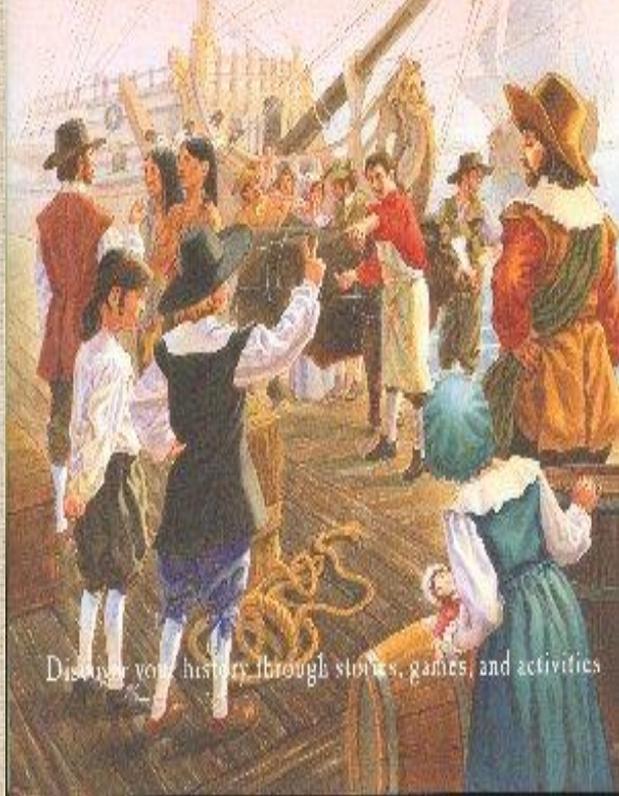


Brown Paper School  
USKids History:  
BOOK OF THE  
**American  
Colonies**



## The 13 English Colonies

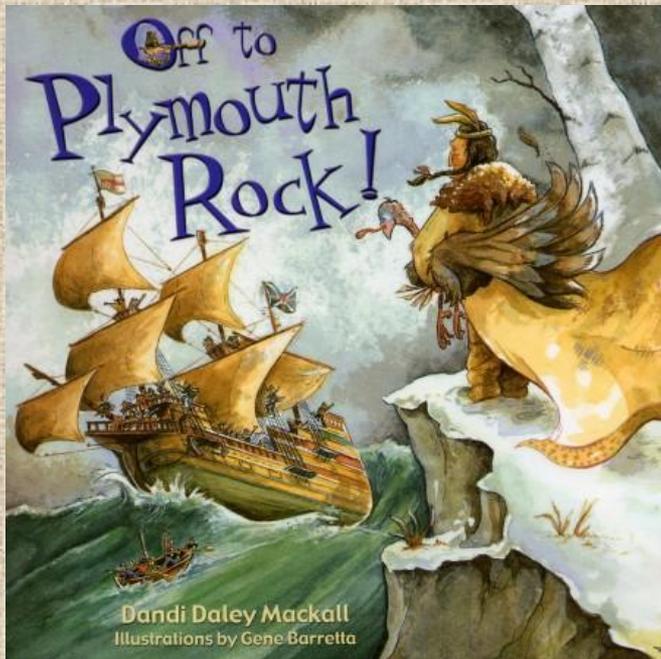
(1630-1750)

**As the colonies grew in the 1600's and 1700's, they became the home to people of many lands. These people brought their own customs and traditions. In time, they shaped these old ways into a new American Culture.**



## *1. The New England Colonies*

More than 1,000 men, women and children left England in 1630 to settle in the Americas. They set up their colony in Massachusetts Bay, North of Plymouth. Over the next 100 years, English settlers would build towns and farms throughout New England.



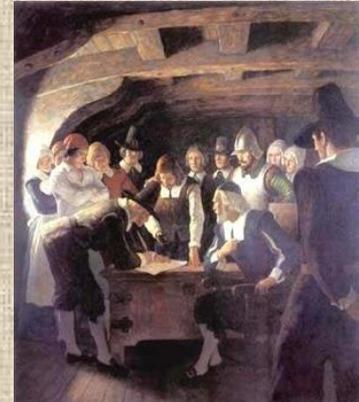
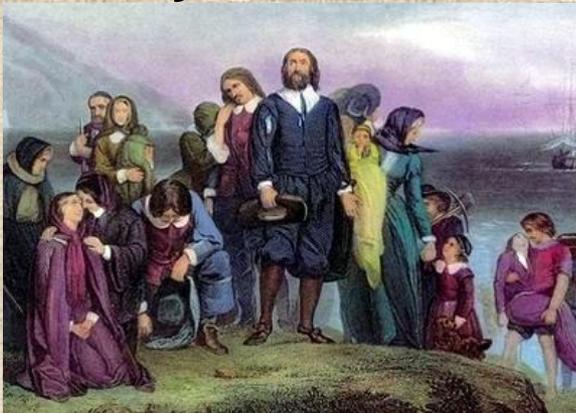
Click on the rock to learn more.

# Puritans Leave England for Massachusetts

The Puritans were a religious group that wanted to reform the church in England. They were different from the Pilgrims, who wanted to separate entirely from the English church.

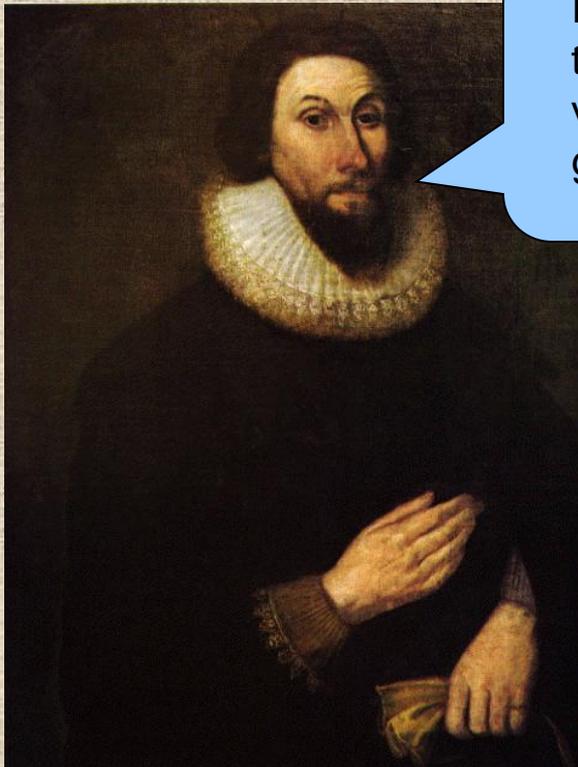
The Puritans wanted a simpler form of worship. Puritans were a powerful group in England. Many were well-educated merchants. The Puritans were convinced that the English church was not moving with modern times so they asked for a charter to set up the Massachusetts Bay Company in New England.

The Puritans sailed to New England and set up their colony in Massachusetts. John Winthrop was elected the first governor of the colony. As the new governor he passed laws without the people say and heavily taxed the colonists.



Winthrop quickly realized that people must have say in their government if things were to run smoothly. The Massachusetts Bay Company was set up under the leadership of Winthrop and other Puritans they granted up their own assembly to govern themselves. This was called the General Court.

Under the leadership of Winthrop the town grew and later was called Boston.



I want people to have a voice in government



Winthrop

# Thomas Hooker Settles Connecticut

In May 1636, about 100 settlers, led by a Puritan minister named Thomas Hooker, left Massachusetts Bay Colony. They moved west and settled in a town they called Hartford. Hooker left Massachusetts because he felt the government had too much power. He wanted to set up a government that did not have strict laws and limit government powers.

In 1639, the settlers wrote up a plan of government called the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut. Under the Orders you did not have to be a male church member to vote. It also limited the governments' power. As a result the towns thrived. In 1662 the King of England granted a charter to the settlers. Soon 15 towns were located along the Connecticut River. Thomas Hooker founded the State we call Connecticut today.





