

Unit 2

Colonial
America
1607-1780s



The 1600s and 1700s were a time of transition: Colonies and the institution of slavery were established, along with trade networks, regional identities, and, in the end, states. The goals of the first English settlers in Virginia were very different from the goals of those who followed. Thomas Jefferson, Patrick Henry, and George Washington, who were all born in Virginia, viewed themselves as British living in the New World. They wouldn't stand being denied their rights as Englishmen....

Chapter 4

SLAVERY IN THE AMERICAS

PLANTATIONS

WANTED CHEAP LABOR

SLAVES

Sugar became a major export to Europe, but harvesting sugarcane involved tough conditions.

Initially, Native Americans

were forced to work on Spanish and

Portuguese plantations. Diseases from the

Columbian Exchange and constant labor

killed much of this population. The Spanish

and Portuguese decided they needed

another source of labor: **SLAVES**

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BECAME KNOWN AS "WHITE GOLD"

MOST SUGAR PLANTATIONS WERE IN THE

WEST INDIES.

SLAVERY

the practice of one person legally owning another; involuntary servitude for life passed down to future generations

When the British began to set up TOBACCO PLANTATIONS in North America, they needed more laborers. By the 1700s, sadly, every colony in the Americas imported slaves from Africa.

Plantation owners thought that Africans were ideal workers for plantations because:

They were far from home, so they didn't have a free place to run away to.

UNLIKE MANY NATIVE AMERICANS, WHO RAN FROM THE TERRIBLE WORK CONDITIONS.

Plantation owners could enslave the slaves' children.

Many of the slaves had been farmers, so they had experience.

They already had immunity to the diseases that killed Native Americans.

THE TRIANGULAR TRADE

The slave trade was part of THE TRIANGULAR TRADE, a trade route with three stops: Africa, the West Indies, and the Americas.

AMERICAN COLONIES



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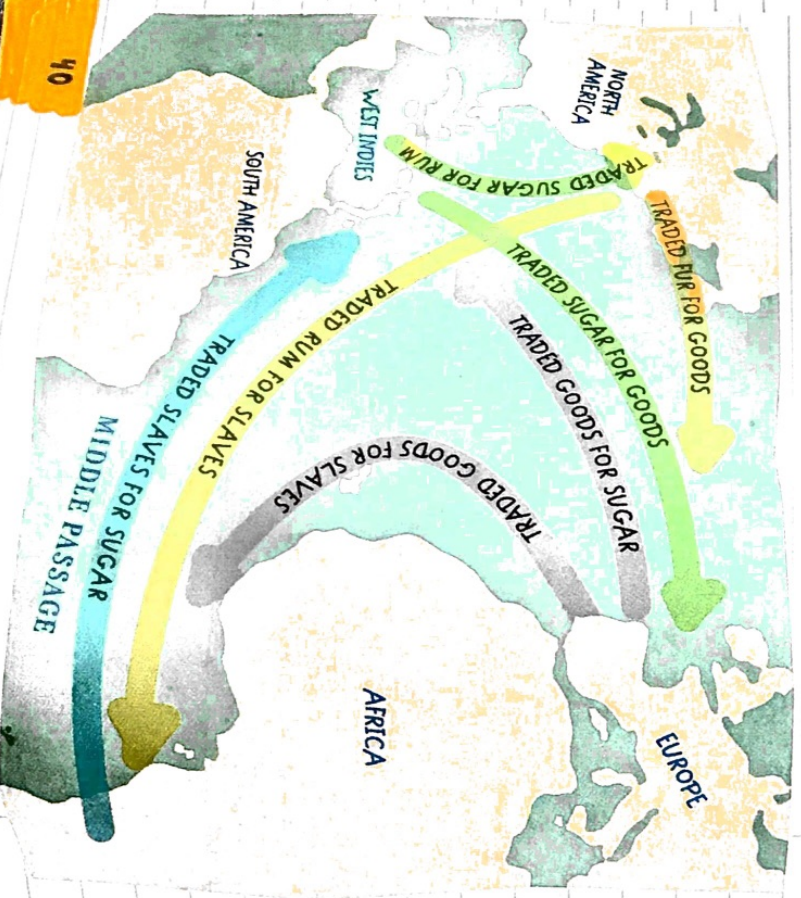
The Triangular Trade was just one part of a larger exchange of goods and slaves that included Europe.

FOR EXAMPLE:

Europe had manufactured goods (like textiles) but needed raw materials (like furs or tobacco).

Africa had slaves but needed manufactured goods.

