

CHAPTER 4

Thirteen English Colonies

As English colonies were established on the eastern coast of North America, many Europeans—including the non-English—began to resettle there. Some sought economic opportunities—work and land. Others were escaping religious or political persecution.

At first, there were two kinds of colonies: **joint-stock company** ventures, backed by English merchants for profit, and **proprietary colonies**, given to the monarch's friends, who ran them subject to royal approval. By the early 1700s, all but three colonies were **royal colonies**, ruled by a governor appointed by the monarch. Connecticut and Rhode Island were self-governing, and Georgia was a proprietary colony until 1752 (see page 62).

Colonial communities reflected European economic, social, religious, and political patterns. But there were differences, stemming from local conditions:

- Geography influenced work patterns and the use and treatment of African slaves. Towns along shorelines and inland waterways grew stronger through trade.
- Religious leaders called for strictly enforced observance or toleration of differences.
- Social conditions dictated forms of government. Group survival and stability often took precedence over individual rights, equality, and privacy.

Such distinctions eventually grew into **sectionalism** (strong loyalty to one region within a larger territory or nation).



NEW ENGLAND COLONIES

Overview

Economics New England's rocky soil and long winters made farming difficult; farms were small and did not require a large workforce, as in the South. Many settlements were near the ocean, where the abundant fish were caught, salted, and dried both for home use and export.

New England had a brisk trade with Europe, the West Indies (Caribbean islands), and the other colonies. It exported foodstuffs, raw materials, and furs. Rum was particularly important in the African slave trade with Southern colonies and the West Indies. New England's infant industries included shipbuilding, ironmaking, and lumber.

Society/Religion With many settlers from the home country, New England's colonies were the most "English." There were fewer slaves than elsewhere; they were unneeded on farms, long winters provided little work for them, and, as in England, there was growing dislike of slavery.

Except in several colonies of **Separatists** (Protestants not associated with the Church of England), the Puritan faith dictated social life. Religious fervor ran so high that, in Salem, Massachusetts, in the late 1600s, it caused a witch-hunt for devil worshipers; a number of the accused were put to death.

Schooling was important to New Englanders. By the mid-1600s, all sizable towns had primary schools. Harvard College (now University) was founded in 1636.

Politics As elsewhere in the colonies, the companies or proprietors who ran New England colonies received charters from the monarch. Laws passed by colonial legislatures had to have royal approval. A distinctive feature of the region was the **town meeting**; everyone was free to speak on issues of the day, but only male property holders had the right to vote on them.

Plymouth In 1620, the Separatist Pilgrims sailed from the Netherlands, where they had resettled, to North America. Their ship, the *Mayflower*, landed at Plymouth Rock, Massachusetts. Onboard, the Pilgrims had signed an agreement, the *Mayflower Compact*; they promised to obey all laws for the common good and elect a representative government. This document was the first instrument of self-government in the English colonies.

Arriving in December, the colonists faced a harsh climate. They cut trees to build shelters. But food was scarce, and many sickened and died.

In the spring, friendly Algonquians taught them to plant, grow, and harvest the corn and vegetables native to the region. To round out their diet, they hunted, fished, and raised livestock. (Sheep, whose wool was used for clothing, were particularly valuable.) To mark the turn in their fortunes, the colonists held a ceremony of survival and invited the Algonquians; it continues to this day as the November holiday of Thanksgiving.

Under the Pilgrims' second governor, William Bradford, the colony prospered, although many members sought easier environments elsewhere. Most adult males

Signing the Mayflower Compact onboard



acquired property. The Pilgrims became financially secure by repaying loans to London merchants who had given them a head start.

Massachusetts Bay In 1630, a group of English Puritans established the Massachusetts Bay Colony. They had first landed at Salem on the coast and, led by Governor John Winthrop, expanded their settlement in and around Boston.

Puritans wanted religious freedom for themselves but did not extend it to others. Nevertheless, the colony grew when Puritans at home formed a joint-stock company and acquired rights to a large part of New England. It included Maine, New Hampshire, and, eventually, Plymouth Colony. New Hampshire was chartered as a separate colony in 1680; Maine remained part of Massachusetts Bay until 1820.