NARRAGANSETT INDIANS GRANT RHODE ISLAND TO ROGER WILLIAMS

## Problems in Massachusetts Bay



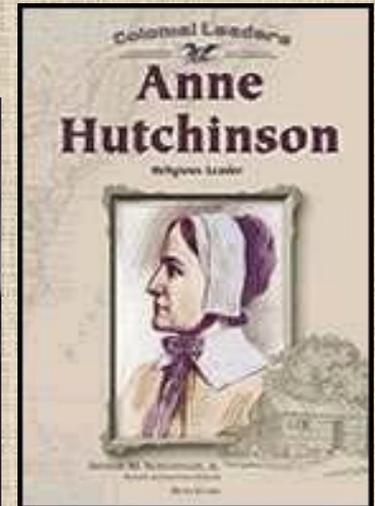
Roger Williams was another settler that disagreed with the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Williams felt the duty of the church and state should be separate.

Williams also believed in religious Toleration. Toleration means a willingness to let others practice their own beliefs. Puritans and non-Puritans could not practice their religions freely. In 1635, Williams was ordered by the Massachusetts court to leave the colony.

Fearing that he would be sent back to England, he escaped to Narragansett Bay. There he made friends with the Indians and purchased some land from them. He later settled in this land he called Rhode Island. He allowed complete freedom of religion , or toleration, for all Protestants, Jews and Catholics

# Anne Hutchinson Speaks Out

In 1634, Anne Hutchinson, left the Massachusetts Bay Colony. She held bible readings in her home in Rhode Island. She criticized the religious beliefs of the Puritans. She was put on trial for her religious beliefs. She lost the trial but became a symbol of religious freedom.

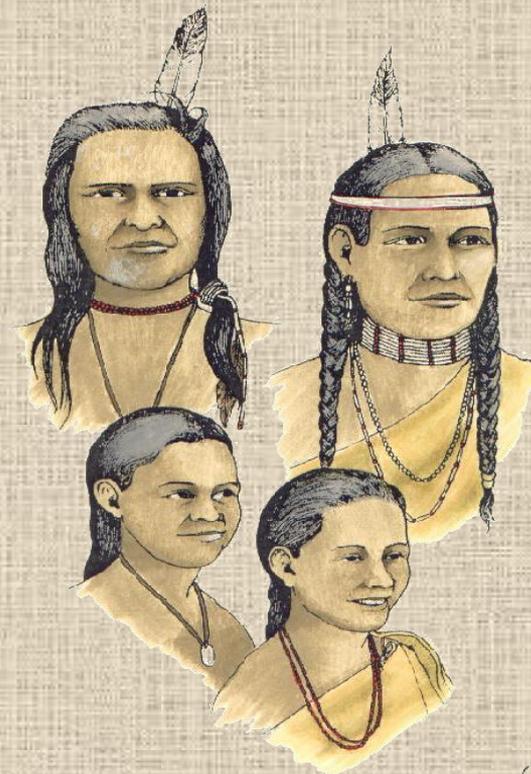


# Puritans at War With Native Americans

In 1675, the Wampanoag Indians attacked the colonists of New England for taking over their land. The colonists captured 1,000 of the Indians and sold them into slavery in the West Indies.



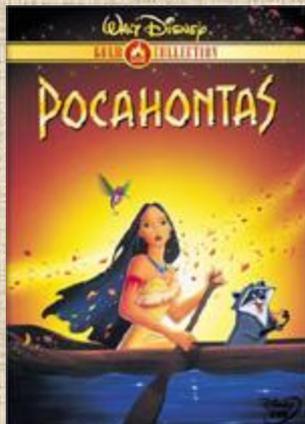
NEW ENGLAND INDIAN FAMILY



Click on the pictures on the left and right to learn more about them.



Some  
Native  
Americans  
helped the  
settlers.



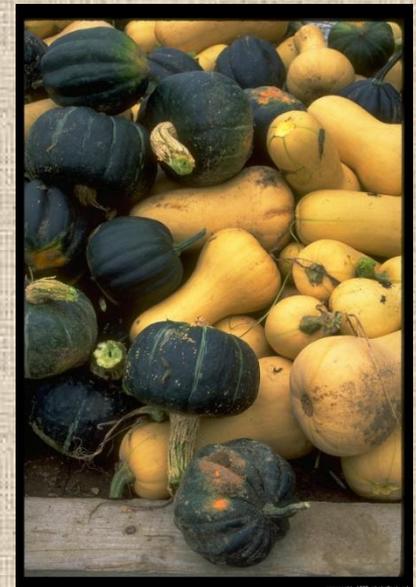
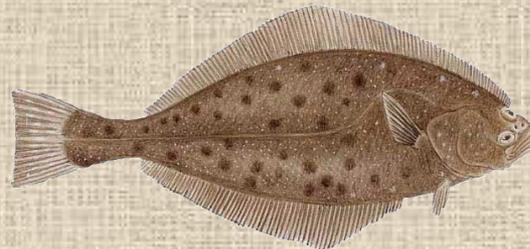
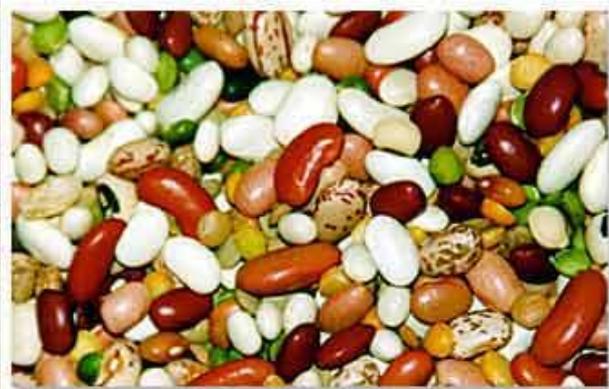
**Pocahontas and John  
Smith**



# Life in New England Towns and Villages

New England was a difficult land for the colonists. The soil was rocky and poor for farming. After some time colonists learned how to grow Native American crops such as corn, beans and squash.

The woods were full of deer, hogs and turkeys for hunting. New Englanders fished in coastal waters for cod and halibut. In the 1600's many New Englanders began hunting whales. In the 1700 to 1800's whaling grew into a big business.



During the 1600's, *Puritan* people were very religious. They took the Sabbath (Sunday) very seriously. No one could work or play games on that day. Women had to sit on the other side of the men in the church.

Blacks and Indians had to stay in the back or balcony. Many crimes were punished by the death penalty. One crime punished by death was witchcraft. In 1692, Puritans executed 20 men and women as witches in the Salem village, Massachusetts.



The average Puritan family had 7-8 children. They saw children as a blessing of God. As a result of the climate many people reached the age of 70.

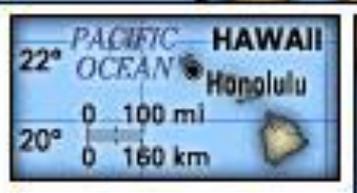
## 2.The Middle Colonies

By the mid-1700's, England had four colonies in the region of New England. Because of their location between New England and the Southern Colonies they were known as the Middle Colonies.

The Dutch set up a colony of New Netherlands along the Hudson River. The colonists traveled with the Indians and built the settlement of New Amsterdam. Rich people in New Amsterdam were granted large parcels of land. One grant was as big as the State of Rhode Island. Owners of these huge lands or manors were called patroons.



New Amsterdam/ New York



# New Netherlands Becomes New York



Click on the picture to learn more about New York City.

**New York**

**City Today**

**The city used to be called New  
Amsterdam.**

In return for the grant, each *patroon* promised to settle 50 European families on the land. Most Dutch colonists were Protestants but they allowed other religions to practice their own religion on their land. In 1664, England and the Netherlands fought in a war over trade in Europe. War broke out over trade and the King of England; **King Charles II** took over the city of New Amsterdam.

He gave the land to his brother, the **Duke of York**. He renamed it the colony of **New York** in the duke's honor.



## New Jersey Separates From New York

New York was too big for the Duke of York to govern so he decided to give some of the land to his friends *Lord Berkeley* and *Sir George Carteret*. They set up a proprietary colony. Under a *proprietary colony*, the king gave land to one or more of his people, in turn the owners could rent the land. The people in charge of this land were called proprietors. The proprietors were free to divide up their land to others. They were also free to make up the laws for their land. Many people were attracted to New Jersey from many lands.

