

New Empires in the Americas (1492-1675)

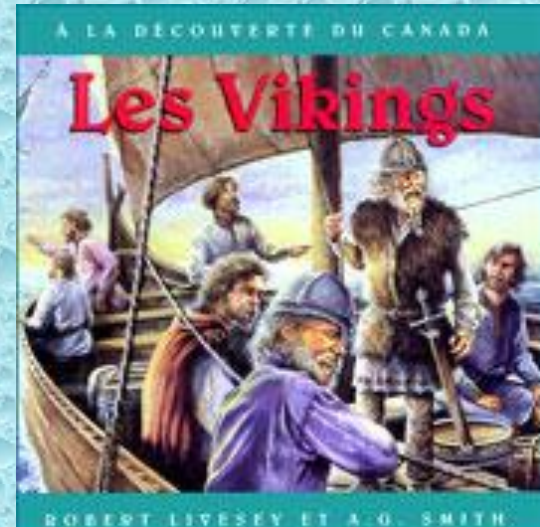
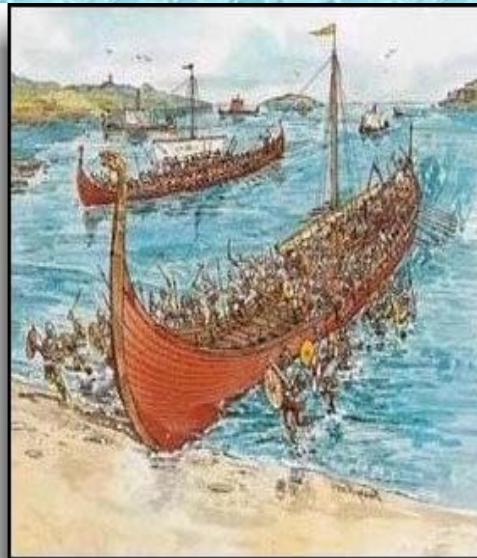


1. An Era of Exploration

The Vikings were the earliest people from Europe and Asia sailing to the Americas. Evidence shows that these trips were rare, if they occurred at all.

Early Voyages to the Americas

Lief Erickson, a Viking in 1001, sailed to the northern tip of North America. The Vikings settled in a town they named Vinland which is located in present day Newfoundland.



Columbus Reaches the Americas

As the Portuguese sailed West toward Asia, the Spanish people wanted to share in the trade and wealth from Asia like the Portuguese people. In 1492, King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella agreed to finance, or pay for a voyage by Christopher Columbus.

On August 1492, Columbus set sail with three vessels and a crew of 90 sailors. The Santa Maria, Nina and the Pinta were his three sailing ships.



On October 7th, Columbus changed his course to follow the birds.

On October 11th, one of the sailors discovered land. This land was not the West Indies it was the island we call the Bahamas.

Columbus established the first Spanish colony in the Americas. Columbus called this island Hispaniola. A colony a colony is a territory under the immediate political control of a distant country.

He named the Native Americans on the island, "Indos." He thought he reached the West Indies and named the people after the people of the West Indies. Columbus did not realize he was not in the West Indies.



On this island Columbus met the Native American Indians or Tainos.

Columbus soon promised Queen Isabella that in another trip he could convert the Indians to Christianity and enslave them. Upon his visits to the Americas he claimed the land and enslaved the Native Americans.



Columbus forced the Indians to work the farms and mines. The first voyage of Columbus marked a turning point in history of the Tainos; within one hundred years of his arrival, they were virtually wiped out by European diseases and slavery.



Decorated stones were used to surround the ceremonial plaza served as the field for ball games and holidays. Petro glyphs were engravings on rock surfaces.

A Lasting Impact

Today we recognize Christopher Columbus as the bold sea captain that discovered America. In truth, the Native Americans discovered America first.

For better or worse, the voyages of Columbus became the turning point for the Americas. A turning point is a moment in history that marks an important change in history.



LANDING OF COLUMBUS, 1846
JOHN VANDERLYN

The Spanish Cross the Pacific

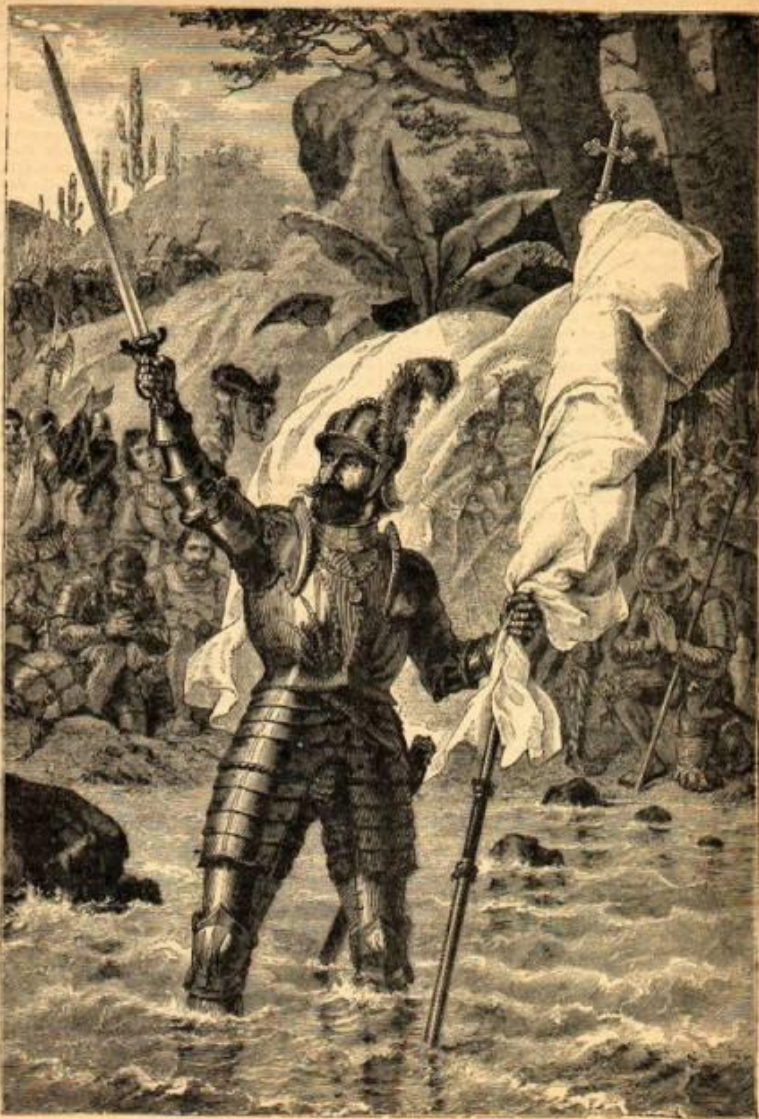
In 1511 the Spanish settled in the Caribbean Islands. Columbus had conquered Puerto Rico, Jamaica and Cuba.



