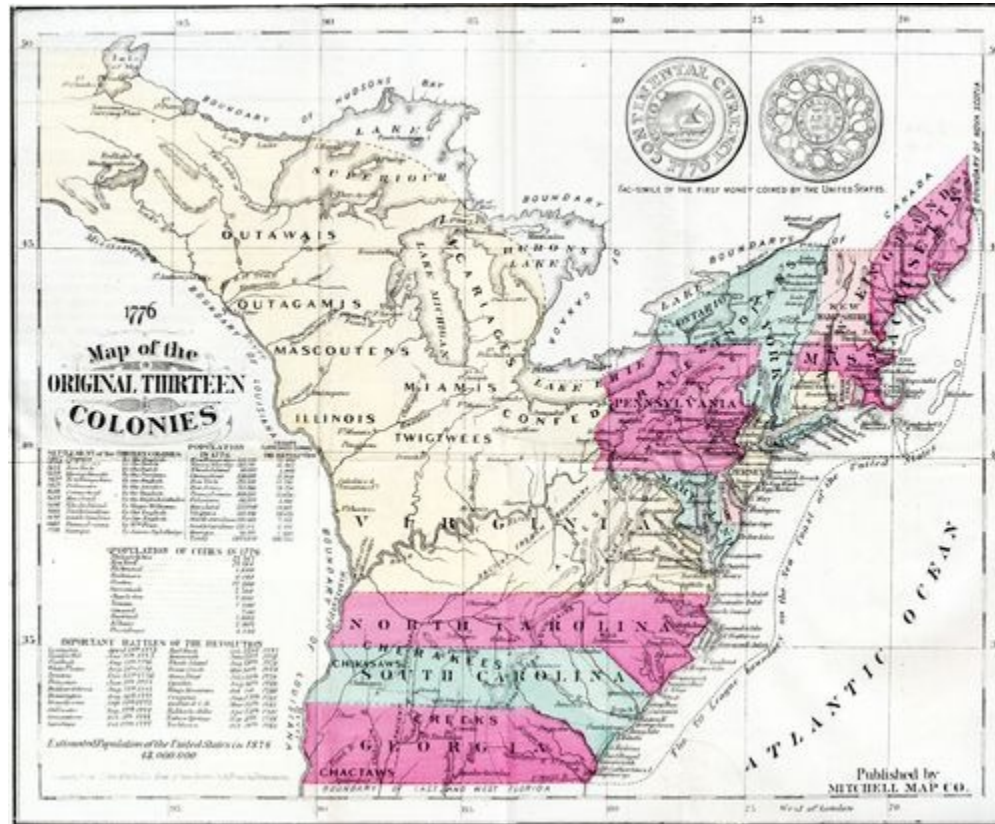


# Colonization and Revolutionary War: Background to the Colonies

by ReadWorks



Before the Revolutionary War, there were thirteen **colonies** under British rule in North America. People came from all over Europe seeking freedom or fortune in the colonies. Many people brought their culture with them, and people of similar backgrounds often came together or settled in the same place. Soon, each colony began to take on its own character.

There were three main groups of colonies: The New England Colonies, the Middle Colonies and the Southern Colonies. Each group began to share characteristics based on its location and people. For example, the Southern Colonies had fertile soil and sunshine necessary for farms. The Northern Colonies had some important **ports**.

## New England

Soil in New England was rocky and the winters were harsh, which made farming difficult.

There were small farms in New England, but no big farms like the southern plantations. Instead, the North became the center of the shipbuilding industry. Trees were everywhere. Before long, Boston, which began as the Massachusetts Bay Colony, became the most important port city in the colonies.

Religion was very important to the people in New England. You may have heard of the Pilgrims who came to the New World to find religious freedom. They wanted to be free to practice their own religion, but they did not always allow other people the same freedom. Town life was centered on the church. If you did not belong to the church, you were an outcast.

## The Middle Colonies

The Middle Colonies tolerated more types of religions than the Pilgrims and Puritans of New England. William Penn began the colony Pennsylvania. He wanted people of every faith and every nationality to come to his colony. Philadelphia, "The City on the Hill," was the biggest city in all the colonies. When the Revolutionary War broke out, representatives from all the colonies met in Philadelphia for the First Continental Congress. Philadelphia became the first capital of the new continental government. Many of our nation's symbols, like the Liberty Bell, are still in Philadelphia.