In 1702, New Jersey became a royal colony, which was a colony under control of the English crown.

# The Founding of Pennsylvania



William Penn, an Englishman, founded the colony of Pennsylvania. At the age of 22 he joined a despised group called the Quakers. Like Pilgrims and Puritans, Quakers were protestant reformers. Quakers believed that all people were equal in the eyes of God. All men, women, nobles and commoners were equal. To most English people the beliefs of the Quakers were wicked. Quakers were hanged and arrested for their beliefs.

William Penn, a proprietor of a large tract of land, appealed to *King Charles* for help. King Charles made Penn a proprietor of a large tract of land in North America. He named the new colony Pennsylvania. Penn wanted equal treatment for all people and religions. People went to Pennsylvania to escape religious persecution. Soon afterwards the English officials forced Penn to turn away Catholic and Jewish settlers.



Among the new arrivals were large numbers of German speaking Protestants. They became known as the **Pennsylvania Dutch**. African slaves were also brought to Pennsylvania.

Penn also called for equal treatment for Native American Indians and Africans. Settlers in the lower countries did not want to send delegates to a far away assembly in Philadelphia. In 1701 William Penn allowed the people in the lower countries to elect their own assembly. Later the lower countries broke away to form the colony of **Delaware**. The next slide will show pictures from Pennsylvania.

# Life in the Middle Colonies

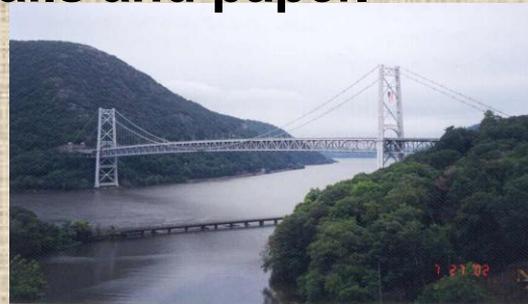
Farmers found better growing conditions in the Middle Colonies than in England. The land of the *Hudson and Delaware* was great for planting crops. The winters in the Middle Colonies were warmer and the growing season was longer.

Farmers produced surpluses of wheat, barley, and rye. These were cash crops, or produce that was sold for money in the world market. The Middle colonies exported so much grain that they were called the *Breadbasket Colonies*. Farmers in the middle colonies also raised cattle and pigs. They sent tons of beef, pork, and butter to ports in New York.

Skilled German settlers, encouraged by William Penn, set up their shops in Pennsylvania. In time Pennsylvania became the center of manufacturing and crafts. They made hardware, clocks, watches, locks, glass, stoneware, nails and paper.



Photo: Richard Wambach



# The Back Country

The different groups that settled in the Middle Colonies had their own favorite way of building homes. Swedish settlers built log cabins. The Dutch used red bricks to build their homes. German settlers developed a wood burning stove that heated a home better. In the 1700's, thousands of German and Scottish-Irish settlers arrived in Philadelphia's booming port. From Philadelphia they headed west into the *backcountry*, the area of land along the eastern slopes of the Appalachian Mountains.

Settlers followed the old Iroquois trail. This trail became known as the Great Wagon Road. To farm settlers had to clear thick forests. From Indians, settlers learned how to make candles from pine trees to light their homes. They made dishes from wooden logs and hunted wild animals for food. Many settlers that arrived in the backcountry alarmed the Indians. Disputes between the Indians and settlers occurred very often.

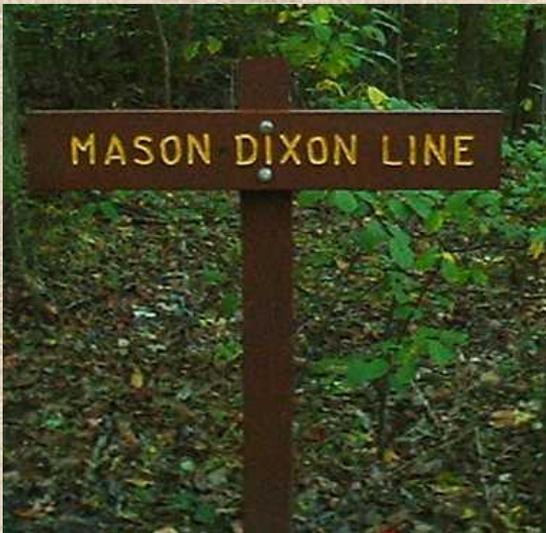


Courtesy of  
British Columbia Archives and Records Service

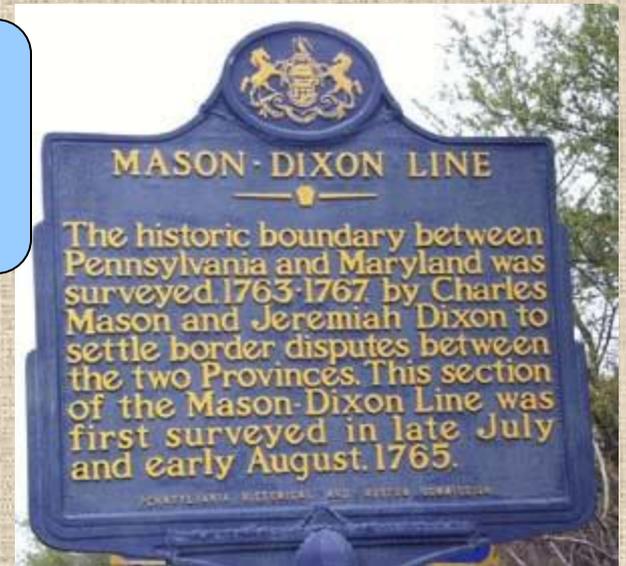
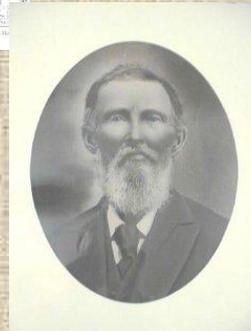


### 3.The Southern Colonies

In 1763 to Englishmen, Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon began to look over the 244-mile boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania (or between the Southern and Middle colonies.) They carefully laid two stone markers at the borders of the two colonies. They called this boundary the Mason-Dixon Line. Below the Mason Dixon Line, the Southern Colonies developed their own way of life different from the other English Colonies.



Do not  
cross  
my  
line!



## Lord Baltimore's Maryland



In 1632, Sir George Calvert convinced King Charles I to grant him land for a colony in the Americas. Calvert was Protestant but he changed his beliefs to the Catholic Religion. He planned to build a colony called *Maryland*, where Catholics could practice their religion freely. When Sir George died his son, *Lord Baltimore* pushed on with his dad's project.



In the spring of 1634, two hundred colonists landed in the Chesapeake Bay, across from England's first southern colony. Maryland was truly a land of plenty. Chesapeake Bay was full of fish, oysters and crabs. Across the bay Virginians were already growing tobacco for profit. Lord Baltimore was appointed the Governor of Maryland. He gave out generous land grants to encourage people to settle in Maryland.

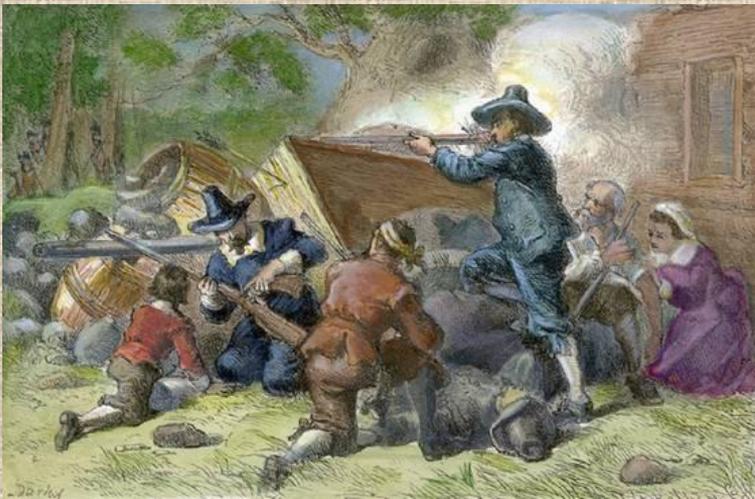


Lord Baltimore welcomed Catholics and Protestants to the colony. In 1649, he asked the people to pass an Act of Toleration. The act provided religious freedom for all Christians. This freedom did not extend to Jewish people.