The Caribbean



In 1513, an adventurer, named Vasco Nunez de Balboa reached the Pacific Ocean. He claimed this great ocean for Spain.



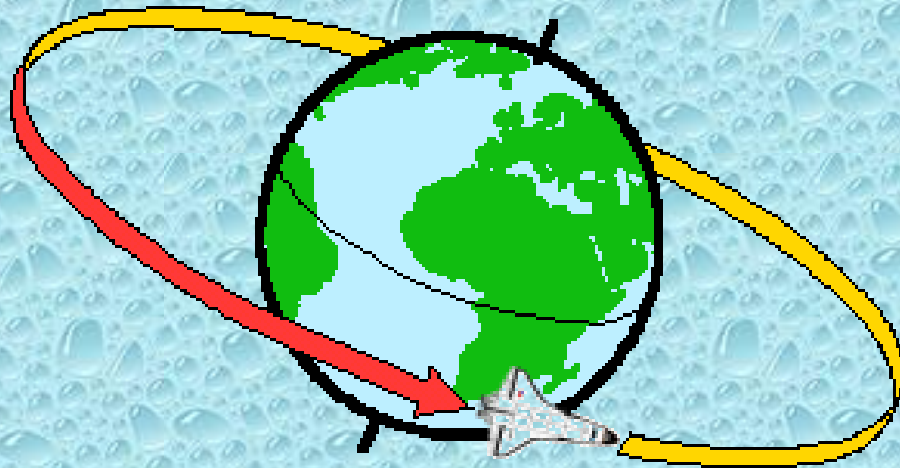
BERNARD COXTER AND THE CONQUEST OF MEXICO.—BALBOA TAKING POSSESSION OF THE PACIFIC.—SEE PAGE 471.



Ferdinand Magellan soon afterwards, in 1519, sailed across the Pacific Ocean. His followers discovered the first all water route to Asia. For the first time Europeans became aware of the true size of the world.



In 1522, one ship and 18 sailors *circumnavigated*, or sail completely around the world. Only one ship from Magellan's fleet returned home to Spain in 1522, but it was the first to circumnavigate the globe.



The Global Cultural Exchange

CHART Skills

The four voyages of Christopher Columbus set off a worldwide exchange of goods and ideas.

1. Comprehension

- (a) Identify two kinds of livestock that Europeans brought to the Americas.
(b) Identify two food crops that Europeans carried from the Americas.

2. Critical Thinking

Identifying Causes and Effects What elements shown here led to a decline in Native American population?

Economics 

The Columbian Exchange

From the Americas to Europe, Africa, and Asia

maize
potato
sweet potato
beans
peanut
squash
pumpkin
peppers
pineapple
tomato
cocoa



From Europe, Africa, and Asia to the Americas

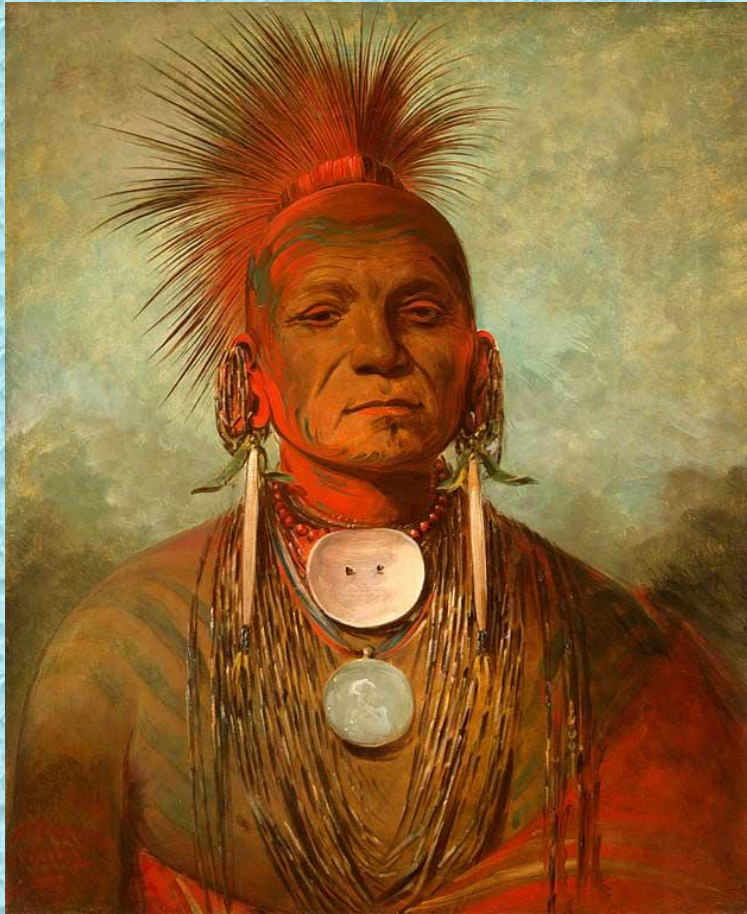
wheat
sugar
banana
rice
grape (wine)
olive oil
dandelion
horse
pig
cow
goat
chicken
smallpox
typhus



The encounter between the people of the Eastern and Western hemispheres sparked a global exchange of goods and ideas. Because it started with the voyages of Columbus, this was known as the Columbian Exchange.

See page 71 in your textbook

Native American Influences



Native Americans introduced Europeans to new customs. Native Americans introduced Europeans to cash crops such as corn, potatoes, beans, tomatoes, squash and peanuts.

Native Americans introduced snowshoes and showed Europeans how to trap fur-bearing animals.

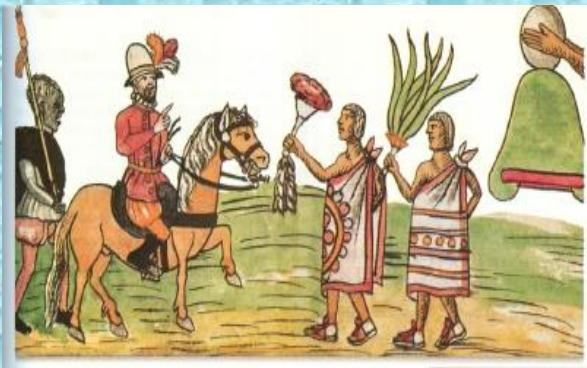
They also introduced us to political structures that became the foundation for our government today. **They introduced the idea of a confederacy.**



2. Spain's Builds and Empire

Spanish Conquistadors

In their search for glory and gold, the conquistadors, or conquerors, marched into the Americas. They came into the America to get rich. Spanish colonists had created a great new empire in the Americas. The conquistadors caused the Aztecs, Native Americans and the Incas to suffer in their own cities. They enslaved the people of these cultures.



