

In this unit, students will continue to learn about the exploration and settlement of North America by Native Americans and Europeans.

What's the story?

Students will dive deeper into the way in which the **English colonies** were established and how each developed a **unique culture**.

What will my student learn?

Students will learn how the **climate, geography, and motivations** of the settlers **influenced life** in each of the **thirteen colonies**. They will also learn about the events that led to the signing of the **Declaration of Independence**, the **Revolutionary War**, and the establishment of the United States as an independent **nation**.

During this unit, students will explore **narrative writing**. They will focus on the characteristics of narratives and will work to apply them in their own writing. They will have the chance to **plan, draft, revise, edit, and publish** their own narrative as well.

Conversation starters

Ask your student questions about the unit to promote discussion and continued learning:

1. What were the three distinct colonial regions?
Follow up: How would you compare and contrast the three regions? What were their climates? What were their main industries? And their geography?
2. What are the five parts of a narrative plot?
Follow up: Choose a book or movie you have read or seen. Can you use your hand and the five-finger retelling strategy to explain the narrative plot to me?
3. What was life like in Jamestown?
Follow up: In what region was this colony? Who was John Smith? What role did he play in the survival of Jamestown? What role did Pocahontas play in the survival of Jamestown?
4. What was life like on a plantation?
Follow up: What are cash crops? Which cash crops were very successful in the Carolinas? What was the connection between slavery and cash crops?
5. How did the life of the Pilgrims in New England compare to the life of the colonists in the Southern colonies?

6. Why do you think Squanto and Samoset decided to help the struggling Pilgrims?
Follow up: What did they do to help them? Do you think the Pilgrims would have survived without their help? Why?
7. What are some of the reasons people moved to the Middle colonies?
Follow up: What was life like in the Middle colonies? What factors shaped life in these colonies?