Rhode Island The religious intolerance that characterized Massachusetts Bay targeted Roger Williams, a Puritan minister, for his liberal opinions. He wanted Puritan congregations to be separate from the Church of England; he thought that the English had taken land from Native Americans illegally; and he opposed punishment for religious offenses. He and his followers were expelled and, in 1636, resettled on land purchased from the Narragansetts. At first, it was called Providence Plantations; later, Rhode Island.

The colony's diverse groups were held together by civil law based on religious equality and tolerance. Williams found in Hebrew scripture a pure expression of religion and believed that Christians would someday regret their harsh treatment of Jews. Rhode Island welcomed both Jews and Quakers; it was less tolerant of Roman Catholics.



Interior of Touro Synagogue, Newport, Rhode Island

| NEW ENGLAND COLONIES | | | | |
|----------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------|------------------|
| Date | Name | Type | Reason | Leader |
| 1620 | Plymouth* | Joint-stock | Religious freedom | William Bradford |
| 1630 | Massachusetts Bay | Joint-stock | Religious freedom | John Winthrop |
| 1636 | Rhode Island | Self-governing | Religious toleration | Roger Williams |
| 1636 | Connecticut | Self-governing | Religious toleration | Thomas Hooker |
| 1680 | New Hampshire | Royal | Religious freedom; trade | — |

*Part of Massachusetts Bay after 1691.

A renowned settler in Williams's Rhode Island was Anne Hutchinson, also expelled from Massachusetts for liberal views. She later resettled in New York.

Connecticut Also in 1636, Thomas Hooker, a Puritan unhappy in Massachusetts Bay Colony, led followers to Hartford in the Connecticut River Valley. In 1639, they drew up a set of laws, the *Fundamental Orders of Connecticut*. It was the first written constitution in the Americas. In 1662, King Charles II united all the settlements between Long Island Sound and southern Massachusetts as Connecticut Colony.



INFO CHECK

1. Explain the differences between a colony backed by a joint-stock company, a proprietorship, and a royal colony.
2. In what way were Pilgrims different from Puritans?
3. Name *two* reasons why Europeans became immigrants to the New England colonies. In your opinion, do modern immigrants to the United States come for the same or different reasons? Explain.



MIDDLE ATLANTIC COLONIES

Before the English takeover in 1664, the Middle Atlantic colonies—New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware—had been part of two non-English settlements: New Netherland and, further south along the Delaware River, New Sweden. (The Dutch, jealous of Swedish trade competition, moved on New Sweden in 1655.)

For the economic, social, religious, and political aspects of New York Colony, see Chapter 3, English Takeover (pp. 34–36). Details about the other three Middle Atlantic colonies follow.

New Jersey In 1664, the duke of York granted the land between the Hudson and Delaware rivers to George Carteret and John Berkeley as proprietors. To lure settlers, they promised land, religious freedom, and representative government. New Jersey grew as English Puritans and Separatists (notably Quakers), Scots, Scotch-

Irish, and Germans poured in. As in New York and the other Middle Atlantic colonies, there was a blend of customs and cultures. Thus, a more cosmopolitan (worldly) point of view became common, especially in heavily settled areas and large cities.

New Jersey's economic livelihood mirrored New York's—fur trading, export-import enterprises, and artisan businesses. Lumber and ironmaking were growing industries. The relatively mild climate and fertile soil made small farms profitable.

Quakers bought Berkeley's rights, and a mixed group of settlers bought those of Carteret. In 1702, both sections were united as the royal colony of New Jersey.

Pennsylvania In 1681, Charles II gave a large tract of land west of New Jersey to William Penn. As a devout Quaker, Penn was a **pacifist** opposed to war, soldiering, and taxes for military purposes. His plan was to establish a colony devoted to peace, self-government, and political and religious equality. In 1683, he founded the capital city of Philadelphia.


Penn's principles attracted the usual mix of nationalities, as well as differing religious sects—Quakers, Presbyterians, Germans of various denominations, even Irish Catholics. In addition, Penn paid Native Americans fairly for their land and vowed to maintain peaceful relations with them, which he did.