Cortez and Montezuma



Cortez

Conquest of the Aztecs and Incas

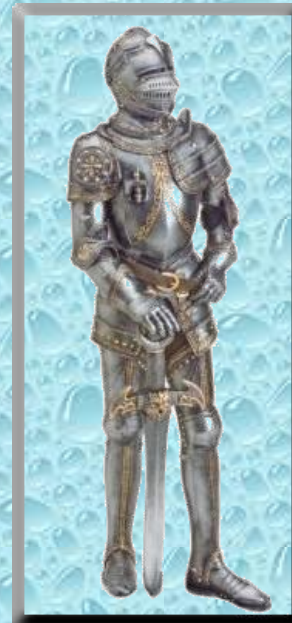
In 1518, the Aztec people spotted sailors in ships on the Gulf of Mexico. They reported this to their emperor, [Montezuma](#). The emperor thought that the Spanish sailors were sent to them from their God.

The Spanish sailors wanted the [Aztec](#) gold. The Spanish led by Herando [Cortez](#) defeated the Aztecs and destroyed their city. They took the riches of the Aztecs.

Reasons for Spanish Victories



A few years later, Francisco Pizarro, a conquistador, did the same thing and conquered the Incas. He captured and executed the Incan emperor, Atahualpa.



The Aztec and Incas were easily defeated by the Spanish because they did not have guns, swords, cannons and armor.

Other Explorers

In 1513 Juan Ponce de Leon traveled and discovered the land we call Florida today.

Early Spanish Exploration

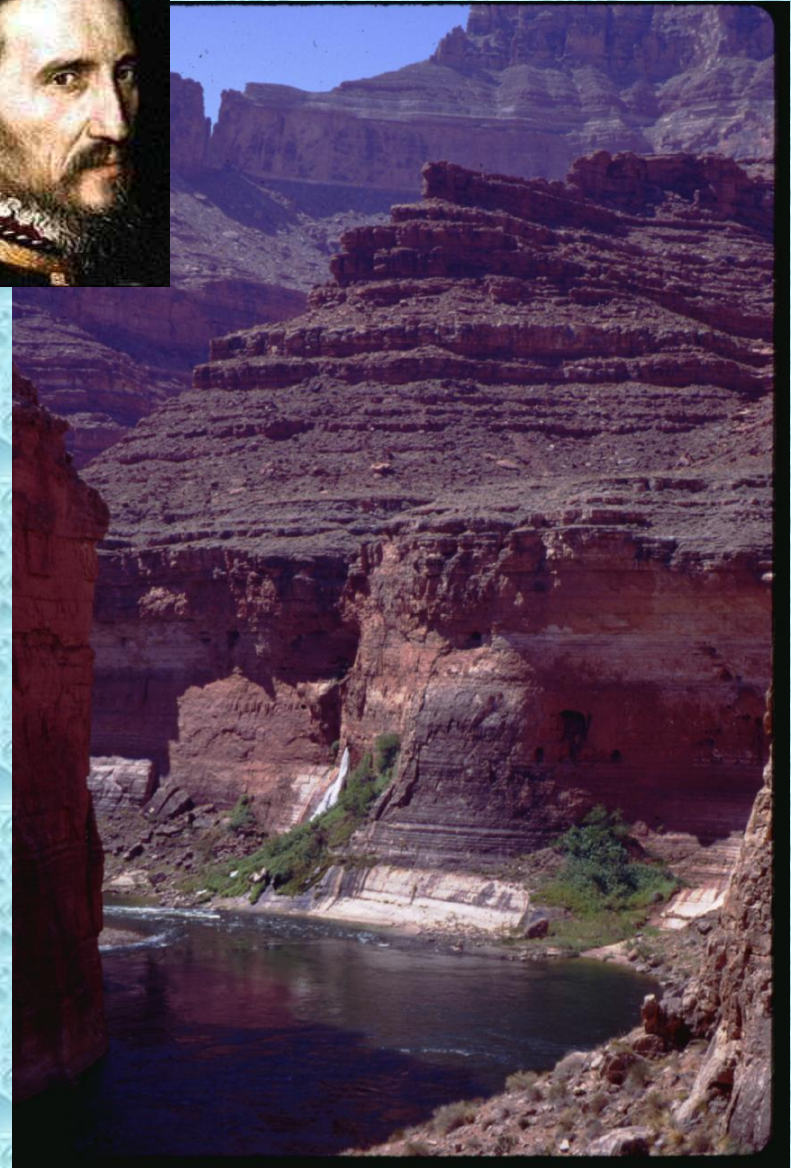


In 1539 *Hernando De Soto*

discovered the waters of the Mississippi River.



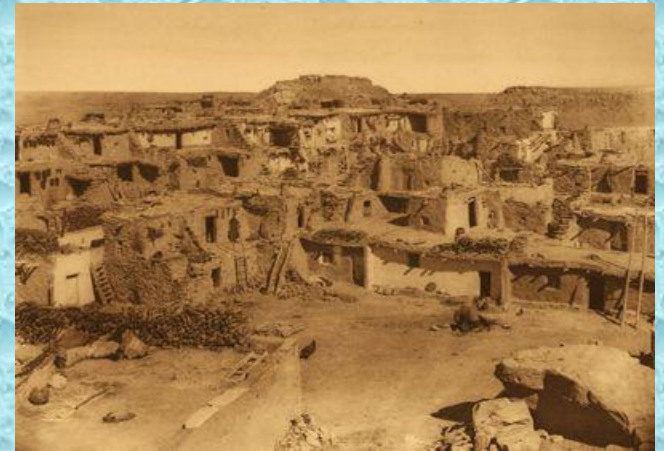
In 1540 Francisco Coronado led an expedition into in search of the famous “seven cities of gold.” This area we know today as the known as the Grand Canyon.



Settling New Spain

After the Spanish explorers made their discoveries they set up settlements in the Americas. A code called the Law of the Indies permitted three types of settlements.

Under the Law of the Indies the Spanish set up pueblos or small towns, for farming and trade. They called their settlement New Spain.



They also set up forts made of high adobe brick walls. These forts were called Presidios. The soldiers lived in the forts.

Lastly the laws , they set up religious settlements, run by Catholic priests, called missions. They set up missions to convert the Native Americans to Christianity.



