told his brother James, Duke of York, that he could have New Netherland if he conquered it.

With the help of a few warships, James did just that. The Dutch had little ammunition, poor defenses and no will to fight.

James renamed the colony New York and its capital New York City, and it became a royal colony in 1685.
In 1665, part of southern New York split off and formed a new colony, New Jersey.

At first, New Jersey was a proprietary colony, but in 1702, it received a new charter as a royal colony.
William Penn was born into a wealthy English family. He joined a religious group known as the Quakers against his family’s wishes. Penn was frequently attacked for his religious beliefs. When King Charles II repaid a debt to his family by giving Penn a large piece of land in America he created a colony where Quakers could live according to their beliefs. In 1681, Pennsylvania, or “Penn’s woods,” was established.
Quaker leader **William Penn** wanted to find a place where Quakers could live free of persecution.

He used his connections to get a charter from the king for a new colony in North America.

Penn arrived in the Pennsylvania colony in 1682 and established its capital, Philadelphia.
In 1682, Penn wrote a document that granted Pennsylvania an elected assembly and provided for freedom of religion.

Penn considered his colony to be a “holy experiment” of people from different faiths living together in peace.

In 1682, Penn wrote a document that granted Pennsylvania an elected assembly and provided for freedom of religion.

Home Countries of Pennsylvania Settlers:
- England
- Scotland
- Wales
- Ireland
- Germany
- Holland
- Switzerland
William Penn tried to deal with Native Americans fairly; he did not allow colonists to settle on land until Native Americans sold it to them.

During Penn’s lifetime, relations between Native Americans and colonists were much better in Pennsylvania than they were in other colonies.
Control of the Delaware colony passed from the Swedish to the Dutch to the English.

Penn’s charter for Pennsylvania included Delaware, but he gave the colony its own representative assembly.

In 1704, Delaware became a separate colony.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1619</td>
<td>Virginia House of Burgesses</td>
<td>A plan for government that gave Virginia colonists the right to elect representative to a colonial legislature</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1620</td>
<td>Mayflower Compact</td>
<td>A written agreement to make laws for the Plymouth colony</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1639</td>
<td>Fundamental Orders of Connecticut</td>
<td>A written plan for government that gave the right to vote to free men who owned property in Connecticut</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1682</td>
<td>Pennsylvania Frame of Government</td>
<td>A written plan for government that granted religious freedom to colonists in Pennsylvania</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Middle Colonies

The **Middle Colonies** offered productive land and a climate of religious tolerance. Immigrants from all over Europe crowded into the region. Soon the population of the Middle Colonies showed a remarkable **diversity**, or variety, in its people.

Because of a long growing season, the Middle Colonies were a perfect area to grow **cash crops**, or crops raised to be sold for money. The Middle Colonies produced so much grain that they were called the “**breadbasket colonies**”.

The region’s excellent harbors lead to the growth of port cities like New York City and Philadelphia. Trade with Europe brought much wealth to these cities.
Manufacturing was just beginning in the Middle Colonies during the 1700s.

Manufacturers produced iron, flour, and pepper.

Town artisans worked as weavers, masons, coopers (barrel-makers), and in many other trades.
By the middle of the 1700s, many settlers were pushing south and west along the backcountry, or frontier, between Pennsylvania and Georgia.

The backcountry settlers that traveled along the Great Wagon Road often fought with Native Americans.
Immigrants in the Middle Colonies

Middle Colonies’ Population

- England
- Holland
- Germany
- Scotland
- Ireland
- Africa
The prosperous cities, productive land, and tolerance of the middle colonies attracted many varied groups of people. This cultural diversity made the middle colonies different than other regions in colonial America.
Terms and People

- **Nathaniel Bacon** – the leader of the frontier settlers who fought “Bacon’s Rebellion,” an attack against Native Americans who were trying to defend their land from colonists.

- **Lord Baltimore** – the Catholic proprietor of the Maryland colony who convinced its assembly to pass the Act of Toleration.

- **James Oglethorpe** – a wealthy Englishman who founded the colony of Georgia, where English debtors would be protected.

- **debtor** – a person who owes money.

- **plantation** – a large farm.
Virginia’s population grew gradually, but by 1670, 40,000 people lived there.

By the 1670s, there were more women in Virginia, and more children as well, because fewer were dying at a young age.

But as Virginia’s white population grew, the Native American population shrank.
Indentured servant – someone who signed a contract to work from 5 to 10 years in the colonies for anyone who would pay for his/her ocean passage to the Americas.

At the end of a term, an indentured servant received clothes, tools, and 50 acres of land.

About 1 indentured servant in 10 became a prosperous landowner, and another 1 in 10 became an artisan.

The others either returned to their country of origin or joined a class of landless, poor whites.
By the 1670s, one-fourth (25%) of the free white men living in Virginia were former indentured servants. Colonists who did not own land, resented the wealthy eastern landowners. These poor settlers lived mostly on Virginia’s western frontier, where they battled the Native Americans for land.

Nathaniel Bacon and a group of landless frontier settlers demanded that Governor William Berkeley seize Native American lands for new tobacco plantations. When the governor refused, Bacon and his followers burned Jamestown to the ground.