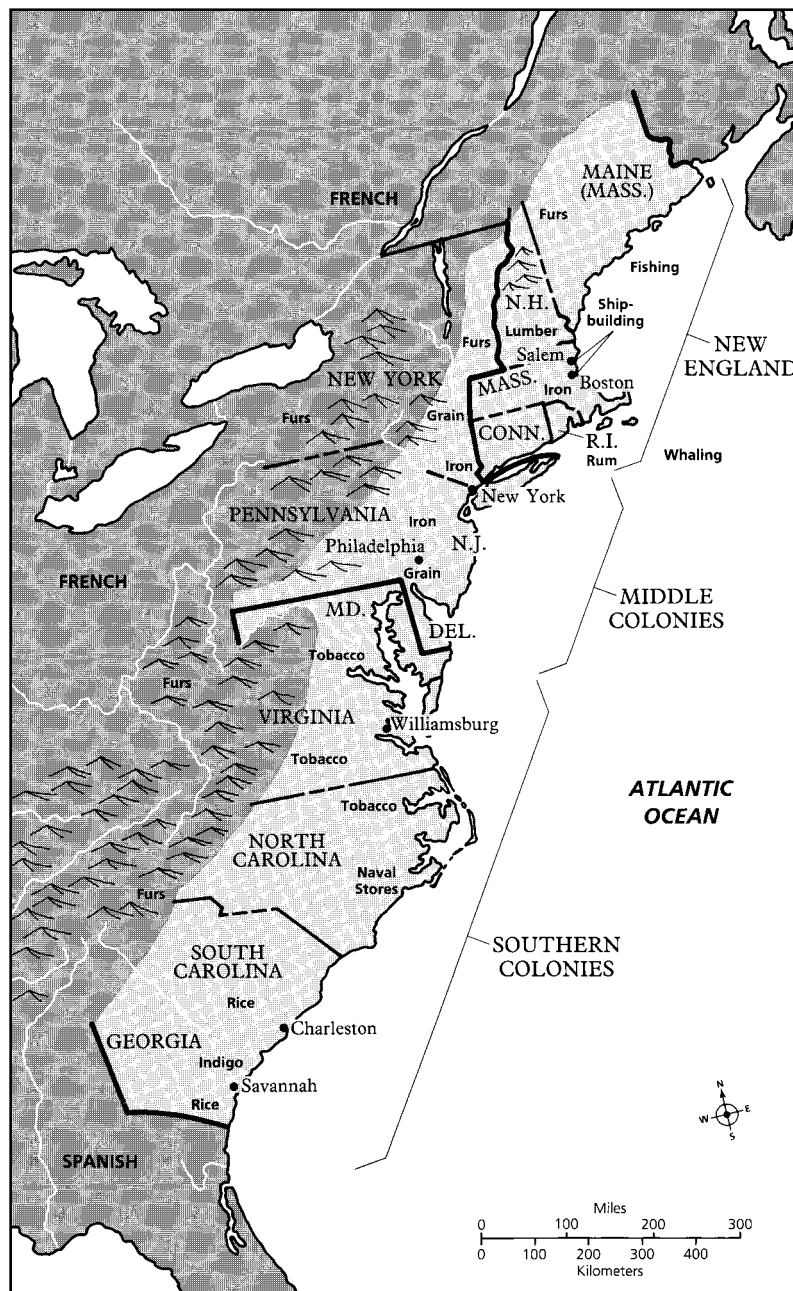
In 1682, Penn drafted a *Frame of Government*, which set up a governor (answerable to Penn), a council, and an elected assembly. Soon, laws were passed protecting the poor and orphans, requiring fair trials, and assuring humane punishments.

Penn's enlightened approach to colonization was reflected in Pennsylvania's quick growth and economic success. As elsewhere in the Middle Atlantic colonies, agriculture, trade, and infant industries prospered. By 1710, Philadelphia was the largest city in the English colonies.

Delaware In 1664, New Sweden became English, and its new owner, the duke of York, renamed it Delaware. It remained a fairly lightly settled area in which fur trading was the major enterprise.