Society in New Spain

A Class System

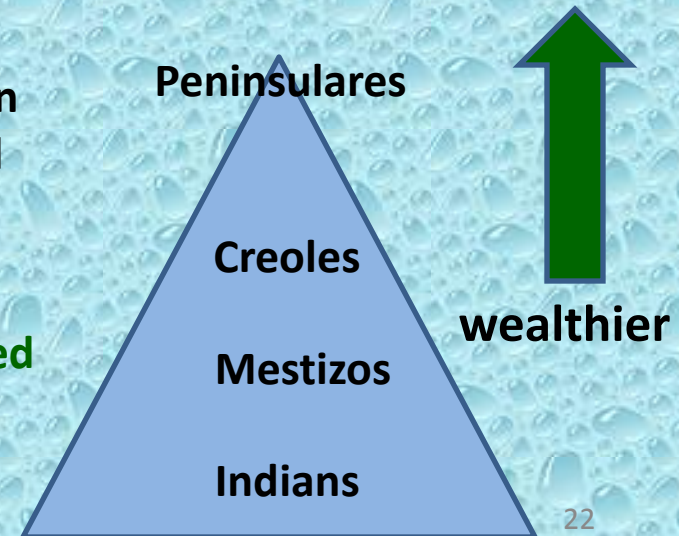
The people in the Spanish Colonies were divided into four social classes. A social class is when we group people according to how much money they have. We group them from highest income to lowest income.

Peninsulares- These people were the rulers of the colonies. **They held high government jobs in New Spain.**

Creoles- These people were the wealthy educated Spanish people.

Mestizos- These people were from a mixed Spanish/Indian background. They were the farmers. They worked on land owned by the Creoles.

Indians- These people were the poorest people. **They lived in poverty for hundreds of years.**

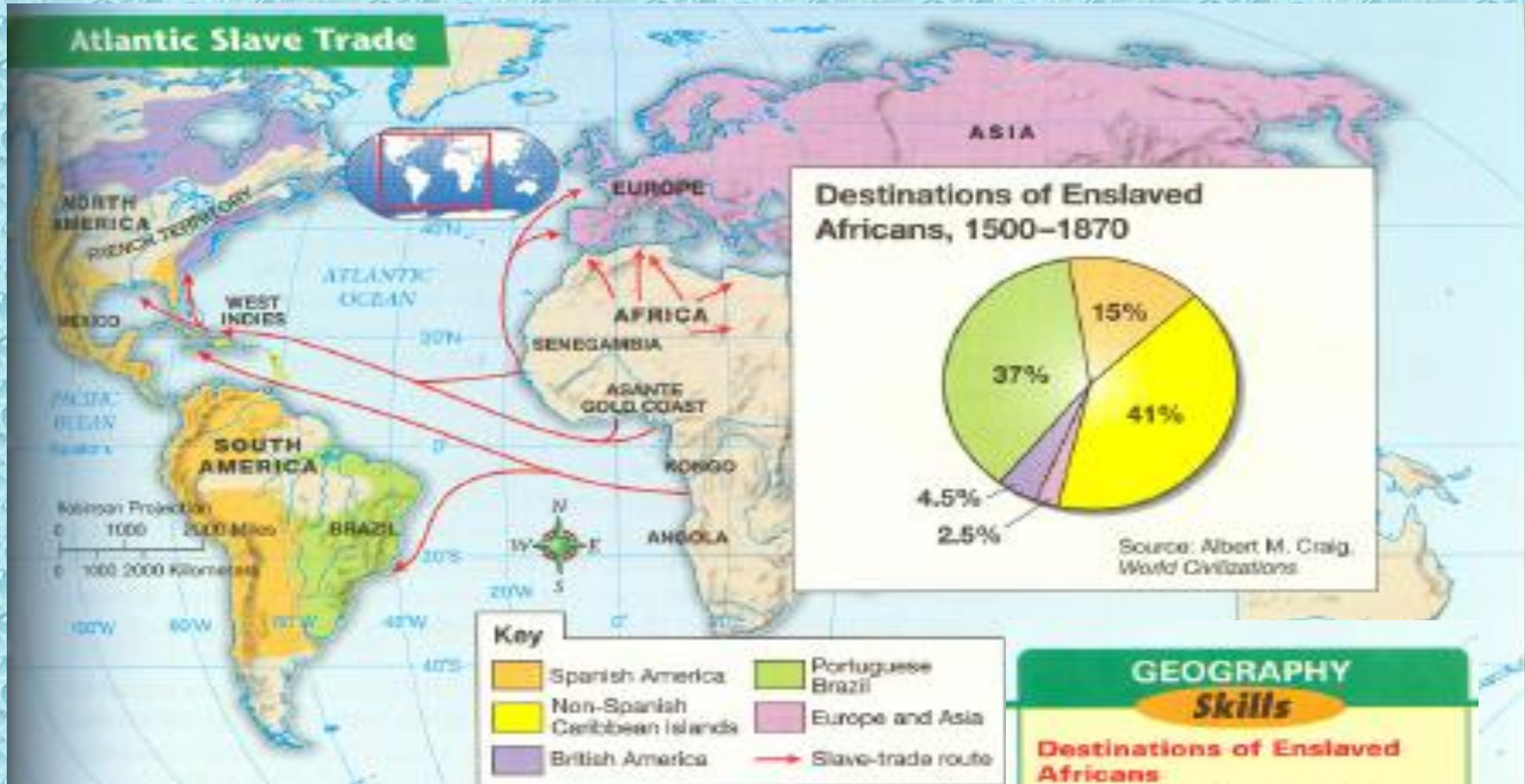


Native American and African Workers

African American slaves were brought to the Americas to work on the farms to replace the Native American Indians that were dying of diseases. They worked as slaves just as the Native American Indians did on plantations. A plantation was a large estate farmed by many workers.



THE SLAVE DECK OF THE BARK "WILDFIRE," BROUGHT INTO KEY WEST ON APRIL 26, 1860.—[FROM A DRAWING BY G. H. R. S.]



The African Slave Trade, see page 79 in your textbook

GEOGRAPHY Skills

Destinations of Enslaved Africans

The Atlantic slave trade began with Spain's efforts to supply labor for its American empire.

- 1. Comprehension** Which two regions of the Americas received the largest number of enslaved Africans?
- 2. Critical Thinking Drawing Conclusions** Why do you think the growth of the slave trade had relatively little effect on eastern Africa?

A Blend of Cultures

Native American cultures influenced Spanish life. New Spain adopted many Indian traditions such as ponchos and moccasins. Indians used Adobe bricks were used to build churches and libraries.

Spanish people needed workers to work their farms, mines, and ranches. To help them they gave them encomiendas, land grants that included the right to labor or taxes from Native Americans.