# Bacon's Rebellion

Many people had settled in Virginia. They were lured there because of the promise of the profits from tobacco. Wealthy planters took the best land near the coast. Newcomers had to move inland near the Indians. Indians and settlers had many clashes and wars over the land. The Governor would not take action against the Indians.

Finally, in 1676, Nathaniel Bacon, a young planter, organized some angry men and women against the Indians. He led a revolt against the Native American villages. Then he burned down Jamestown. This uprising became known as Bacon's Rebellion. The government stopped Bacon and his followers. Twenty-three of Bacon's followers were hanged. Bacon was killed in a revolt.

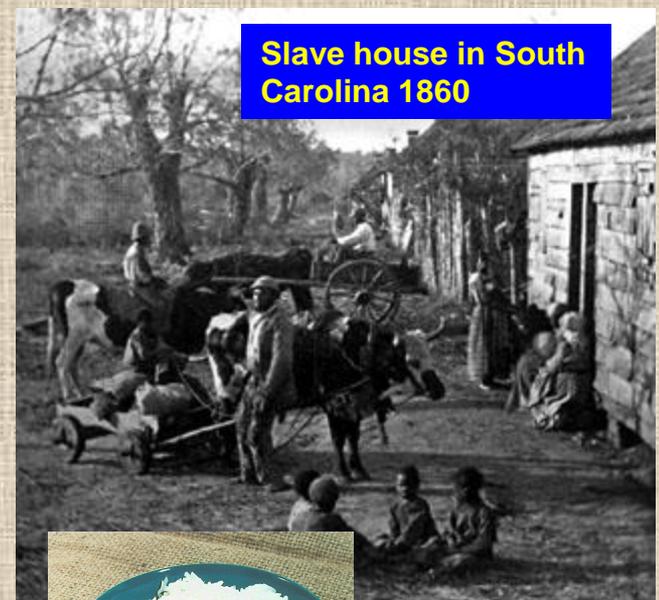


# The Carolinas

South of Virginia and Maryland, English colonists settled in a region called the Carolinas. In the North of the Carolinas settlers were poor tobacco farmers. In the South, a group of eight rich nobles set up a larger colony. In 1685, a few planters discovered that rice grew well in the lowly swamplands along the coast.

Before long, Carolina Rice became a valuable crop traded around the world. The planters also grew indigo, a plant used to make valuable blue dye. The farmers needed large numbers of workers to grow rice and grow indigo. They tried to enslave the Indians to do the work but they died of diseases or mistreatment. Planters turned to slaves from Africa. By 1700, most people coming to Carolina were African men and women brought against their will. The North part of Carolina did not have slaves. The South part did have slaves.

The issue of slavery led to the differences between the two areas. They could not settle their differences so they separated into 2 different settlements called *North and South Carolina*.



## Georgia: A Haven for Debtors

The last colony was carved out of the southern part of South Carolina.

James Oglethorpe, a respected soldier, founded Georgia in 1732. He wanted Georgia to be a place where people who were jailed for debts in England could find a new life. Under English law, if you owed money, you were a debtor, and if you did not “pay up” you could be placed in jail. In 1733 Oglethorpe and 120 colonists built the colony's first settlement named the Savannah.



He forbade slavery and did not allow very large farms. He attracted the poor people to settle in his lands. Soon afterwards, Oglethorpe changed his rules. He allowed large plantations and slavery. Slavery grew very rapidly in Georgia on the plantations.

# Plantation Life

The southern colonies were much warmer than the northern colonies. The colonies in the North (Virginia, Maryland and parts of North Carolina) became the major *tobacco* producing areas. It became profitable to raise tobacco and rice on large plantations.

Slaves did most of the work in the fields. Some slaves were skilled workers such as carpenters or blacksmiths. Other slaves worked as cooks and housekeepers. Only a few white southerners owned large plantations. Planters set the style of life in the south. Life centered on the Great House where the planter and his family lived. The planter lived in an elegant home with a parlor and guestrooms.



Tobacco  
Plants

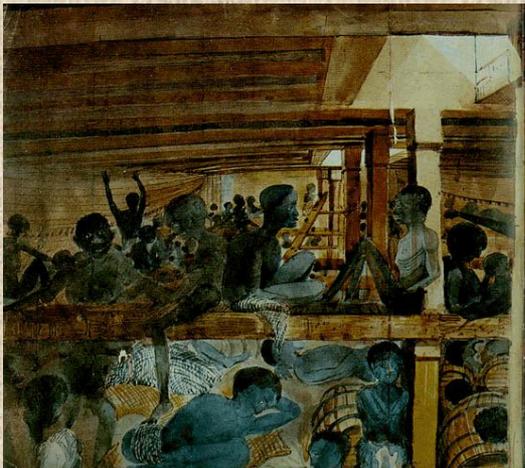
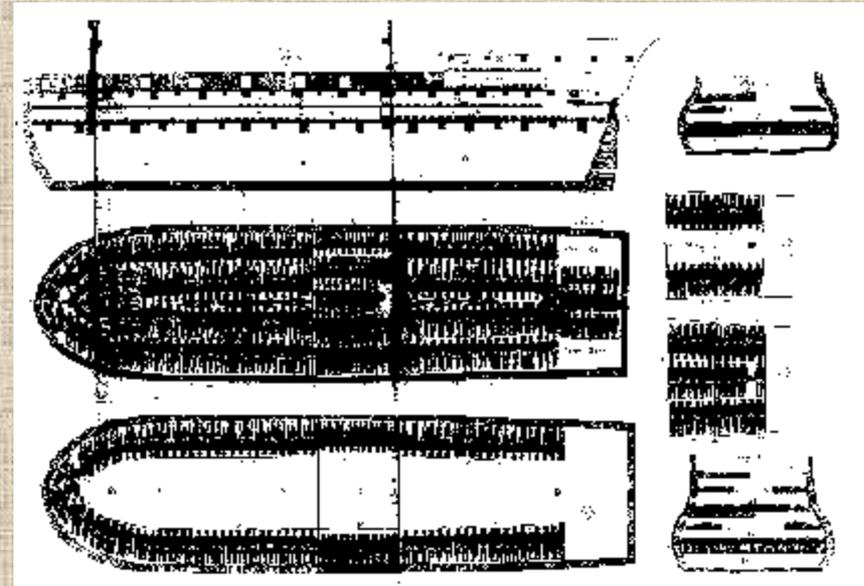