Recognizing that Pennsylvania lacked one asset—a seaport—the duke gave it Delaware (with its port capital of Wilmington). In 1703, Delaware again became a separate colony, although it shared a governor with Pennsylvania until the late 1700s.

|  MIDDLE ATLANTIC COLONIES | | | | |
|---|--------------|--------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Date | Name | Type | Reason | Leader |
| 1664 | New York | Proprietary; royal | Trade and commerce | Duke of York; Peter Minuit |
| 1664 | New Jersey | Proprietary; royal | Trade and commerce; religious tolerance | George Carteret; John Berkeley |
| 1664 | Delaware | Royal; proprietary | Trade | Duke of York; William Penn |
| 1681 | Pennsylvania | Proprietary | Religious tolerance; pacifism | William Penn |



The Thirteen English Colonies (1750)



INFO CHECK

1. Identify: New Sweden, Quaker, pacifist.
2. How did the social and religious aspects of Pennsylvania differ from those of Massachusetts Bay?
3. Which of the Middle Atlantic colonies was probably the least cosmopolitan? Why?



SOUTHERN COLONIES

Overview

Economics The Southern colonies, from Maryland south to Georgia, shared a (1) wide **coastal plain** (level or rolling land), (2) warm to hot climate, and (3) long growing season. Agriculture was the region's economic backbone. Small farmers raised grains, vegetables, fruits, and livestock. Many-acred **plantations** raised one or more cash crops on a large scale. Artisans produced essential goods (barrels, tools, leather, and such). Extensive forests provided lumber and wood by-products. Adventurous colonists traveled far inland to fur-trade with Native American trappers.

The Southern colonies traded mainly with England—colonial cash crops and raw materials for English furniture, cloth, tableware, wine, and tea. They also did a flourishing business with colonial and European slave traders.

Society/Religion The aristocrats of the South were plantation owners. Unaccustomed to hard work in the home country, as early colonists they struggled first to survive and then to build up and maintain extensive landholdings.

Plantations required many hardworking laborers. Colonists were unwilling, so slavery took hold in the South as nowhere else. Considered property, slaves were attached to the land unless sold by their owners. Many slave families were thus split up cruelly. Lacking family security, slaves turned to religion—a mix of Christianity, adopted from owners, and old African rites and beliefs.

The first colonies in the South were settled when Anglicanism was the established Church of England. (Anglicanism won out over Puritanism again in the late 1600s.) It therefore became the official church of the Southern colonies, with the exception of Maryland, a haven for religious tolerance.

Politics Each of the Southern colonies began as a joint-stock venture or a proprietorship. As such, they had appointed governors and more and less democratic legislatures. By the late 1600s, however, all (except for still-uncolonized Georgia) had become royal colonies directly answerable to the monarch—in theory if not always in practice.

Virginia The first permanent settlement in America was Jamestown, Virginia (1607). The London Company hoped to profit from metal mining and trade with Native Americans. It was a bad beginning. The site was swampy, the Indians hostile, and mining took preference over food and shelter. More than half the settlers died.

Captain John Smith took the lead and inspired settlers to plant crops, build homes, and seek food and aid from the natives. He returned to England, however, and without him the colony almost died. The winter of 1609–1610 was the “starving time.” The Company then sent a new governor, Lord Delaware, more settlers—including women—and fresh supplies to help the colony keep going.

The main thing discouraging settlement was Company ownership of all the land. When it agreed to individual land ownership, settlers worked harder, and the prospering colony attracted many newcomers.

The biggest boost was tobacco farming. In the 1500s, tobacco became hugely popular in Europe. And it grew easily in Virginia, as a Jamestown settler, John Rolfe, discovered. He developed it as a cash crop for export and became very rich. Soon, Virginia plantations raised tobacco on a very large scale.



**House of
Burgesses, 1619**

Africans, who worked the tobacco fields, first arrived on a Dutch ship in 1619 as indentured servants. Many ships carrying Africans followed, and they were soon being sold as slaves.

Also in 1619, the Company allowed colonists to elect the first representative assembly in America, the *House of Burgesses*. Although Virginia became a royal colony in 1624, the House of Burgesses continued to share power with the governor and royal council.

