

# Colonization and Settlement

*Colonization and Settlement  
(1585–1763)*



The New World

**The thirteen colonies**

Religion and commerce

Ruling America

## Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

**Icons:** For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will find out about the three broad groups of English colonies that settled in America:

- The American environment
- New England Colonies
- Middle Colonies
- Southern Colonies.





The English settlers founded thirteen colonies on the east coast of North America. They all had different environments and were settled by different people. Over time, this affected how the colonies developed. Press on each group of colonies to find out more about the environment in that region.

Press **start** to begin.

start





Plymouth Colony was one of the first permanent colonial settlements in America and the first in New England, being settled in 1620. It was sponsored by the Plymouth Company which received a charter from the King in 1606.

It was settled by **Puritan Separatists** who fled England to escape religious persecution.

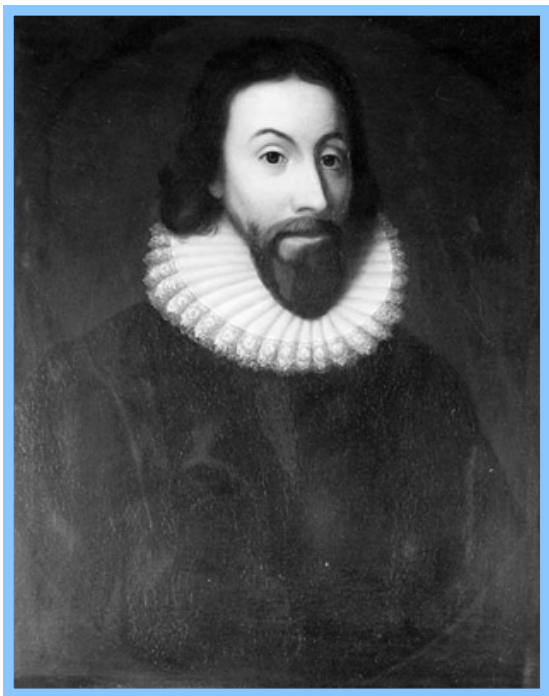
The structure of government in the colony was determined by the **Mayflower Compact**, an early form of American democracy. William Bradford was the first governor.



What did the Puritans believe?  
How were the Separatists different?



Massachusetts Bay Colony was chartered in 1629 and sponsored by the Massachusetts Bay Company. About 1,000 settlers in 17 ships arrived in 1630. This arrival was the biggest and best-planned expedition to America so far.



John Winthrop, the first governor, was a Separatist who wanted to forge a new life in New England.

Boston was the capital of the colony and several settlements were built around it. Massachusetts Bay Colony **annexed** Plymouth Colony in 1691.





New England was one of the first places  
in America to be colonized.

The settlers largely left England to  
escape religious persecution and build  
a Puritan community.

Press on the buttons to find out more  
about the people and their society.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**





Jamestown, Virginia was the first permanent English colony established in America after it was settled in 1607. Explore the settlement to find out more about the settlers and how they lived in the early years of the colony.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**







Between 1645 and 1670, approximately 50,000 men, women, and children came from England to Virginia.

- Virginia was controlled by a small group of powerful royalist aristocrats.
- There were four men to every woman and three-quarters of immigrants were aged 15–24.
- As a group they were largely illiterate and about 65% were unskilled or semi-skilled farmers.
- 75% of all Virginia immigrants were **indentured servants**, many of whom had been kidnapped.



How did this migration differ from New England?



# Social tensions in Virginia



Colonial Virginia was not an equal society and that caused a lot of tension. It was ruled by an elite group of **cavaliers** recruited by Governor William Berkeley, the “first families.” Beneath them was a much larger class of rural and semi-skilled workers and an increasing number of slaves.



Berkeley managed to corrupt the **House of Burgesses** and came to rule Virginia almost as an **autocrat**. By 1670, voting in Virginia was restricted to landowners, which ensured that the same people would be re-elected. This was maintained even as the population grew.



**Bacon's Rebellion** was the largest popular uprising in colonial American history. Nathaniel Bacon and his army almost succeeded in overthrowing Governor Berkeley and taking control of Virginia. Watch this animation to find out about the causes and events of the rebellion.

Press **start** to begin.

**start**



What significance did the event have for the colonies?



Many of the Middle Colonies were **proprietary colonies**. These were colonies where a charter was granted to an individual rather than a commercial venture.

Proprietary colonies represented a commitment to permanent settlement that provided the proprietor with land and power, in some cases almost absolute power.

The first proprietary charter was granted to George Calvert, Lord Baltimore in 1632. He established a colony for Roman Catholics as a refuge against discrimination. This colony was Maryland.



Do you know why the proprietary colonies are also sometimes called the restoration colonies?



Pennsylvania was a Middle Colony known for its tolerance. It was founded by William Penn on **Quaker** principles,.



William Penn was granted a land charter by the Crown in 1681. Having been persecuted in England, he wanted to create a colony based on Quaker principles of equality and religious tolerance.



Penn's success attracted settlers from across Europe. Where did most of them come from?



Charters were granted to many individuals to rule over territories in the colonies.

Although the ownership changed over time, these colonies all began as proprietary colonies. Can you match the colony to the proprietor?

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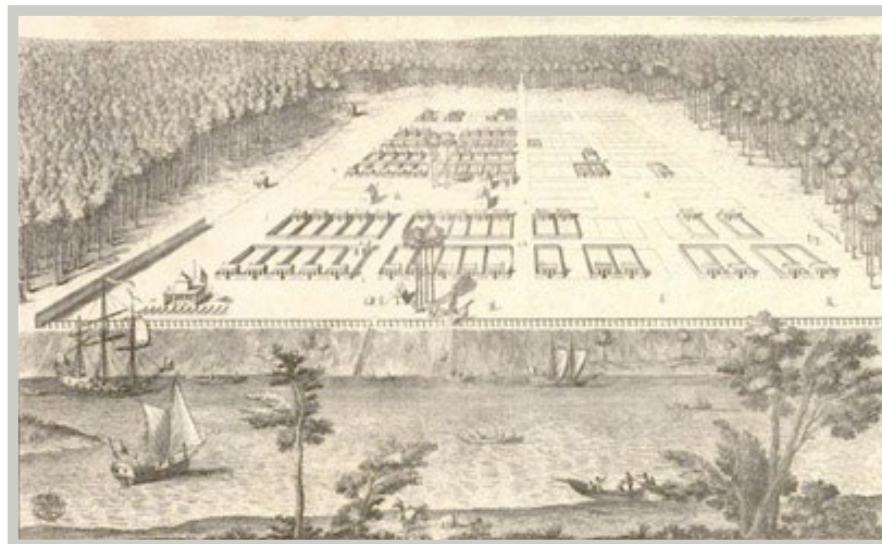
**start**





As in New England, immigrants to the region tended to come as families. Most were semi-skilled farmers. There were very few indentured servants.

The settlers' origins were remarkably homogeneous; most were Scottish, Irish, or from northern England.



The Southern Colonies covered a huge area populated by warlike Native American tribes. The colonists' geographic origins and the hostile environment served to encourage fierce independence and culturally conservative values.

Can you name any prominent Native American tribes?



The thirteen British colonies were settled on the east coast of America.

Use this interactive map to view the location of the colonies, some early settlements and the year in which each colony was first settled by pressing them on the menu pane.

Press **start** to begin.

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