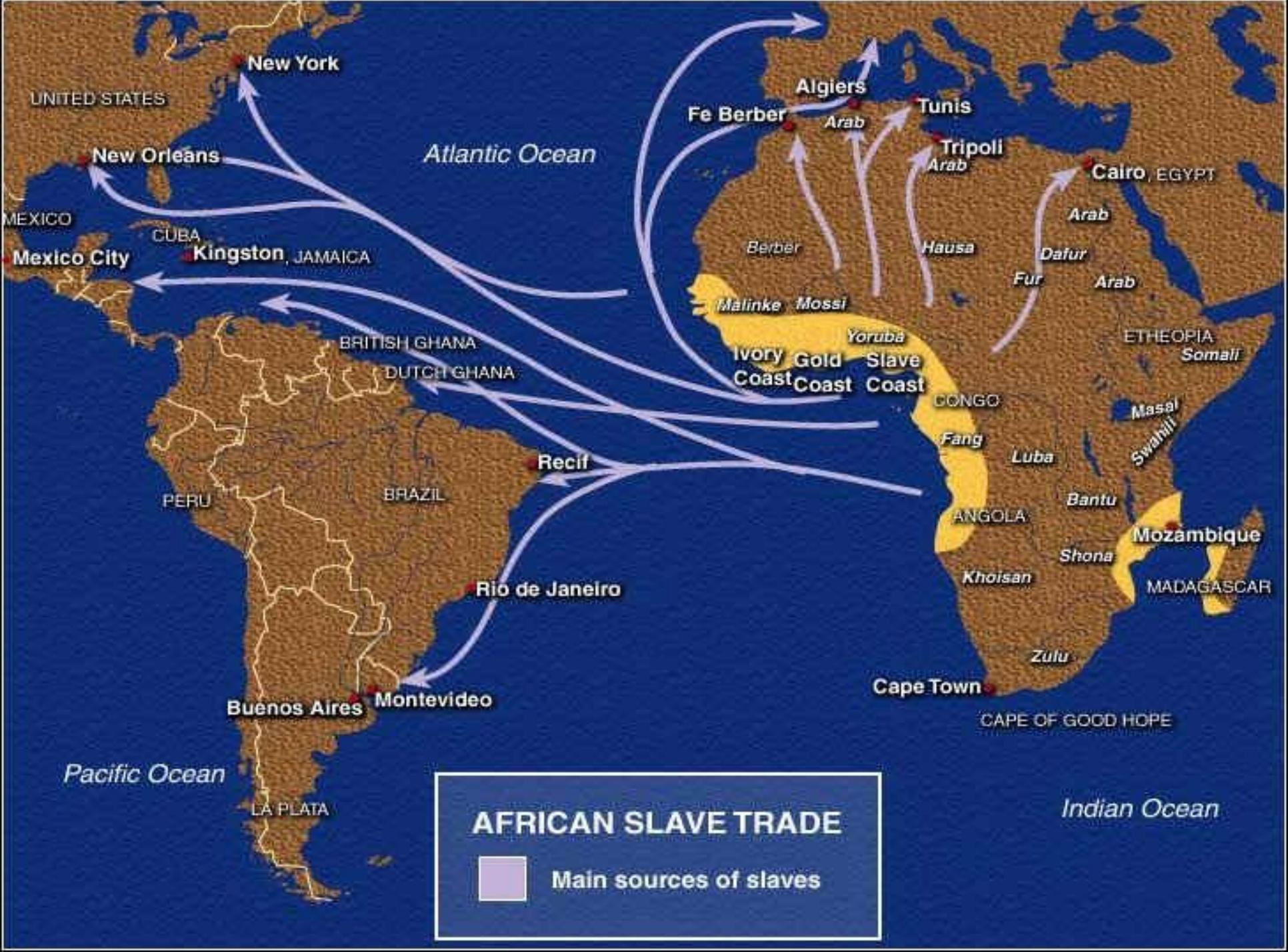
Slave  
Quarters  
1800



# Growth of Slavery

The first Africans in the English colonies included free people and servants as well as slaves. In the early years even enslaved people enjoyed some freedom. On plantations, in the Southern Colonies, enslaved Africans used their farming skills they brought from West Africa. They showed the English settlers how to grow rice. They also knew how to use wild plants to create brooms, buckets and fans.





By 1700, plantations in the Southern Colonies relied on slave labor. Slaves cleared the land, worked the crops and tended the livestock. To control the large number of slaves the colonists passes [Slave Codes](#). These laws set out rules for slaves' behavior and denied them their basic rights.

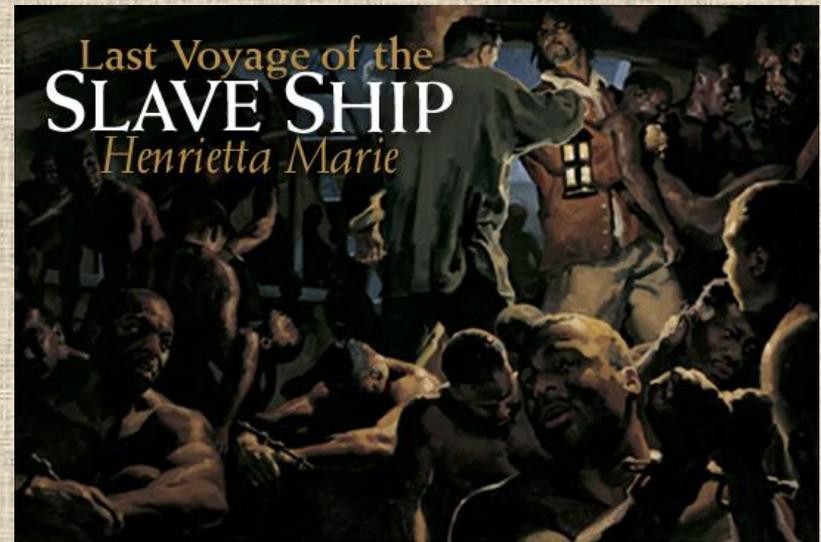
Slaves were seen not as humans but as property. Most English colonists did not question the justice of owning slaves. They believed that black Africans were inferior to white Europeans. The belief that one race is superior to another is called [racism](#). In 1688, Quakers in Germantown, Pennsylvania, became the first group of colonists to call for an end to slavery.



# The Slave Trade

As the demand for slaves grew, European traders set up posts along the African coast. They offered guns to African rulers that brought in slaves. They loaded the captives aboard ships. The Spanish, Portuguese, Dutch, and French ships headed for the Americas.

By the 1720's, between 2,000-3,000 Africans were arriving each year to the Northern English Colonies. The trip from Africa was called the [Middle Passage](#). Slaves were crammed into small spaces below deck. Records show that ten percent of the Africans shipped to North America did not survive the journey.



# 4. The Roots of Self Government

In 1750, Philadelphia was the largest seaport in the colonies. In England trade started to diminish so the King of England took an interest in trade with the colonies.

## England Regulates Trade

Like other European countries, England believed the purpose of the colonies was to benefit the home country. This belief was part of a principle called mercantilism. According to this theory, a nation became strong by controlling trade. Trade takes place when goods are exchanged between two countries.

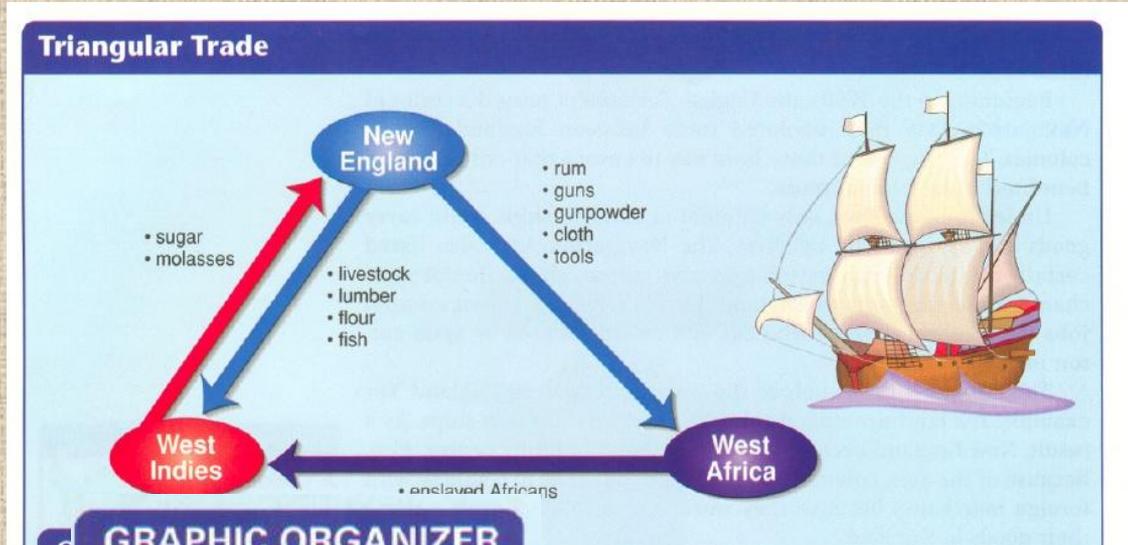
Imports are trade goods brought into the country. Exports are trade goods sent to markets outside the country. Because exports help a country earn money, mercantilists thought that a country should export more than it imports.