Hard Labor

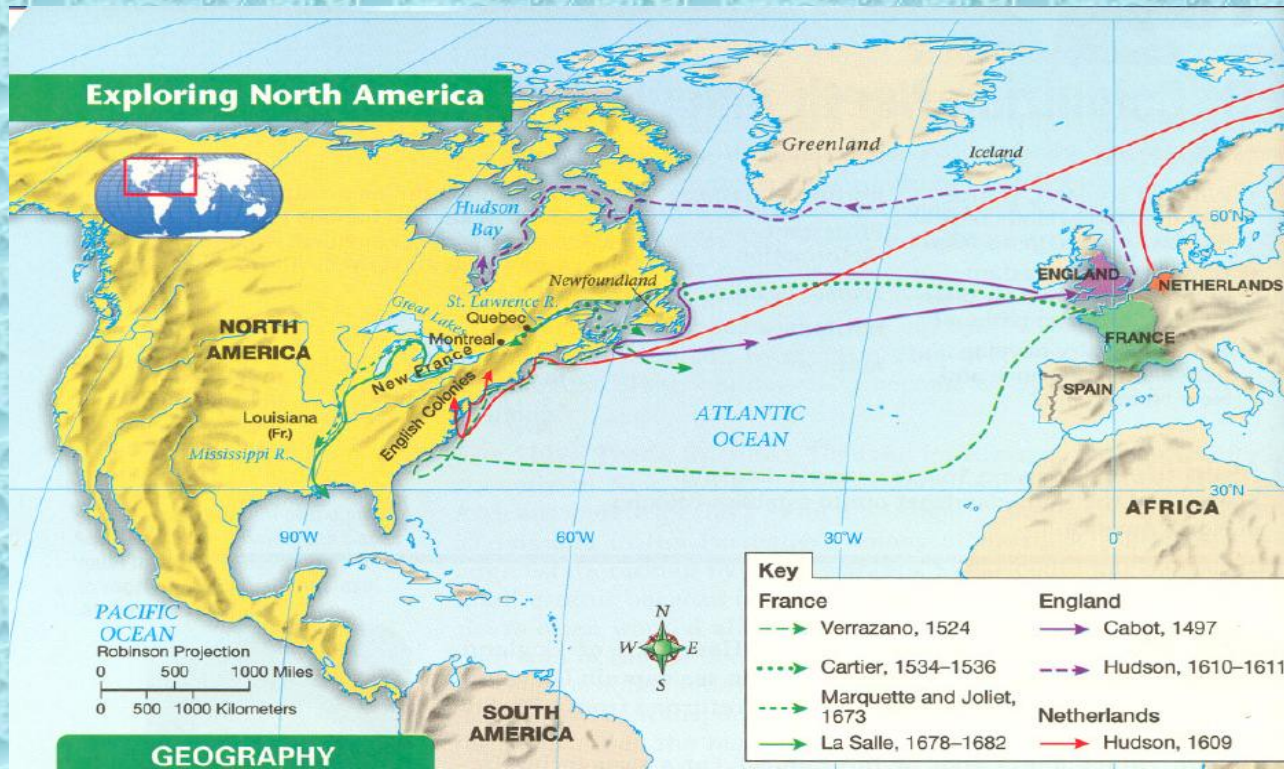
Mines in Mexico, Peru, and other parts of the Americas made Spain rich. Treasure ships carried these treasures across the Atlantic Ocean to Spain. Native Americans worked as slaves to the Spanish until they died in the mines or died from disease brought over from Europe.

Another source of free labor was soon found in the [Northwest Passage](#). The demand for African labor began when the Indians died. Enslaved Africans were forced to work on plantations. A plantation was a large estate farmed by many workers.

3. Colonializing North America

Search for a Northwest Passage

Throughout the 1500's, European nations looked for a shortcut to get to the riches of Asia. They searched for a northwest passage, or a waterway through or around North America.



The Northwest Passage, see page 82 in your textbook

In 1497, [John Cabot](#) tried to search for the Northwest Passage and discovered the land we call today [Newfoundland](#).



In 1524, *Giovanni Verrazano* discovered the land that we call the Carolina's today.



In the 1530's, *Jacques Cartier* sailed up the St. Lawrence River and discovered the land we call Canada today.



In 1609, Henry Hudson sailed and discovered the New York Harbor.



Religious and Political Rivalries

There were many religious rivalries between Catholics and Protestants. A man named Martin Luther challenged the teachings of the Catholic Church and the power of the Pope. Luther believed that people can achieve eternal life only by having faith in God. Luther's movement was called the Protestant Reformation. His followers caused a split in the church. These people later became Protestants.





New France

Samuel Champlain founded Port Royal, the first permanent French settlement in North America in 1605. The French people came to the Americas. French people that lived and worked in the woods became known as, couriers de bois.

They could not build an empire of gold like the Spanish people so they brought items to trade with the Native Americans. In return, the French took home beaver skins. These furs sold for high prices in Europe. Catholic missionaries often traveled with fur traders. A missionary is a person who goes into another land to convert people to their religion.

New Netherland

The Dutch also hoped to profit in the America like the Europeans. In 1626, [Peter Minuit](#) led a group of settlers to the Hudson River. There he bought Manhattan Island from local Indians. Minuit called his settlement, [New Amsterdam](#). Other colonies settled farther up the Hudson River. The entire colony was known as [New Netherland](#) ..



New Amsterdam is now it is called New York

The Dutch and the French made an [alliance](#) with the Native Americans. An agreement to aid and protect one another

The Dutch brought many of their customs such as ice skating and Christmas.



The Dutch also brought black slaves to build their colonies from Africa.



Cause and Effect

Causes

- Europeans want more goods from Asia
- Muslims gain control of trade between Europe and Asia
- Rulers of European nations seek ways to increase their wealth
- European nations look for a sea route to Asia
- Columbus reaches the Americas

EXPLORATION OF THE AMERICAS

Effects

- Spain builds an empire in the Americas
- English, French, and Dutch set up colonies in North America
- Millions of Native Americans die from "European" diseases
- Slave traders bring enslaved Africans to the Americas
- Foods from the Americas are introduced into Europe

Effects Today

- The United States is a multicultural society
- American foods, such as corn and potatoes, are important to people's diets around the world

GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

Skills

Exploration had a dramatic impact on the Americas, Europe, Africa, and Asia.

1. **Comprehension** Identify two economic causes of European exploration.
2. **Critical Thinking Linking Past and Present** Based on the chart, what cultures may have helped shape American culture today?