The West Indies had raw materials (like sugar and molasses) but wanted slaves, and New England had rum (made from molasses) and iron but needed more goods.



The MIDDLE PASSAGE

The middle leg of the Triangular Trade, when ships left Africa with a cargo of slaves, was the MIDDLE PASSAGE. Because slaves were considered mere property, they were crammed together, given little food, exposed to disease, and otherwise abused and mistreated. About fifteen percent died during the middle passage en route to the colonies.

OLAUDAH EQUIANO was a slave brought to Virginia from Africa in the 1700s as a child. After buying his freedom, he wrote an autobiography depicting the horrors of slavery, which helped influence British lawmakers to abolish the slave trade.

LAWS ABOUT SLAVERY

Many colonies enacted SLAVE CODES. Slave codes varied from colony to colony, but they all considered slaves property and granted them almost no rights. Slave codes were meant to define the status of slaves, as well as the owner's responsibilities to them, to discourage slaves from running away. Those who did try to escape were severely punished.

NOT THE COLOR—MORE LIKE BEING MARRONED ON AN ISLAND!



Runaway slaves in Latin America were known as MARRONS. Maroons formed communities in forests or swamps, sometimes joining with Native Americans. Slaves also rebelled. The Stono Rebellion of 1739, the New York City Conspiracy of 1741, and Gabriel's Conspiracy of 1800 are just a few examples.

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS



- 1 Sugar tobacco
- 2 Native Americans were killed off by European disease and the constant and terrible labor conditions. They were also more likely to run away.
- 3 They had immunity to European diseases, they had farm experience, and they had no homes to run to.
- 4 The American colonies, West Indies, and Africa
- 5 The part of the Triangular Trade between Africa and the Americas
- 6 An escaped slave in Latin America
- 7 Trick question—they encouraged each other to grow.

★ Chapter 5 ★

JAMESTOWN: VIRGINIA DO-OVER

If at **FIRST YOU DON'T SUCCEED**...

Although the Roanoke Colony failed, the English were determined. A group of merchants formed the **VIRGINIA COMPANY OF LONDON** to make money from the colonies. On April 26, 1607, approximately 125 settlers reached the Chesapeake Bay and founded the first permanent English settlement in North America, **JAMESTOWN**, on the banks of the **JAMES RIVER**.

WHAT'S WITH ALL THE JAMESES?

After Queen Elizabeth I died in 1603, James I became king of England. The settlers named Jamestown and the James River in his honor.



The JAMESTOWN SETTLERS



Although Jamestown eventually survived, most of its first settlers were, let's say, misguided:

They settled on an island near the river because it could be a defensive position against the Spanish, Native Americans, and others (should they approach by water), but the **WATER WAS DIRTY AND UNDRINKABLE** for most of the year.

It was bitterly cold in winter, humid in summer, and full of **DISEASE-CARRYING MOSQUITOES** because of the marshy conditions.

Most of the settlers were rich adventurers or explorers, not craftsmen or laborers, so they **FOCUSED ON SEARCHING FOR GOLD** (of which there was little) instead of building houses or planting food.

It is no surprise that fewer than half of the settlers survived past their first winter.

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JOHN SMITH

Jamestown was in trouble, so in 1608, **CAPTAIN JOHN SMITH** took charge. Smith forced people to plant and build ("Work or starve"), and Jamestown prospered. Smith developed relations with **CHIEF POWHATAN**, leader of the powerful local Native American group called the **POWHATAN CONFEDERACY**, who taught the English settlers how to grow maize and have something to eat. But...

THE STARVING TIME

In 1609, about 400 more settlers arrived, including women and children. When John Smith returned to England because of an injury, disease and famine began to take over. Only about 60 people survived the winter of 1609-1610 (**THE STARVING TIME**). People were so hungry they ate anything in reach (maybe even each other). Relations with the Native Americans fell apart. Concerned about the fate of Jamestown, in 1610 the Virginia Company of London sent them a new governor, **LORD DE LA WARR** ("Delaware" was named for him later), to set things right again.

CONFEDERACY
an alliance between
sovereign states

Jamestown was the first permanent **ENGLISH** settlement in North America. The Spanish town of St. Augustine, Florida (remember: explorer Ponce de León), was the first permanent **SPANISH** settlement in North America.

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JOHN ROLFE

JOHN ROLFE, one of the successful settlers at Jamestown, was the first colonist to cultivate tobacco for export. A cash crop initially grown

mainly in the West Indies, tobacco was hugely profitable for the Virginia Company, and therefore made the settlement profitable for the first time. In 1614, John Rolfe married **POCAHONTAS**, the daughter of Chief Powhatan, improving the relationship between the English and the Native Americans.

