

The Colonies

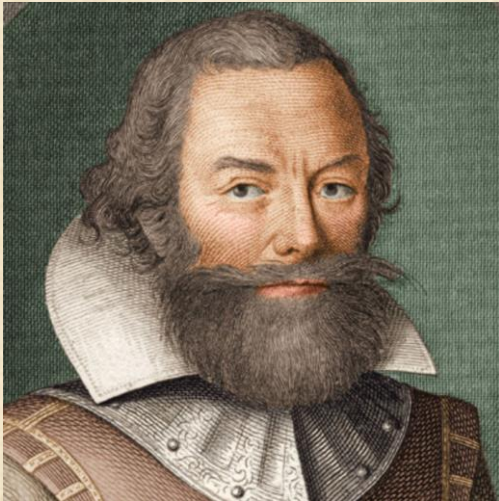


Southern Colonies

- **Jamestown:** the first permanent English settlement in North America.
- A lack of preparation cost a lot of the colonists their lives.
 - Most men who came to James town were adventurers with no farming experience or useful skills such as carpentry.
 - Jamestown was unfortunately surrounded by marshes, or swampland, full of disease-carrying mosquitos.
 - By winter, 2/3 of the original colonists had died.



- Jamestown came under control of **John Smith**, an English settler.
 - He forced settlers to work harder and to build better housing by creating rules that rewarded harder workers with food.
 - Under John Smith's guidance, Jamestown also received help from the Powhatan Native Americans.
 - The Powhatan brought food to settlers and even taught them how to grow corn.
- **The Starving Time:** the winter of 1609, a harsh winter and more disease hit the colony. Of the 400 colonists at the beginning of winter, only 60 survived the harsh conditions.



Southern Colonies - Identity

- Plantations: The south was filled with plantations that grew cash crops. Each plantation was like it's own town. People lived far apart and there was almost no manufacturing or other business.
 - Cash crops: crops that yielded a lot of money – indigo, tobacco, rice.
- Tidewater Aristocracy: Because the plantations were large and few, a small number of wealthy people lived in the South. A very small percentage of the population controlled all of the money and power.
 - The wealthiest planters lived along the Tidewater section, which had good soil and navigable rivers.

- Dependence on Slavery: Even though only a small percentage of the citizens owned slaves, the agricultural economy relied on slavery.
 - Why were slaves such an important part of the south's economy?
- Population Imbalance: There were many more slaves than slave owners. Slaveholders lived in fear of *rebellion*. This fear caused local governments to tighten their slave codes.



Table Talk

- In your opinion, what kept slaves from rebelling? Why didn't they fight back?
- In the early years of colonization, agriculture relied on slavery. How do you think this would impact the future of what would become America?

North Colonies

- Pilgrims and Puritans:
 - Religious tensions were increasing in England.
 - A protestant group called the **Puritans** wanted to purify, or reform, the Anglican Church.
 - This group of Puritans were being punished for their beliefs, so they fled England. The group of Puritans who came to America were called **Pilgrims**.
 - These pilgrims were **immigrants** – people who left their country of birth to live in another country.



- The male Pilgrims on the ship setting sail for America decided to sign a **Mayflower Compact**, which was a legal contract in which they agreed to have fair laws to protect the general good.
 - This is the first law of the Northern Colonies.
- The Pilgrims met the Native Americans, who taught them to fertilize soil, and to plant and harvest crops.