# Trade in Rum and Slaves

The colonies produced a wide variety of goods. Merchants from New England dominated the colonial trade market. These people were called Yankees, a nickname that implied they were clever and hard working.

Colonial trade merchants developed many trade routes in which they traded lumber, fish, and other items with the West Indies. On route was known as the triangular trade route because the three legs of the trip made a triangle.



## GRAPHIC ORGANIZER

### Skills

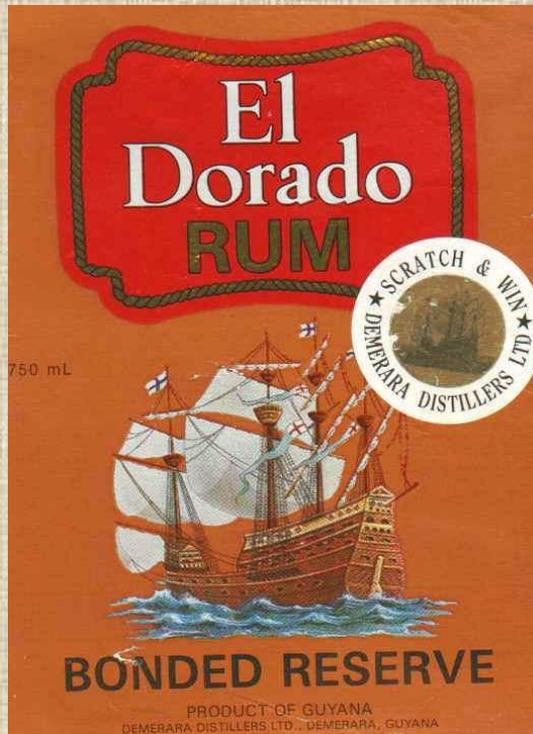
Colonists traded with the West Indies, Africa, and Europe in a route known as the triangular trade.

- 1. Comprehension**
  - (a) What did American ships bring to Africa?
  - (b) Where were enslaved African Americans traded for molasses?
- 2. Critical Thinking Making Decisions**

How did New England benefit from the slave trade?

Economics 

**On their trip back from the West Indies they brought back sugar and molasses. The colonists carried the sugar and molasses to New England where they made rum out of it.**



# Travel and Communication

In the early 1600 and early 1700's, travel in the colonies was slow and difficult. Roads were muddy and rough. There were few bridges over streams and rivers. Colonists set up a postal system, but it was slow. It took one month for a letter to get from Boston to Williamsburg, Virginia. In the winter it took 2 months.

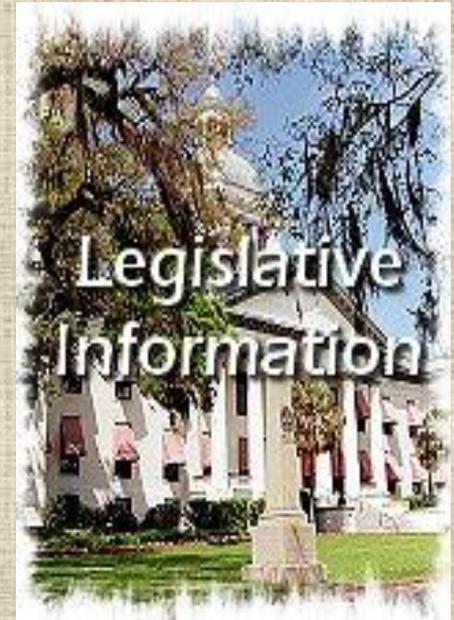
Slowly, roads improved. Families built taverns on the side of the roads for travelers. People enjoyed staying in taverns to gossip and share stories.



# A Bill of Rights

By the late 1600's, each colony set up its own form of government. In each colony a governor directed the colonies affairs and enforced the laws. The King usually appointed the governor. Rhode Island and Connecticut elected their own governor. Each colony set up a legislature. A legislature is a group of people who have the power to make up the laws. The legislature had the right to approve or disapprove taxed for the colonists. They called this the "power of the purse." This meant the legislature had the right to raise or spend money in any way they wished.

Each colony had its own rules on who could vote. By the 1720's, all the colonies restricted the right to vote to white Christian men over the age of 21. In some colonies only Protestants could only vote. All voters had to own property. Colonial leader felt that property owners only knew what was good for the colony.





In 1688 the [Glorious Revolution](#) began in England. The Parliament removed *King James* from his throne and asked *William and Mary of the Netherlands* to rule. In return for the Parliaments support, William and Mary signed the [English Bill of Rights](#) in 1689. It protected the rights of individuals and gave anyone accused the right to a [trial by jury](#).



King James



Mary of the  
Netherlands

The English Bill of Rights also said that a ruler could not raise taxes or an army without approval of the [Parliament](#). As a result of the Glorious Revolution the colonists won more rights. 36

## 5. Life in the Colonies

In 1743, Benjamin Franklin made a proposal to promote knowledge in the colonies. This led to the American Philosophical Society was born. This was the first sign that life in the colonies was becoming quite different from life in England.

### Social Classes

Colonists enjoyed more social equality than the people in England did. Still social classed did exist. The people that stood at the top of the society were called the gentry. The gentry were wealthy planters, merchants, successful lawyers, ministers and royal officials. They could afford to dress in elegant clothes and follow the latest fashions.

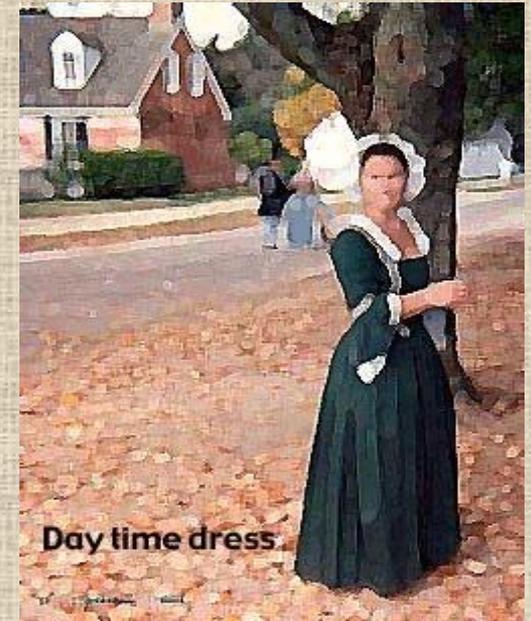
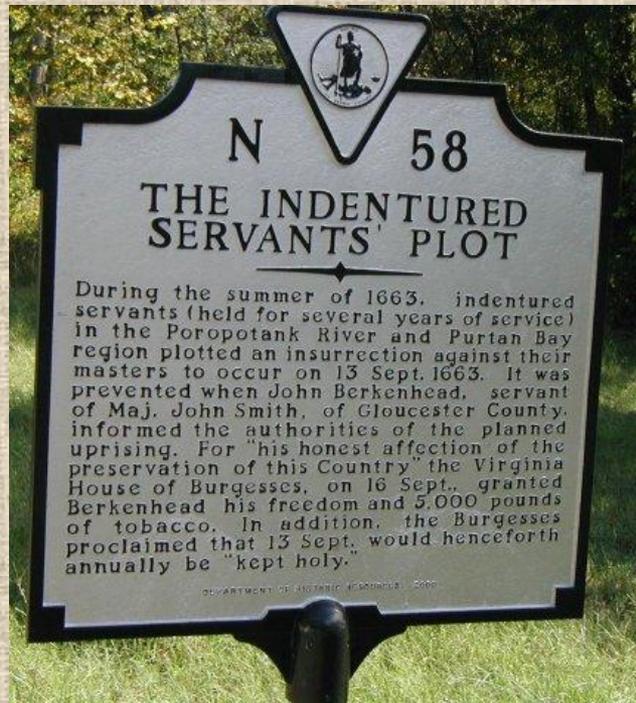


Below the gentry was the [middle class](#). The middle class included farmers who worked their own land, skilled craft-workers and some trades people. Nearly 75 percent of the colonists belonged to the middle class. They prospered because land was plentiful and easy to buy.