Maryland Cecilius Calvert, Lord Baltimore, inherited from his father a charter (issued by Charles I) to land north of Virginia. As a Roman Catholic, he wanted to establish a refuge for others of his faith. The first settlement, St. Marys City, was made at the mouth of the Potomac River in 1634. It prospered immediately, mainly because its climate and soil were ideal for growing tobacco.

Maryland extended religious toleration to all Christians. Settlers poured in from other colonies, and there were soon more Protestants than Catholics. To discourage disputes between denominations, the assembly passed the *Toleration Act* in 1649. It formally granted religious freedom to all Christians, the first colonial law to do so. The guarantee, however, did not extend to non-Christians. In 1689, the Protestants turned against the Catholic population. In 1692, Maryland became a royal colony.

North and South Carolina In 1653, Virginians moved south into the Carolina region and began settlements along the Chowan River.

In 1663, a formal charter to Carolina was granted to eight proprietors. They wished to encourage settlement by offering land on good terms, religious freedom, and a representative assembly. Their first settlers arrived in 1670 and founded Charles Town (Charleston), which had a fine harbor and grew into the colony's



Colonial Charles Town, South Carolina, 1762

commercial center. Carolina attracted many nationalities and Protestants of every persuasion—Anglicans, English Separatists, French Huguenots.


The northern and southern areas were distinct. In the north, tobacco grew well, and pine forests provided shipbuilding products known as **naval stores** (pitch, tar, turpentine). In the south, the cash crops were rice and indigo (source of a blue dye).

Increasingly, colonists and their assemblies feuded with the proprietors' agents. In 1729, North Carolina and South Carolina became separate royal colonies.

Georgia George II granted James Oglethorpe and his trustees the right to found a colony, Georgia, where English debtors could make a fresh start. (In England, they were jailed.) A second purpose was to provide a colonial barrier to Spanish expansion north from Florida.


The first settlers arrived in 1733 and founded the seaport of Savannah. Georgia also attracted settlers from the Carolinas, Scotland, Wales, Switzerland, and Germany. From the first, it thrived on the export of such cash crops as rice, indigo, and sugar.

The colonists, however, objected to such trustee policies as small plots of land and a ban against slavery. In 1752, Georgia became a royal colony.

|  SOUTHERN COLONIES | | | | |
|--|----------------|--------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Date | Name | Type | Reason | Leader |
| 1607 | Virginia | Joint-stock; royal | Trade and commerce | John Smith, Lord Delaware |
| 1634 | Maryland | Proprietary; royal | Religious toleration | Cecilius Calvert |
| 1653 | North Carolina | Proprietary; royal | Religious toleration; trade | — |
| 1670 | South Carolina | Proprietary; royal | Religious toleration, trade | — |
| 1733 | Georgia | Proprietary; royal | Debtors' colony; trade | James Oglethorpe |

**DEMOCRATIC ROOTS IN THE COLONIAL EXPERIENCE**

In all three regions of the thirteen colonies, colonists learned something about the uses of democracy in daily life. The following table summarizes this experience:

|  DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS IN THE THIRTEEN COLONIES | |
|---|---|
| Institution/Year | Significance |
| Virginia House of Burgesses (1619) | First colonial representative government, by which Virginia Company gave its colonists the right to elect representatives to colonial legislature. |
| Mayflower Compact (1620) | Self-governing plan to pass and obey just and equal laws; set precedents for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • direct democracy (citizens as lawmakers) • acceptance of majority rule • equal treatment under the law. |
| New England town meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • government by direct democracy • male property owners to conduct town affairs and execute laws • elected representatives to serve in colonial legislature. |
| Fundamental Orders of Connecticut (1639) | First written constitution; provided for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • loyal citizens to elect legislative assembly • government by will of majority. |
| Maryland Toleration Act (1649) | Grant of religious freedom to all Christians. |
| Flushing Remonstrance (1657) | First colonial document to defend religious freedom from threats by appointed governor (Stuyvesant). |

**INFO CHECK**

1. Identify: coastal plain, plantation, naval stores.
2. Explain how the Southern colonies differed from other regions in physical features, trade, and slave ownership.
3. What is the significance of Virginia's House of Burgesses? Maryland's Toleration Act?
4. In what way was the founding of Georgia different from that of any other English colony?