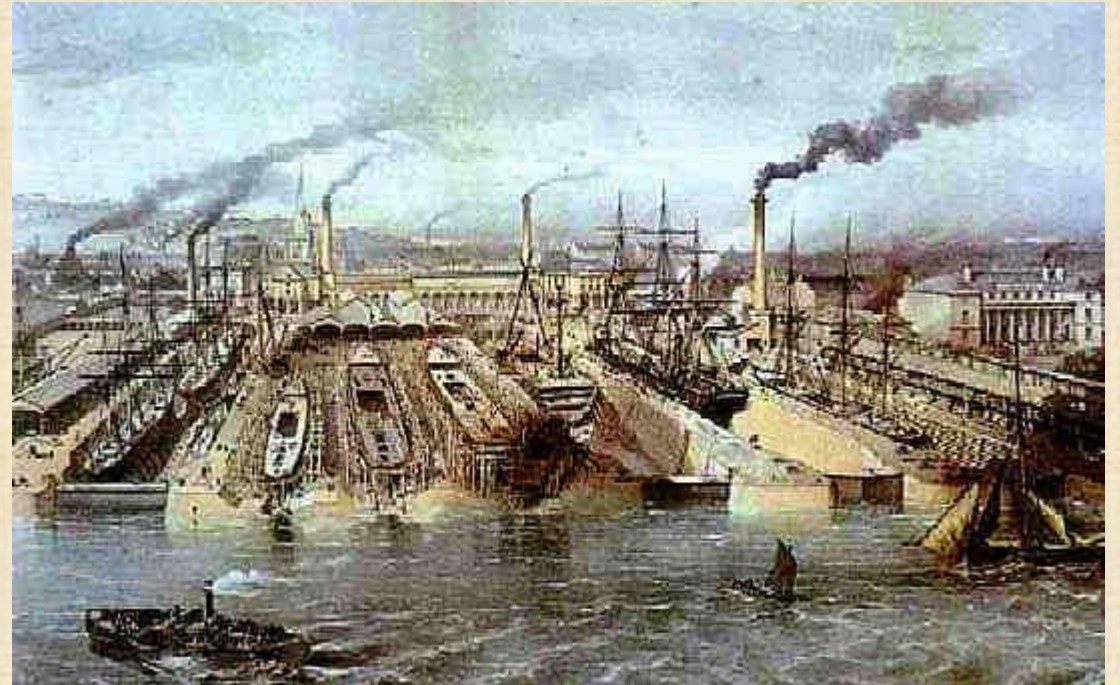


Northern Identity

- Town Life: New Englanders revolved around the meetinghouse and church, which were usually in the same building. The meeting house usually faced a town green, which was shared land that belonged to the town. New Englanders owned small farms for subsistence farming, and lived close to neighbors.
 - Meetinghouse: a place where laws were made.
 - Subsistence farming: small, family-owned farms where crops were grown for the town's use.
- Trade and Industry: Unable to raise cash crops (due to long winter and poor soil), New England depended on trade, mills, lumber, whaling, fishing, fur trading, and ship building.



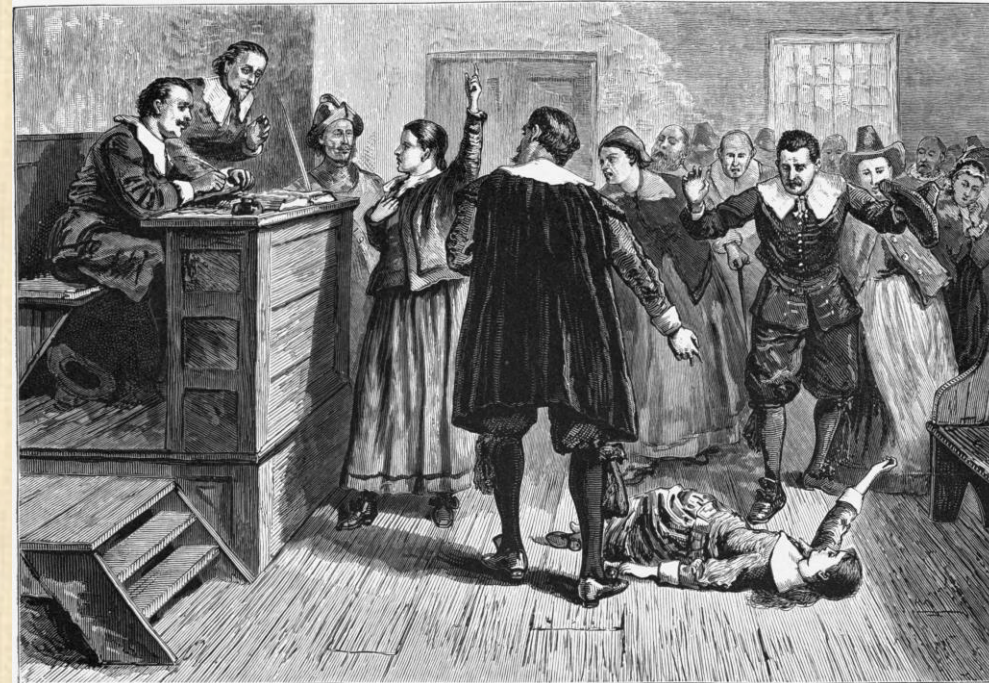
- Limited use of slavery: With no large plantations, there were few slaves. However, Northern merchants did engage in the slave trade and profited from it.
- Puritan Values: New Englanders adopted puritan values of hard work, modesty, and education. Massachusetts **mandated** schools in any town of more than 50 households. Puritan values did not include the tolerance of religious differences.
 - Mandated: required, usually by law.



- Women in the Northern Colonies:
 - Women had interesting roles in the Northern Colonies – unlike life in England, they could sign contracts, go before the court, and even widows could own land.
 - Arguably, women had more rights during Colonial times than the decades after the American Revolution.