The lowest social class included hired farmhands, indentured servants and slaves. [Indentured servants](#) promised to work without wages for 4-7 years for whom ever would pay their ocean passage. When their term of service was done they received a set of clothes, tools and 50 acres of land.



Indentured Servant



Middle Class Woman

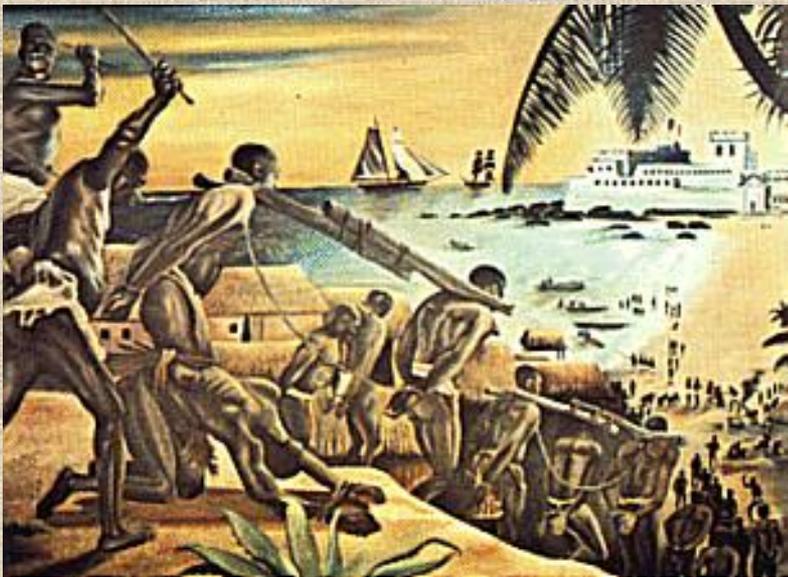
## Women's Work in the Colonies

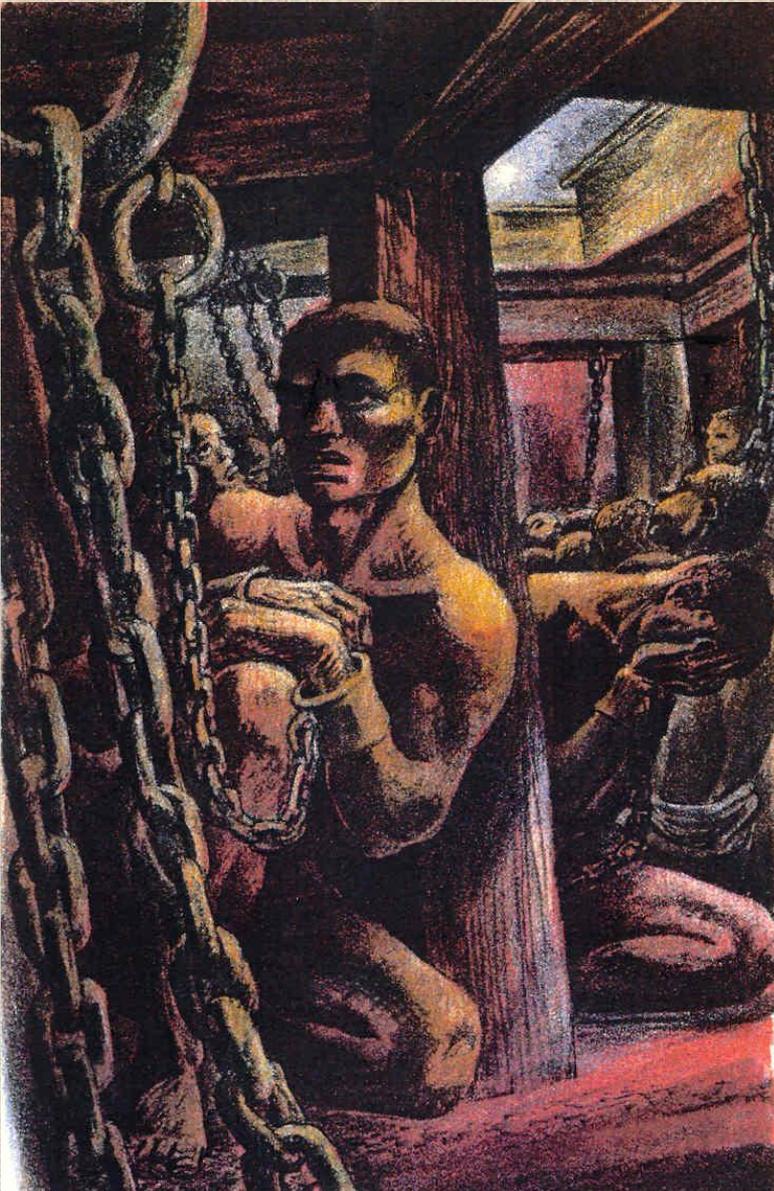
Women throughout the colonies did many different tasks. Whether they lived in Connecticut or South Carolina a woman took care of her household, husband and family. In the kitchen she baked squash or boiled corn also known as hominy grits. She milked the cows, watched the children and made clothing. Many women even worked of the fields during harvest time. In the cities women worked outside of the home. They worked as maids, cooks or even a nurse for the gentry. Other women were midwives. A midwife would deliver the children.



# African Cultural Influences

By the Mid-1700 the culture of the Africans in the colonies varied greatly. On rice plantations in South Carolina, slaves saw few white colonists. As a result, Africans were able to keep their customs. In the Southern colonies more than one half of the population was African. Many of the Africans worked along the docks making ropes, barrels and ships. Skilled craft-workers made fine wood cabinets or silver plates and utensils.





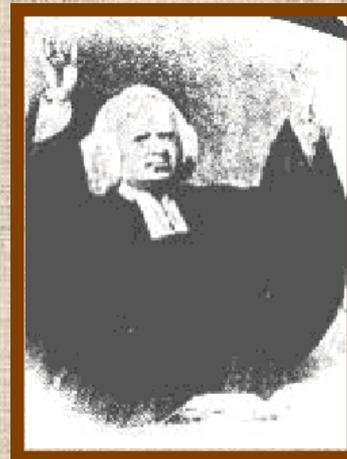
Although most Africans were enslaved, many opened and operated their own shops in stalls in markets. In Virginia and Maryland, African traditions were weaker. In some costal areas, Africans spoke **Gullah**, a combination of English and West African languages. Africans were less isolated from the white people in these regions. Still ships brought Africans to the Americas aboard [slave ships](#).

# A Renewal of Faith

In the 1730's and 1740's a religious movement called the Great Awakening swept through the colonies. Jonathan Edwards, a New England preacher, set off this movement in his public sermons. In his sermons he warned people of the evils of slavery. He warned people that if they did not stop slavery they would make God very angry.

In 1739, an English minister, George Whitefield, arrived in the colonies. He spread Jonathan Edwards's movement against slavery. Their ideas spread across the colonies like wildfire. They urged the sinners of slavery to reform immediately. The Great Awakening brought about the bitter arguments over slavery!