New York was also a Middle Colony and an important shipping and trading center. The population in New York was the most diverse of anywhere in the young colonies. If you listened in on dinner table conversations along the Hudson River, you would hear more than 12 languages! Most of the immigrants from other countries who came to the middle colonies were skilled at a craft. They came and built shops where they could practice their trade - from cabinet making to weaving to candle making.

## The Southern Colonies

Rich land and a mild climate determined the future of the Southern Colonies: agriculture. The Southern Colonies were based on farming, especially tobacco farming. Tobacco was grown on large plantations. The most important people in the Southern Colonies lived on these big farms and not in towns. As a result, the Southern Colonies were more spread out. Towns were smaller. Houses were more spread out from each other. Instead of going to schools in town like children in New England, southern children might have studied at home. Many were also sent to England to be educated.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Why did people come from Europe to the 13 colonies?

- A. They wanted religious freedom and a better way of life.
- B. They wanted to live near relatives.
- C. They wanted to go for a vacation.
- D. They wanted to see if the trees were better for shipbuilding than back home.

2. The Southern Colonies had rich land and a mild climate, and the effect of this was that

- A. those colonies focused on agriculture.
- B. British colonists did not want to live there.
- C. the people who lived there needed food.
- D. those colonies chose to build factories.

3. Based on the passage, it can be concluded that

- A. the colonies did not need to trade with each other.
- B. every colony tried to focus mostly on shipping.
- C. life at home for the colonists was the same in each colony.
- D. each colony's location affected its businesses.

4. Read the following sentences: "Town life was centered on the church. If you did not belong to the church, you were an outcast."

The word **outcast** means

- A. someone forced to work outside
- B. someone praised as a hero
- C. someone who is not remembered
- D. someone kicked out of a social group

5. The passage "Background to the Colonies" is mostly about
- A. the differences in weather between the colonies
  - B. the biggest city in each colony and why it was so big
  - C. the ground that was shared by all of the colonies
  - D. the three groups of colonies and how they were different
6. What was the biggest city among the colonies, and what colony was it in?
7. Based on the passage, explain how the New England Colonies would have been different if they did not have many trees.
8. The question below is an incomplete sentence. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence.

New York didn't have a lot of farms; \_\_\_\_\_ it was a shipping and trading center.

- A. instead
- B. for example
- C. soon
- D. first

# The American Colonies: Why do the New England, Middle and Southern colonies develop different ways of life?



## Overview:

In May 1607, about 110 Englishmen arrived at the mouth of a great bay on the coast of Virginia. It was to be Jamestown, the first permanent English colony in what is now the United States. Over the next 243 years the east coast of North America is developed into the 13 colonies and separated into the regions of New England, Middle and Southern colonies. These regions develop distinct cultures, economics, religious beliefs and governments. These distinctions will inevitably carry the United States into Civil War in 1861. This Document Based Question asks why these distinctions arose.

## Task:

Read the documents carefully. As you read them, think about the regional differences between the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies. Our goal today is to identify some differences through the examination of primary and secondary sources. Answer the questions using evidence presented in the documents. We will work on Document A together and then the remainder you will do on your own. This will be turned in.

## Document A

“.....As for monsters, I have found not trace of them except at the point in the second isle as one enters the Indies, which is inhabited by a people considered in all the isles as most ferocious, who eat human flesh. They possess many canoes, with which they overrun all the isles of India, stealing and seizing all they can. They are not worse looking than the others, except that they wear their hair long like women, and use bows and arrows of the same cane, with a sharp stick at the end for want of iron, of which they have none. They are ferocious compared to these other races, who are extremely cowardly; but I only hear this from the others. .... Another island, I am told, is larger than Hispaniola, where the natives have no hair, and where there is countless gold; and from them all I bring Indians to testify to this. To speak, in conclusion, only of what has been done during this hurried voyage, their Highnesses will see that I can give them as much gold as they desire, if they will give me a little assistance, spices, cotton, as much as their Highnesses may command to be shipped, and mastic as much as their Highnesses choose to send for, which until now has only been found in Greece, in the isle of Chios, and the Signoria can get its own price for it; as much lign-aleo as they command to be shipped, and as many slaves as they choose to send for, all heathens. ....The eternal and almighty God, our Lord, it is Who gives to all who walk in His way, victory over things apparently impossible, and in this case signally so, because although these lands had been imagined and talked of before they were seen, most men listened incredulously to what was thought to be but an idle tale.