- Politics and Religion were very important to the Puritan colonies – their governments/laws reflected the religion they so desperately fought to preserve.
- Education: The Northern Colonies also provided public education – something future lawmakers and framers of the United States would put a lot of importance on.



The Middle Colonies

- The middle colonies were very similar to the North and South colonies.
- However, there were a couple of minor differences:
 - The Middle colonies had a good climate and rich farmland, so the Middle Colonies grew large amounts of **staple crops** – crops that are always needed. The Middle Colonies did not suffer the same starvation issues that the Southern colonies did.
 - Slaves were more important to the Middle Colonies as well.
 - They worked in cities as blacksmiths and carpenters
 - Women worked in and out of the home – many women worked in pharmacies, bakeries, and worked as nurses and midwives.

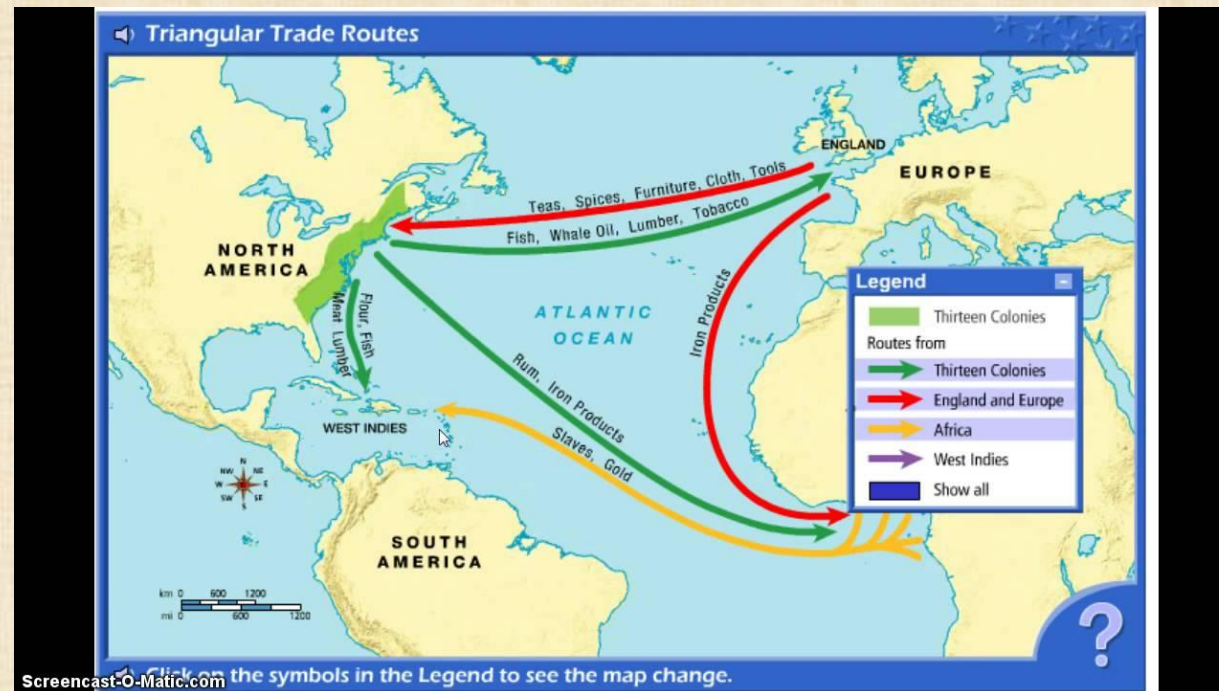
Middle Colonies Identity

- Mixed Agriculture and Industry: The Middle Colonies grew some cash crops, especially grain, fruits, and vegetables.
 - They also developed industries like lumber, ironworking, and forestry. Trade was made easier because of access to cities like New York and Philadelphia.
- Mixed use of slavery: Slaves were forced to work in both cities and on farms. Some were able to make money when their slaveholders allowed them to work as shipbuilders or ironworkers, but the owners would take part of their pay.
- Mixed populations: due to immigrants living in the middle colonies, there were diverse populations with different backgrounds.



Life in the Colonies

- Had different laws, governments, courts and more.
 - When England adopted the English **Bill of Rights** – this act reduced the powers of the English monarch – the Colonies adopted the law as well.
 - The Colonies adopted **Triangular Trade** as well – which was a system in which goods and slaves were traded among the Americas, Britain, and Africa.



Conflict in the Colonies

- As Great Britain raised taxes, the Colonists became increasingly angry.
- Many Colonists felt upset that they were being taxed but not represented.
 - What is the phrase the Colonists adopted to emphasize their anger at this increased taxation?