Jonathan  
Edwards



George  
Whitefield

George Whitefield

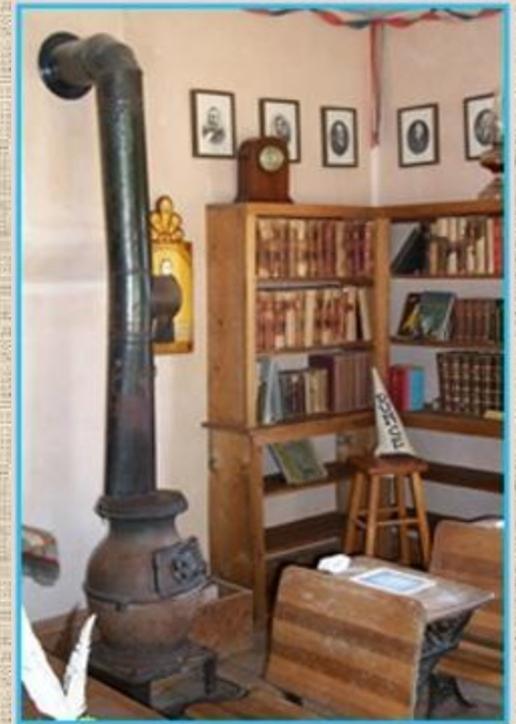
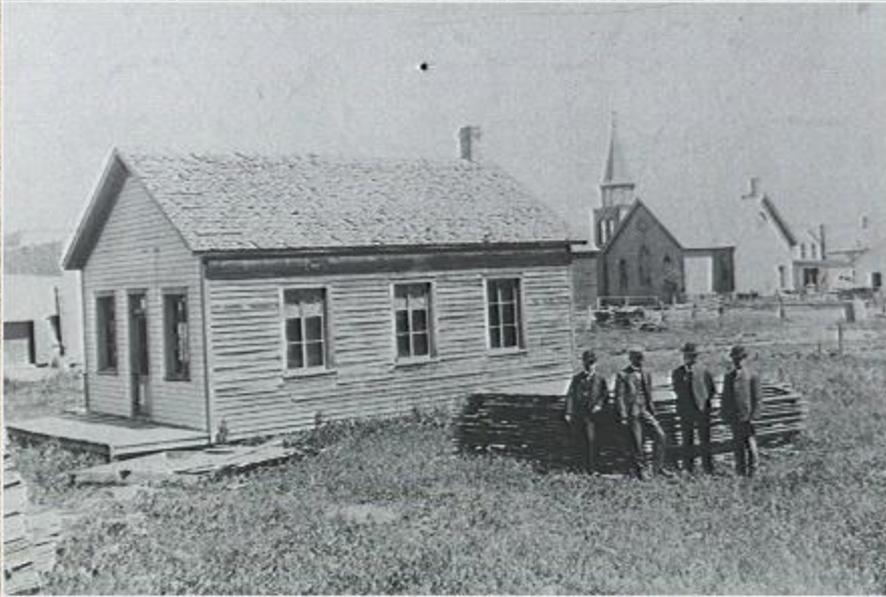
# Education in the Colonies

Among the colonists, New Englanders were most concerned about education. Puritans believed that all people had a duty to study the bible. In 1647, the Massachusetts assembly passed a law ordering all parents to teach their children “to read and understand the principles of religion.”

Beyond that, they required towns with fifty families had to hire a school teacher. Towns with 100 families or more had to set up a grammar school. In this way *Massachusetts* set up the first *public schools*. The schools were supported by taxes.

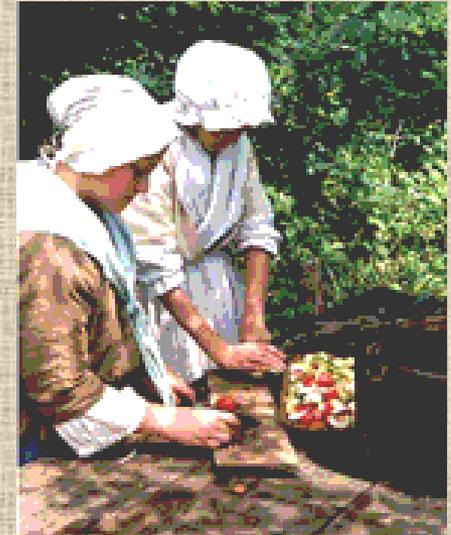
The first New England school had only one room for students of all ages. Parents paid the schoolteacher in corn, peas and other foods. The Middle and Southern colonies, churches and individual families set up private schools. Pupils paid to attend. As a result, only wealthy families could afford an education. In Southern colonies people lived too far from one another so some planter’s hires tutors or private teachers. The wealthiest families could send their children to school in England. The next slide has school pictures.

# A Colonial School



Some children served as apprentices . An apprentice worked for a master to learn a trade or craft. For example, when a boy reached the age of 12-13, his parents might apprentice him to be a master glassmaker. The apprentice worked for the master without pay for about 7 years. In return the master would give the boy food, clothing and treated him like a member of the family. In return the apprentice would work until he was ready to open his own shop

In New England, Some girls attended dame schools, or private schools run by women in their own homes. Most schools for the colonies were only for boys. However, girls learned many skills from their mother. Their mom taught them how to weave, spin wool and embroider.



# Spread of Ideas



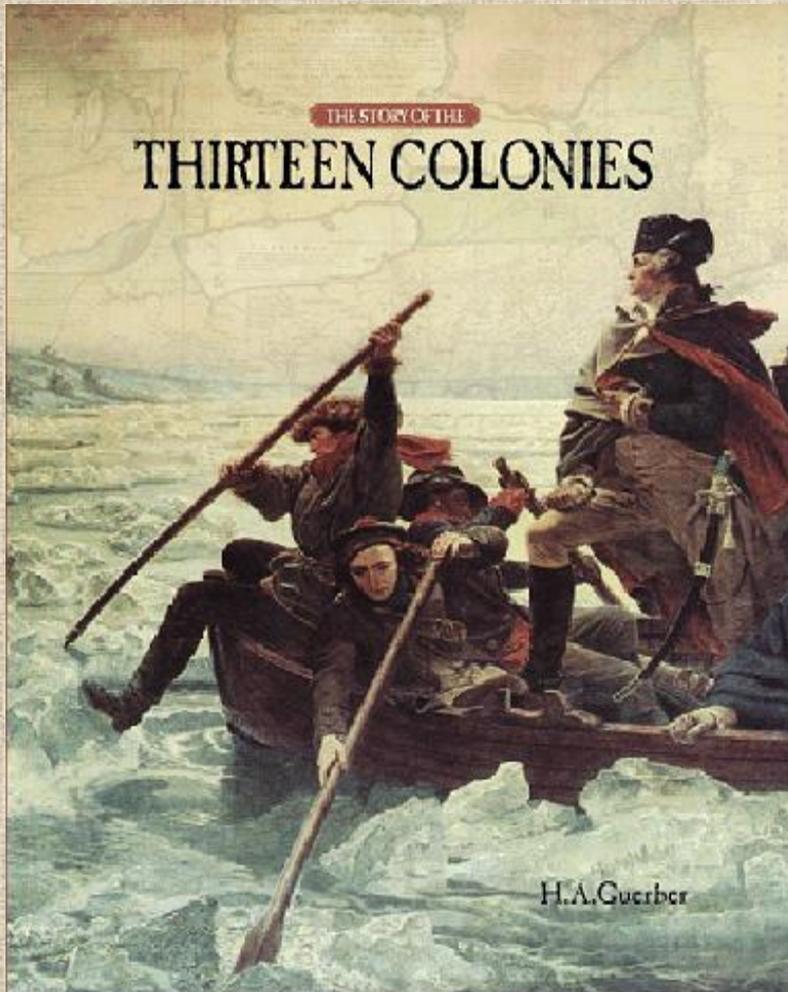
During the 1600's, European scientists tried to use logic or reason to understand the world. They developed theories and performed experiments to test them. In doing so they discovered many laws of nature. Isaac Newton, for example, explained how the force of gravity kept planets flying out of orbit. Because these great thinkers believed in the light of human reason, the movement was called the Enlightenment.

**Benjamin Franklin** was the best example of the Enlightenment spirit in the colonies. Franklin was born in 1706, the son of a poor Boston soap and candle maker. Franklin worked his way from poverty to becoming a very important colonial leader.

At age 17, Franklin ran away from Boston and made his way to Philadelphia. There, he built up a successful printing business. Franklin's many interests included science.

In 1752 he proved that lightening was a form of electricity. He flew a kite during a thunderstorm. A bolt of lightening struck the kite and caused an electrical spark. Like other Enlightenment thinkers, Franklin used reason to improve the world around him. Using what he learned; he invented the lightening rod to protect buildings during thunderstorms. Franklin also invented the stove and bifocal glasses. Franklin's practical inventions and public service made him gain worldwide fame.





# The End