Bacon’s sudden illness and death ended the rebellion and Berkeley had the other rebels hanged.
Causes of Bacon’s Rebellion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Land and Voting Rights</th>
<th>Politics</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>• Poor young white men could not get farmland near the coast because wealthy Virginia tobacco planters bought it all.</td>
<td>• Poor colonists asked the governor to force the Native Americans to give up their land.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Without property, men could not vote.</td>
<td>• The governor did not want to disrupt the fur trade with Native Americans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Many poor colonists moved inland to find good farmland, but they had to fight Native Americans for it.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
In 1632, Lord Baltimore, George Calvert, established the colony of Maryland for Roman Catholics fleeing persecution in England. Lord Baltimore promised religious freedom to all settlers and in 1649, Maryland passed the Toleration Act. Like Virginia, Maryland based its economy on tobacco which required backbreaking work to grow. Most of the laborers that came to Maryland were either servants or slaves.

In 1663, English settlers from Barbados founded the colony of Carolina. By 1685, Charleston became a refuge for Huguenots, French Protestants seeking religious freedom. Carolina’s economy was based on growing rice and indigo and the English colonists encouraged the use of enslaved Africans as laborers.
In 1663, a new colony called Carolina to be established south of Virginia. As rice production spread, Carolina’s main city, Charles Town (today’s Charleston) became the biggest city in the Southern Colonies.

By then, Carolina had become two colonies: North Carolina and South Carolina.
Georgia

In 1732, James Oglethorpe founded Georgia as a refuge for debtors. English, German, Swiss, and Scottish colonists settled in Georgia and all religions were welcomed. In 1752, Georgia was made a royal colony because colonists were upset with Governor Oglethorpe’s strict rules. The painting below shows Oglethorpe and Georgia’s founders meeting with representatives of the Creek Indian Nation in 1734.
The **Southern Colonies**’ soil and almost year-round growing season was ideal for cash-crops like rice and tobacco. These valuable plants required a lot of labor to produce so the use of slaves increased. Plantation owners became part of a wealthy and elite planter class and drove small landowners out of business. On large Southern plantations, **slaves performed strenuous and exhausting work for up 15 hours a day.**

The plantation economy and slavery shaped life in the Southern colonies of Maryland, Virginia, the Carolinas, & Georgia.
The plantation system began in Virginia and Maryland when settlers began growing tobacco.

The Tidewater region in South Carolina and Georgia was well suited for rice.

However, rice-growing required many workers to labor in unpleasant conditions, and this was one reason rice-farming helped promote the spread of slavery.
South Carolina Rice Plantation, 1730–1750

On early rice plantations like this one, nearly all tasks were done by hand. Enslaved Africans performed the arduous work of planting, harvesting, and cultivating the rice.

1. **Planting** Slaves planted rice by hand in the spring.
2. **Watering** Rice is grown in flooded fields, so rice plantations were built near natural water sources.
3. **Canal Building** Plantation owners had slaves construct canals to direct the water to the fields. Canals and floodgates controlled the flow of water to the rice fields.
4. **Harvesting** Slaves harvested rice in the fall.
5. **Pounding** Getting the rice ready to sell was hard work. First, slaves pounded the rice.
6. **Winnowing** Then they brought it to the winnowing house, where they dropped it through a grating in the floor. The rice grains fell to the ground below and were collected. Later, rice mills did this task.
7. **Shipping** The river also provided a way to transport rice to buyers.

**Skills Focus: Interpreting Infographics**

Early South Carolina rice plantations like this one were often built near natural water sources.

**Making Inferences** How did the location near the river help with growing rice?

See Skills Handbook, p. H18
The first enslaved Africans in the colonies may have been treated as servants, and some eventually were freed.

But as the need for cheap labor grew, colonies made slavery permanent.

Some colonies tried to ban slavery, but it eventually became legal in all the colonies.
During the 1700s, the Southern Colonies developed two distinct ways of life.

**Backcountry Life**

The *backcountry* was cut off from *the coast* and many poor families lived in one-room shacks on isolated farms.

**Plantation Life**

Along the coast, *in the Tidewater region*, the economy was dominated by wealthy *plantations*. 
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colony / Date Founded</th>
<th>Leader(s)</th>
<th>Reason(s) Founded</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>New England Colonies</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Massachusetts</td>
<td>William Bradford; John Winthrop</td>
<td>Religious freedom; Religious freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plymouth / 1620</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Massachusetts Bay / 1630</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire / 1622</td>
<td>Ferdinando Gorges; John Mason</td>
<td>Profit from trade and fishing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Connecticut / 1636</td>
<td>Thomas Hooker</td>
<td>Expand trade; religious and political freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rhode Island / 1636</td>
<td>Roger Williams</td>
<td>Religious freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Middle Colonies</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York / 1624</td>
<td>Peter Minuit</td>
<td>Expand trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware / 1638</td>
<td>Swedish settlers</td>
<td>Expand trade</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey / 1664</td>
<td>John Berkeley; George Carteret</td>
<td>Expand trade; religious and political freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania / 1682</td>
<td>William Penn</td>
<td>Profit from land sales; religious and political freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Southern Colonies</strong></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia / 1607</td>
<td>John Smith</td>
<td>Trade and farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland / 1634</td>
<td>Lord Baltimore</td>
<td>Profit from land sales; religious and political freedom</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Carolinas / 1663</td>
<td>Group of eight proprietors</td>
<td>Trade and farming</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina / 1712</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>South Carolina / 1719</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia / 1733</td>
<td>James Oglethorpe</td>
<td>Profit; home for debtors; buffer against Spanish Florida</td>
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