See page 85 in your textbook

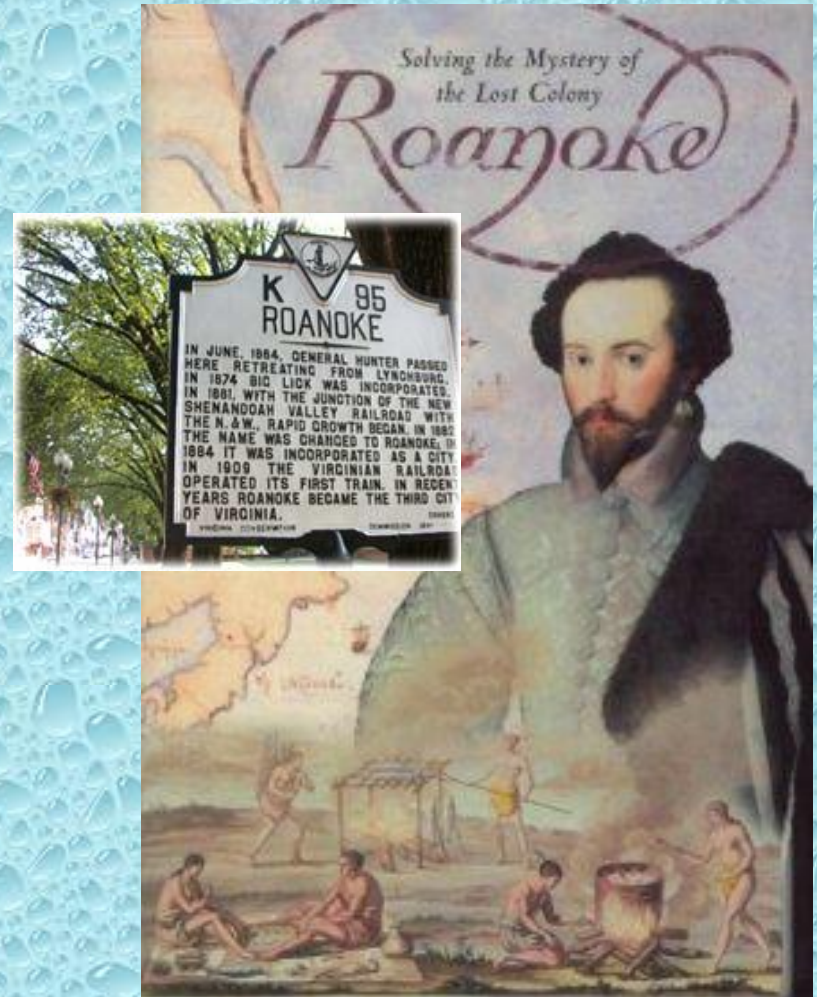
4. Building the Jamestown Colony

The French settled in the land we call Canada today. The Spanish settled through out the Americas. The people from England were also determined to set up colonies in the Americas.

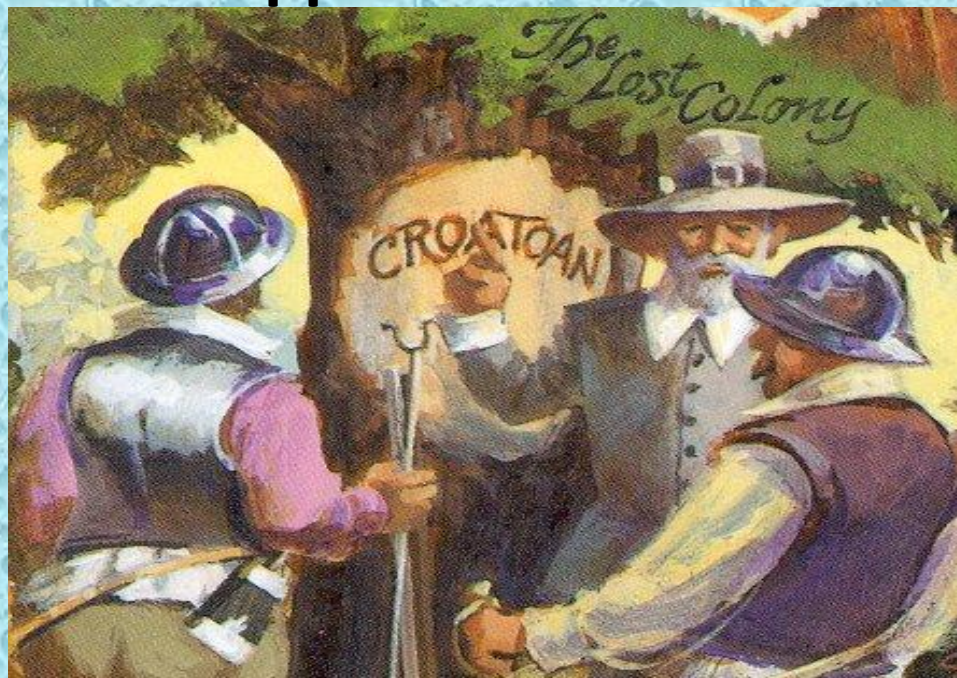


The First English Colony at Roanoke

In 1565, Queen Elizabeth of England allowed Sir Walter Raleigh to raise money for a colony in the Americas. The colonists landed on Roanoke an island off the coast of present day North Carolina. Within a year the colonists ran short of food and they were quarreling with their neighboring Indians. When an English ship stopped in the harbor, Raleigh and many of the settlers sailed home.



In 1567, [Sir Walter Raleigh](#), sent [John White](#), one of the original settlers, including women and children. When supplies ran low, White returned back to England leaving 117 colonists behind. There was a war in England with Spain so White could not return back for three years to help the colonists. When White finally came back to Roanoke he found that the settlers disappeared without a trace. Today no one knows what happened to these colonists.





Challenge and Survival at Jamestown

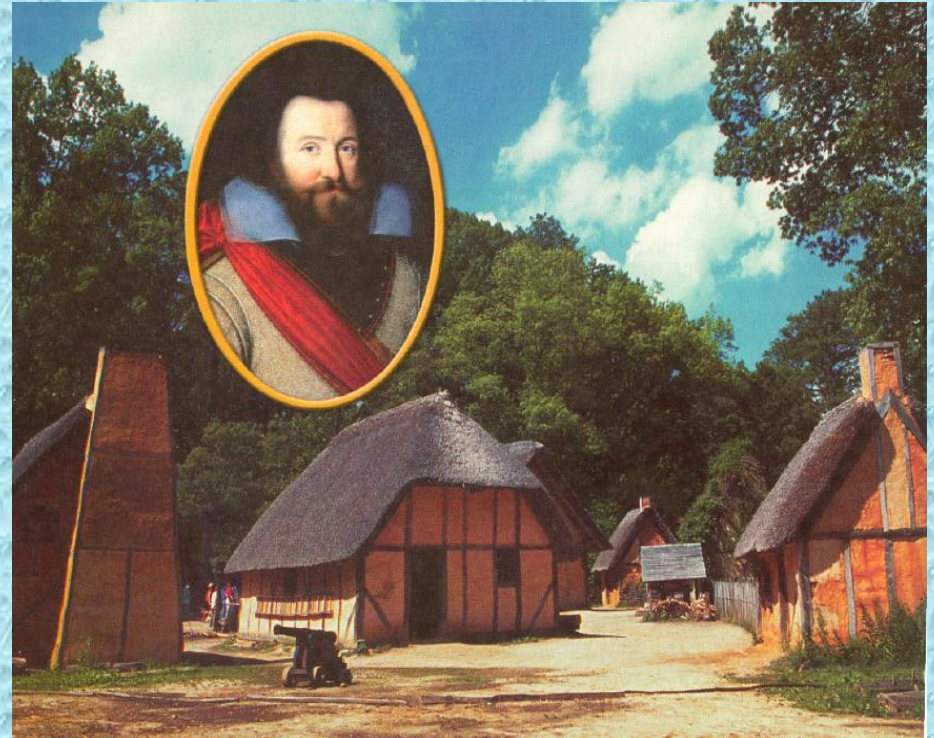
About twenty years later, in 1606, [King James I](#) sent a charter to the Virginia Company of London.