But our Redeemer has given victory to our most illustrious King and Queen, and to their kingdoms rendered famous by this glorious event, at which all Christendom should rejoice, celebrating it with great festivities and solemn Thanksgivings to the Holy Trinity.....”

1493.

Yours to command,  
THE ADMIRAL

***Source: Excerpt of a Letter from Christopher Columbus to Luis de Sant Angel Announcing His Discovery 1493***

### Questions:

1. Why does Columbus mention monsters and what did he say he found?
2. How does Columbus describe the native peoples?
3. What did Columbus find that had value?
4. How does Columbus tie god into the event?

Should Government be based on Religion? (Doc B)

| <p><b>John Winthrop on why government should be based on Religion. (Yes)</b></p>   | <p><b>Roger Williams on why government should not be based on Religion (No)</b></p>   |
|--|---|
| <p>It is yourselves who have called us to this office, and , being called by you, we have our authority from God.....If you stand for natural corrupt liberties.....you will not endure the least weight of authority.....but if you will be satisfied to enjoy such civil and lawful liberties, such as Christ allows you, then will you quietly and cheerfully submit unto that authority which is set over you.... For your good.</p> | <p>I....only propose this case; There goes many a ship to sea, with many hundred souls in one ship, which is a true picture of a commonwealth....It hath fallen out some times, that both Catholics and Protestants, Jews and Turks, may be embarked in one ship; upon which supposal, I affirm..... that none of the Catholics, Protestants, Jews or Turks be forced to come to the ship's prayers or worship or compelled from their own particular prayers or worship.</p> |

**\*Note:** John Winthrop, a founder of the Massachusetts Bay Colony, believed that the colony should be governed on religious principles. Others, such as Roger Williams, disagreed and were banished from Massachusetts.\

Sources:

- *Little Speech' on Liberty" by John Winthrop*
- *"Letter from Roger Williams to the town of Providence Massachusetts"*

Questions:

1. How might Winthrop view people who held different religious views?
2. Why might Williams have used the image of a ship at sea to make his case for religious freedom?
3. How do both passages show both men valued freedom of religion?

4. How do these passages illustrate colonial intolerance for cultural or religious differences?



## A Foreign Perspective on the Middle Colonies (Document C)

.....As First, their Land costs them (as I said but just now) little or nothing in comparison, of which the Farmers commonly will get twice the encrease of Corn for every Bushel they sow, that the Farmers in England can from the richest Land they have.

In the Second place, they have constantly good price for their Corn, by reason of the great and quick vent [trade] into Barbadoes and other Islands; through which means Silver is become more plentiful than here in England, considering the Number of People, and that causes a quick Trade for both Corn and Cattle; and that is the reason that Corn differs now from the Price formerly, else it would be at half the Price it was at then; for a Brother of mine (to my own particular knowledge) sold within the compass of one Week, about One Hundred and Twenty fat Beasts, most of them good handsom large Oxen.

Thirdly, They pay no Tithes, and their Taxes are inconsiderable; the Place is free for all Persuasions, in a Sober and Civil way; for the Church of England and the Quakers bear equal Share in the Government. They live Friendly and Well together; there is no Persecution for Religion, nor ever like to be; 'tis this that knocks all Commerce on the Head, together with high Imposts, strict Laws, and cramping Orders. Before I end this Paragraph, I shall add another Reason why Womens Wages are so exorbitant; they are not yet very numerous, which makes them stand upon high Terms for their several Services, . . .

Reader, what I have here written, is not a Fiction, Flam, Whim, or any sinister Design, either to impose upon the Ignorant, or Credulous, or to curry Favour with the Rich and Mighty, but in meer Pity and pure Compassion to the Numbers of Poor Labouring Men, Women, and Children in England, half starv'd, visible in their meagre looks, that are continually wandering up and down looking for Employment without finding any, who here need not lie idle a moment, nor want due Encouragement or Reward for their Work, much less Vagabond or Drone it about. Here are no Beggars to be seen (it is a Shame and Disgrace to the State that there are so many in England) nor indeed have any here the least Occasion or Temptation to take up that Scandalous Lazy Life.

Jealousie among Men is here very rare, and Barrenness among Women hardly to be heard of, nor are old Maids to be met with; for all commonly Marry before they are Twenty Years of Age, and seldom any young Married Women but hath a Child in her Belly, or one upon her Lap.....