CHAPTER REVIEW

Multiple-Choice Questions

1. The physical environment of New England is characterized by
 1. rich soil but a poor growing climate
 2. clay soil and a long growing season
 3. stony soil and a short growing season
 4. rich soil and an excellent growing climate.
2. Plymouth Colony was organized by
 1. Separatists
 2. Catholics
 3. Quakers
 4. Anglicans.
3. By signing the Mayflower Compact, colonists agreed to
 1. respect laws for the common good and elect a representative government
 2. remain loyal to England and establish laws for the good of the colony
 3. remain loyal to the Church of England and follow its strict moral code
 4. conquer new territory for the home country.
4. William Penn was a
 1. Pilgrim
 2. Puritan
 3. Anglican
 4. pacifist.
5. William Penn and the Quakers founded Pennsylvania for
 1. religious tolerance
 2. trade in furs and gold
 3. the benefit of debtors
 4. the conversion of Native Americans to Christianity.
6. The Southern colonies imported enslaved Africans
 1. to serve as dock workers
 2. because of the needs of plantation agriculture
 3. as craftspersons and mechanics
 4. to recreate the social environment in England.
7. Tobacco was a cash crop because it was
 1. sold to other colonies and to Europe
 2. not used by the colonists who grew it
 3. a source of funds needed for gold mining
 4. used by the colonists as money.
8. The House of Burgesses
 1. ceased to exist when Virginia became a royal colony
 2. was the first elected representative assembly in the colonies
 3. was a partnership of Northern and Southern bankers
 4. was the monarch's official residence in Virginia.
9. North and South Carolina
 1. were originally part of Georgia
 2. were founded as one colony
 3. began as a refuge for Quakers
 4. attracted few foreigners.
10. Georgia was established
 1. to prevent the French from moving in from the north
 2. to assure religious toleration for all its settlers
 3. to give debtors a chance to start a new life
 4. to serve as a prison settlement for criminals.

Constructed-Response Questions

Base your answers to questions 1–3 on the tables on pages 50, 51, and 55.

1. Identify one colony and its region.
2. Describe how its location determined its economic development.
3. How might location lead to regional differences? Explain.

Base your answers to questions 4 and 5 on the quotation on page 39.

4. Explain the meaning of this document.
5. Compare and contrast the condition of indentured servitude with slavery.

Document-Based Question

Part A: Short Answer

*Study each document and answer the question(s) following it. Then read the **Task** and write your essay. It should include references to most of the document, along with additional information based on your knowledge of social studies.*

HISTORICAL CONTEXT: Colonial communities were centers of economic, social, and political life. Although these communities had distinctive identities, they tended to develop according to European patterns.

DOCUMENT 1. Refer to the map on page 52.

1. What types of industries or products were typical of each region?
2. How did geography have an impact on the development of each region's economy?

DOCUMENT 2. Refer to the illustration on page 48.

3. What region was associated with the Mayflower Compact?
4. Explain how the Mayflower Compact reflected the political tradition of those who signed it.

DOCUMENT 3. Refer to the table on page 50.

5. What kinds of colonies were established in New England?
6. What was the major reason for establishing these colonies?

DOCUMENT 4. Reread the third paragraph of the section "Pennsylvania" on page 51.

7. Who wrote the Frame of Government?
8. Explain how this document was based on English tradition.

DOCUMENT 5. Reread the section "Economics" on page 53.

9. How did the geography of the Southern colonies influence its economic development?

DOCUMENT 6. Reread the last paragraph of the section "Virginia" on page 54 and refer to the illustration on page 54.

10. How did the government of Virginia differ from the forms of government in New England?

Part B: Essay

TASK

- Name the regions into which the thirteen colonies were divided.
- Select *one* region:
Describe how the region's colonies developed their own economic *or* social *or* political identities.
Describe how these identities reflected the people's economic *or* social *or* political traditions.
- Explain how the region you selected developed its own identity and how it differed from those of the other two regions.