A [charter](#) is a legal document giving certain rights to a person or company.

The charter gave the [Virginia Company](#) the right to settle in the land we know as North Carolina today. The land was called Virginia. The charter granted the people of Virginia the same rights as English citizens.

The Virginia Company named their settlement [Jamestown](#), in 1607, after their King, James I. By 1608 the town was near failure due to poor management. [Captain John Smith](#) saved the settlement by forcing the people to plant crops and give up searching for gold.

Governors sent by the Virginia Company ran the colony like a military outpost people were very unhappy with this type of government. John Smith was worried that a military outpost would not attract new settlers to Jamestown.




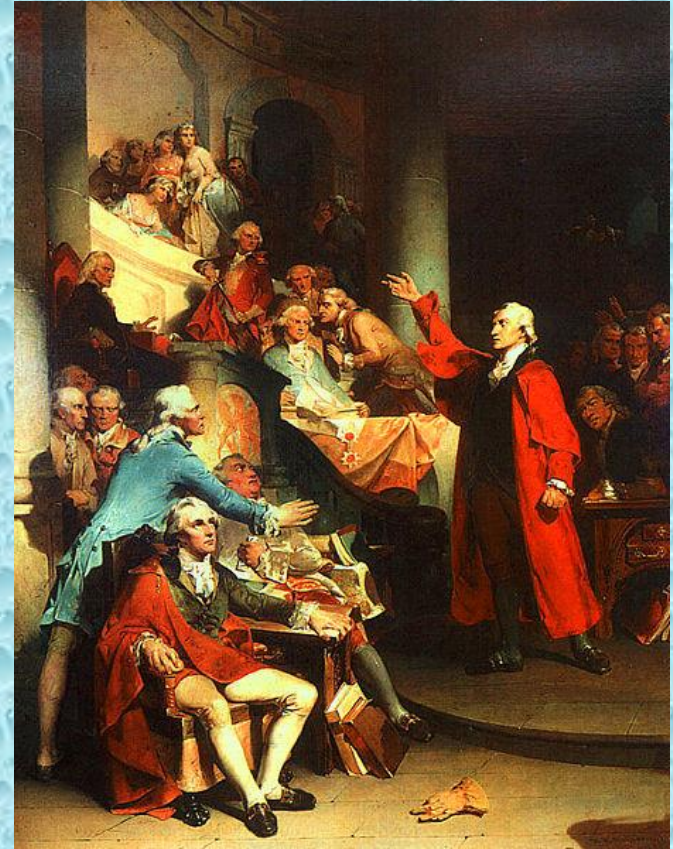
To attract more people to move to Jamestown, the Virginia Company set up a different type of government. The new government made a point to consult the settlers on every important decision made in the colony. They set up a Virginia charter modeled from English government.

They elected male representatives to the government, called **burgesses**.

The burgesses met in an assembly called the **House of Burgesses**.


Together with the governor and his council, they made the laws for the colony.

 The House of Burgesses marked the beginning of a representative government. In a representative government, voters elect representatives to make laws for them.

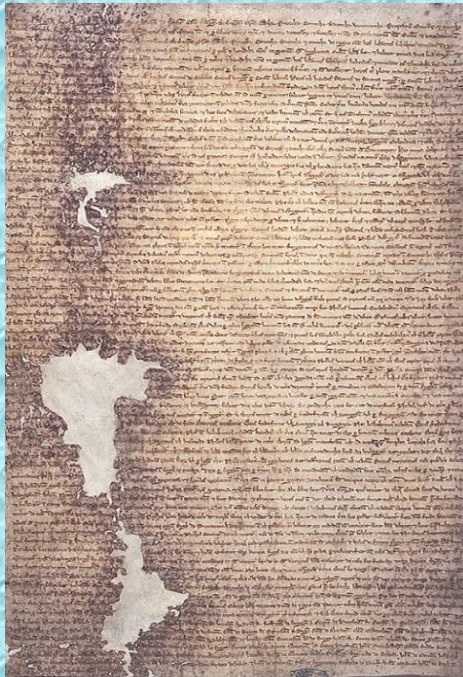


Learn more about the House of Burgesses by reading page 92 in your textbook

English Traditions

 The idea that people had political rights was deeply rooted in English history. In 1215 English nobles forced the King John to sign the [Magna Carta](#), or Great Charter. This document said the King could not raise taxes without first consulting the great nobles and church leaders.

Click on the Magna Carta to learn more about it



In time these rights were extended to other people and this council grew into a [representative assembly](#), called the [Parliament](#). The Parliament was divided into the [House of Lords](#), made up of nobles, and the elected House of Commons.

How is this similar to the government in the United States of America?

Very few rich people had the right to vote and the monarchs (Kings) had to obey the laws.

Women in Virginia

An American Profile



Pocahontas 1596?–1617

As a young woman, Pocahontas, whose name means “playful one,” captured the affections of John Rolfe, a Jamestown tobacco planter. They were married in 1614.

In 1616, when she was about twenty years old, Pocahontas accompanied her husband and infant son, Thomas, to England. The English were fascinated by this “Indian princess.” She was invited to the court of King James I. A painting shows her dressed as an English noblewoman in velvet and lace. In 1617, as she prepared to return to Virginia, Pocahontas became ill. She died and was buried in England.

Why do you think the English wanted to meet Pocahontas?



The colonies first women arrived in 1619. The Virginia company sent 100 women to help “make the men more settled.” Living in the colonies was a hardship for the women. They had to make everything from scratch- including clothing, food, and medicines.

The First Africans

Records show that 15 black men and women were living in the colonies. In 1619, a Dutch ship landed in Jamestown with 20 Africans. The Dutch sold the Africans to the Virginians to help grow tobacco.

By 1644 about 300 Africans lived in the colonies. Some were slaves for life. Records show that some Africans were slaves in the colonies and some were not.