**Source:** Gabriel Thomas, *An Historical Description of the Province and Country of West-New-Jersey in America* (London, 1698), 1-31, passim; reprinted in part in Albert Bushnell Hart, ed., *American History Told by Contemporaries* (New York, 1898), volume 1, 573-75.

### Questions

1. How does the price of land and the fertility of land in the Middle Colonies compare with that of England?
2. How does the author describe the taxes and government of the Middle Colonies?
3. Why does the author attempt to convince the reader that what he has described of the Middle Colonies is factual?

4. In the last paragraph why does the author discuss the lack of jealousy and barrenness (women who cannot have children) among the colonists in the Middle Colonies?

## Perspectives on Slavery in the Southern Colonies (Doc D)

Source: *Broadside with Unknown Author from the Gilder Lehrman Collection #GLC6477*



**Summary:** Abolitionist broadside with six images depicting kidnapping, torture, auction, and labor of slaves. With the quotation, "Our laws know no higher crime than that of reducing a man to slavery. To steal or to buy an African on his own shores is a piracy."

### Questions:

1. How does the author of the broadside view slavery? (Give Examples)

2. What do you think the quote means when it says “our laws know no higher crime than that of reducing a man to slavery”?
3. In what two ways are southerners depicted earning money from slavery in the broadside?

## Life in the New England Colonies

What was it like to live in the New England colonies? Remember that even though there are now six New England states, there were just four New England colonies: Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire. The land in Maine was part of Massachusetts and the land in Vermont belonged to the New York colony.



Massachusetts was first settled by members of the religious group, the Pilgrims. This influenced how people lived in Massachusetts when the colony was first founded. The Pilgrims, or Puritans as they are also called, were known for their simple lifestyle. When the first settlers arrived in Massachusetts a top priority was building shelters. The settlers constructed homes similar to the ones they had left in England. These early homes were not built on foundations or basements. Wooden corner posts were sunk into the ground. Since there were no nails, wooden pegs were used to hold boards together. Typical homes had one main room with a large fireplace for cooking and heat. Homes might also have a second story loft for sleeping.

All manufactured goods, like cloth, pots and pans, any metal goods, and firearms, were imported from England. Colonists sent back furs, lumber and other raw materials that were available. In the early days, most colonists were farmers who needed to grow food in order to survive. New England is hilly and the soil is rocky because of the retreat of ancient glaciers left granite stones and boulders behind. It was difficult soil to farm plus the growing season in New England is quite short compared to colonies that were further south. A short growing season in summer also means a longer winter. Settlers in New England had to contend with a long, cold and snowy winter.

Over the years, as more settlers came to New England, cottage crafts developed. For example, a shoemaker made shoes from his home while the blacksmith made metal objects in his blacksmith shop. Young boys would serve as apprentices to craftsmen in order to learn the trade. Young girls learned the arts of cooking, preserving food, sewing, and spinning yarn. Towns developed and in the 1700s the population of Boston reached 20,000.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Life in the New England Colonies Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

1. The first New England colonies were
  - a. Massachusetts, Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont
  - b. Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Vermont
  - c. Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Hampshire
  - d. Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island
  
2. The first settlers to New England came
  - a. For religious freedom
  - b. For gold
  - c. For furs
  - d. All of the above
  
3. The first houses in New England
  - a. Were log cabins
  - b. Were built like houses in England
  - c. Were built like Native American shelters
  - d. Were sod houses
  
4. The farmers in New England worked soil that was
  - a. Rocky
  - b. Swampy
  - c. Good for farming
  - d. Generally flat
  
5. In general, New England weather is characterized by
  - a. Long winters and short summers
  - b. A long growing season
  - c. Seasons of equal length
  - d. Long summers and short winters
  
6. An example of a cottage industry is
  - a. A lumber mill with six workers
  - b. A shoe shop with one shoemaker
  - c. A factory that makes furniture
  - d. All of the above

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Reading the Mayflower Compact - A**

U.S. History Class Period: \_\_\_\_\_

Directions: Answer the following questions about the Mayflower Compact. The numbers in brackets [ ] are the sentence numbers on the Mayflower Compact; use them to help you locate the answers.