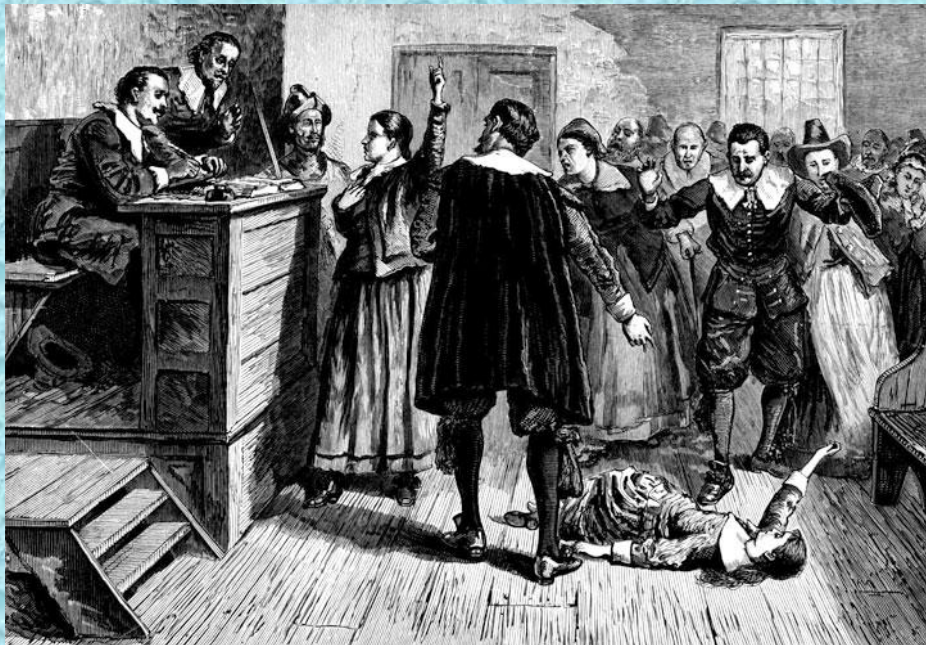
It was not until the 1600's that Virginia would set up a system allowing colonists to enslave Africans. Until this time Africans could own land and property in Virginia.



4. Seeking Religious Freedom Pilgrims

European States and Religion

It was not easy to practice your religion in the colonies. Protestants, Christians, and Jews did not get along. Most European countries believed the country had to support a chosen religion, or established church.



People that did not follow the established church were often prosecuted. Religious prosecution is the mistreatment or punishment of certain people because of their beliefs.

The Pilgrim Colony in Plymouth

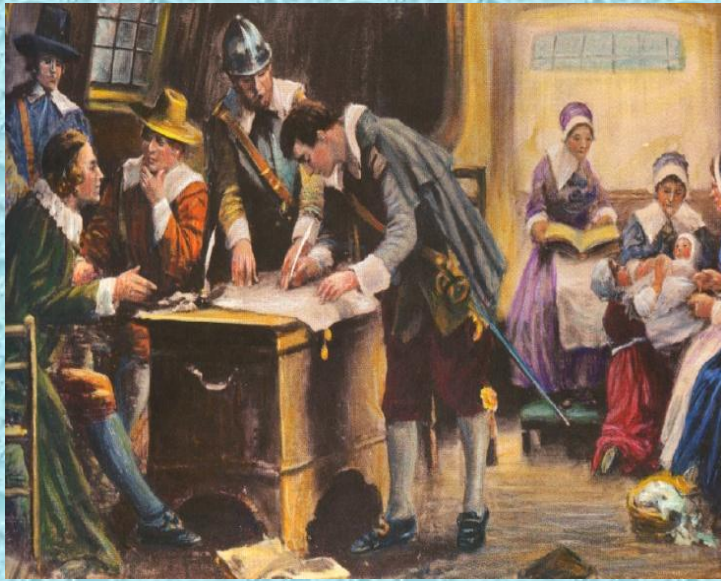
In 1620, the Pilgrims sailed to the Americas. They did not seek gold or silver. All they wanted was to practice their religion freely. They were often jailed or executed for their beliefs that differed from the English Church.



In September they got permission to set up a colony in Virginia. They boarded the ship called the Mayflower and landed 2 months later on the shore of Cape Cod. This is present day Massachusetts. They named their colony, Plymouth.



Gathering together the pilgrims set up their own government. They signed the Mayflower Compact. The compact said that they would all agree to consult each other about the laws of the colony. In time they set up a government in which adult male colonists elected a governor and council. Like Virginia's Great Charter, a representative government was set up.



The desire for the Pilgrims to worship freely set up a precedent, or example, for others to follow.

Primary Source

The Mayflower Compact

On November 11, 1620, the 41 male passengers on the Mayflower signed a binding agreement for self-government:

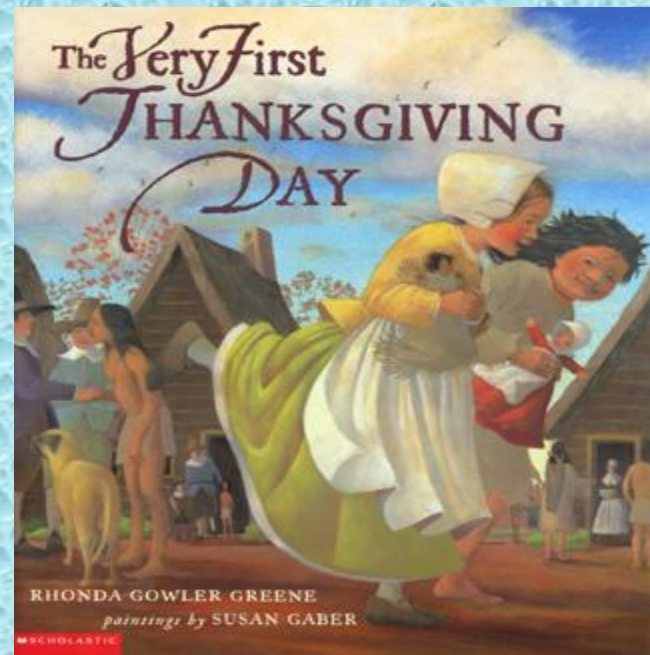
"We, whose names are underwritten. . . . Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith and honor of our King and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the northern parts of Virginia, do . . . solemnly and mutually in the presence of God, and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves into a civil body politic . . . to enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws . . . as shall be thought most [fitting] and convenient for the general Good of the Colony; unto which we promise all due submission and obedience."

—Mayflower Compact

Analyzing Primary Sources

Identify two promises the signers of the Mayflower Compact made with regard to laws for their colony.

The Native American Indians helped the settlers face many hardships, like the first harsh winter. An Indian named [Squanto](#) brought the Pilgrims seeds of native plants-corn, beans and pumpkins. He taught the settlers how to fish. In the fall the settlers had a good harvest. They invited the Native American Indians to share their thanks for the wonderful harvest. Americans today celebrate this day as [Thanksgiving Day](#), a national holiday.





The End