1. Who was the King when the Pilgrims came to America from England? [1-3] \_\_\_\_\_
  
2. What 3 nations did that king rule? [1-3] \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. The Pilgrims landed in what is now Massachusetts, but that's now where they intended to go. Where were they supposed to land?  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
4. Where did the Pilgrims sign the Mayflower Compact? \_\_\_\_\_
  
5. When did the Pilgrims sign the Mayflower Compact (day, month, & year)? \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. The Pilgrims came to the New World for religious reasons. Write the key words and/or phrases from the Mayflower Compact that say that. [4-6]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
7. The Pilgrims work together to set up a government. Everyone who signs the Mayflower Compact will help decide what laws to have. They will also choose their own leaders. Write the key words and/or phrases in the Mayflower they used to describe their plan. [10-14]  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
8. Line [9] of the Mayflower Compact says "for our better ordering and preservation." Explain in your own words what this means.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
9. 41 Pilgrims signed the Mayflower Compact. All who signed this historically significant document were male, but there were women present. Why do you think none of the women signed the Mayflower Compact?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

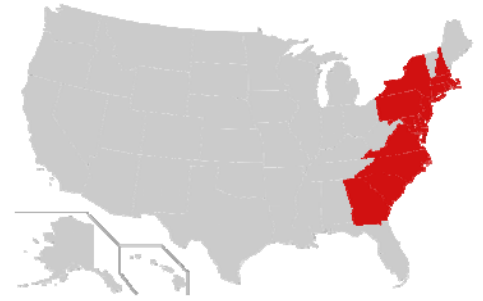
# Mayflower Compact - 1620

1 In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our  
2 dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain,  
3 France, and Ireland, King, defender of the Faith, etc.:

4 Having undertaken, for the Glory of God, and advancements of the Christian faith,  
5 and the honor of our King and Country, a voyage to plant  
6 the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia; do by  
7 these presents, solemnly and mutually, in the presence of God, and one another;  
8 covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politic; for our better ordering,  
9 and preservation and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact,  
10 constitute, and frame, such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions, and  
11 offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general  
12 good of the colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

13 In witness whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape Cod the 11th of  
14 November, in the year of the reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France,  
15 and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth, 1620.

## Why Were There Thirteen Colonies in America?



When you study early American history you learn a great deal about the thirteen original colonies along the Atlantic Coast of North America: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The list of colonies is in geographical order from north to south and not in the order that they were founded.

No one set out with a plan in the 1600 or 1700s to create thirteen colonies that came together as a new nation. Explorers from different countries in Europe sailed across the Atlantic Ocean and landed in various places along the seacoast and claimed that land for their country. For example, Dutch explorer Henry Hudson sailed to the North American continent in 1609 and discovered the Hudson River in what is now New York State. His trip was financed by the Dutch East India Company. In 1621 they created a settlement called New Amsterdam and named their colony New Netherlands.

When Henry Hudson was first exploring the area of present-day New York, British colonists organized by the Virginia Company of London had already established the Jamestown settlement in the Virginia Colony in 1607. The colonists were originally looking for gold. Massachusetts received its first European settlers when the Pilgrims arrived there in 1620 after being blown off course on their journey to Virginia.

Each of the thirteen colonies has its own story of how and why it was founded. The land for most of the colonies was granted to a company or individual by the King of England. The company or individual then organized people who moved to North America and settled in the colony. Some colonies were organized for religious freedom and others were money-making ventures.

During the 1600s Great Britain seized the colony of New Amsterdam by force and renamed it New York. Great Britain also seized the colony of Delaware, another colony not founded by English subjects. All thirteen colonies were then united under the British flag and were part of the British Empire.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Why Were There Thirteen Colonies in America?

### Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct answer.

- The thirteen original colonies are near the
  - Atlantic Coast of North America
  - Pacific Coast of North America
  - Mississippi River
  - The Hudson River
- Which of the following states was NOT one of the thirteen original colonies?
  - Virginia
  - West Virginia
  - Massachusetts
  - Connecticut
- Jamestown was a settlement in which colony?
  - Massachusetts
  - Delaware
  - Virginia
  - Pennsylvania
- The New York colony was originally called
  - New London
  - New Amsterdam
  - New Netherlands
  - New France
- Some of the colonies were established
  - For religious freedom
  - As money-making ventures
  - Both a. and b. above
  - None of the above
- The thirteen colonies all eventually came under the control of
  - Great Britain
  - Netherlands
  - France
  - Spain