GET YOUR JOHNS STRAIGHT (DON'T LISTEN TO THE LEGENDS)
John ROLFE married Pocahontas. Although briefly captured by her tribe, John SMITH may or may not have been rescued by Pocahontas. Most historians believe John Smith exaggerated or completely made up the story about the princess.

TOBACCO EXPANDS

↳ BUT ONLY TEMPORARILY

Tobacco became a popular cash crop. People in England knew how valuable it was and demanded that the Virginia Company give them a cut of the profit. Instead, the company gave them land. Under the **HEADRIGHT SYSTEM** (your RIGHT per HEAD), any man who paid his way across the ocean was granted 50 acres of land in Virginia and 50 more acres for each person (head) he brought with him, including women and servants. It was a major incentive to grow tobacco.

The English needed more labor for their tobacco plantations. A primary source was **INDENTURED SERVITUDE**. Indentured servants, often from

INDENTURED SERVITUDE
the condition of being a contracted laborer

Britain or Germany, signed a contract for four to seven years of service in exchange for passage across the Atlantic. After the time was up, they were free to make a new life.

Indentured servitude was outpaced by the growth of the slave trade, which was legalized in Virginia in the 1660s. With more and more tobacco being grown, lifelong slaves began to replace temporary servants.

THE HOUSE OF BURGESSES

In 1619, the **HOUSE OF BURGESSES**,

a **LEGISLATIVE** body, held its first annual assembly. Under the overall governance of the Virginia Company, the people had their own **REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT**.

BURGESS
a citizen representative in local government

LEGISLATIVE
having the function of making laws and, in reference to the House of Burgesses, imposing taxes

A ROYAL MESS



In 1622, the Powhatan people became

increasingly concerned about the tobacco farms taking up all the land along the James River. When an Englishman murdered a member of the tribe, the Powhatan launched a military campaign. On March 22, they attacked and killed a quarter of the English population. Vicious fighting continued for 20 years.

REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT
government with elected representatives of the citizens



Since the Virginia Company could neither protect the settlers nor make enough money to justify all the fighting, in 1624 King James revoked their charter. Jamestown became a **ROYAL COLONY**, meaning the king was in charge. He chose a governor to rule the colony in his place and abolished the House of Burgesses.

After King James I's death, however, **KING CHARLES I** reinstated the House of Burgesses in 1629. Jamestown had become:

→ THE FIRST
PERMANENT
ENGLISH
SETTLEMENT IN
NORTH AMERICA

→ THE FIRST
ENGLISH ROYAL
COLONY IN
NORTH AMERICA

→ AND THE BIRTHPLACE
OF REPRESENTATIVE
GOVERNMENT IN THE
UNITED STATES-TO-BE

But Jamestown had its share of conflict too. In 1676, a group of frontiersmen led by Nathaniel Bacon led attacks on the Pamunkey people and the governor of Jamestown. Although **BACON'S REBELLION** quickly ended after Bacon's untimely death from dysentery, it was one of the first acts of rebellion by colonists over land, high taxes, and failure to deal with the colonists' demands.



CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What was the first permanent English settlement in the Americas? The first Spanish one?
2. What happened in Jamestown in the winter of 1609-1610?
3. What crop was introduced to settler farmers by John Rolfe? Why was it important?
4. Why did people sign contracts to become indentured servants?
5. What were the powers of the Virginia House of Burgesses?
6. What happened when the Virginia Company lost its charter? Why did that happen?
7. What was Nathaniel Bacon angry about?



CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

1 Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in North America. St. Augustine, Florida, was the first permanent Spanish settlement.



2 The winter of 1609-1610 was considered the Starving Time, when only about 60 people survived. Some may have resorted to cannibalism.



3 Tobacco. It made the American settlement profitable for the first time.

4 To get free passage to America

5 Taxation and creating local law

6 Virginia became a royal colony. The charter couldn't protect the settlers and wasn't making much money.

7 He was mad about land, high taxes, and the governor not listening to the colonists.



★ Chapter 6 ★

The THIRTEEN COLONIES

New settlements joined Jamestown on the eastern coast:

1) CHARTERED COLONIES

under the control of a joint-stock company with a charter

Examples: Connecticut, Rhode Island



2) PROPRIETARY COLONIES

under the control of the person whose property the land was

Examples: Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania



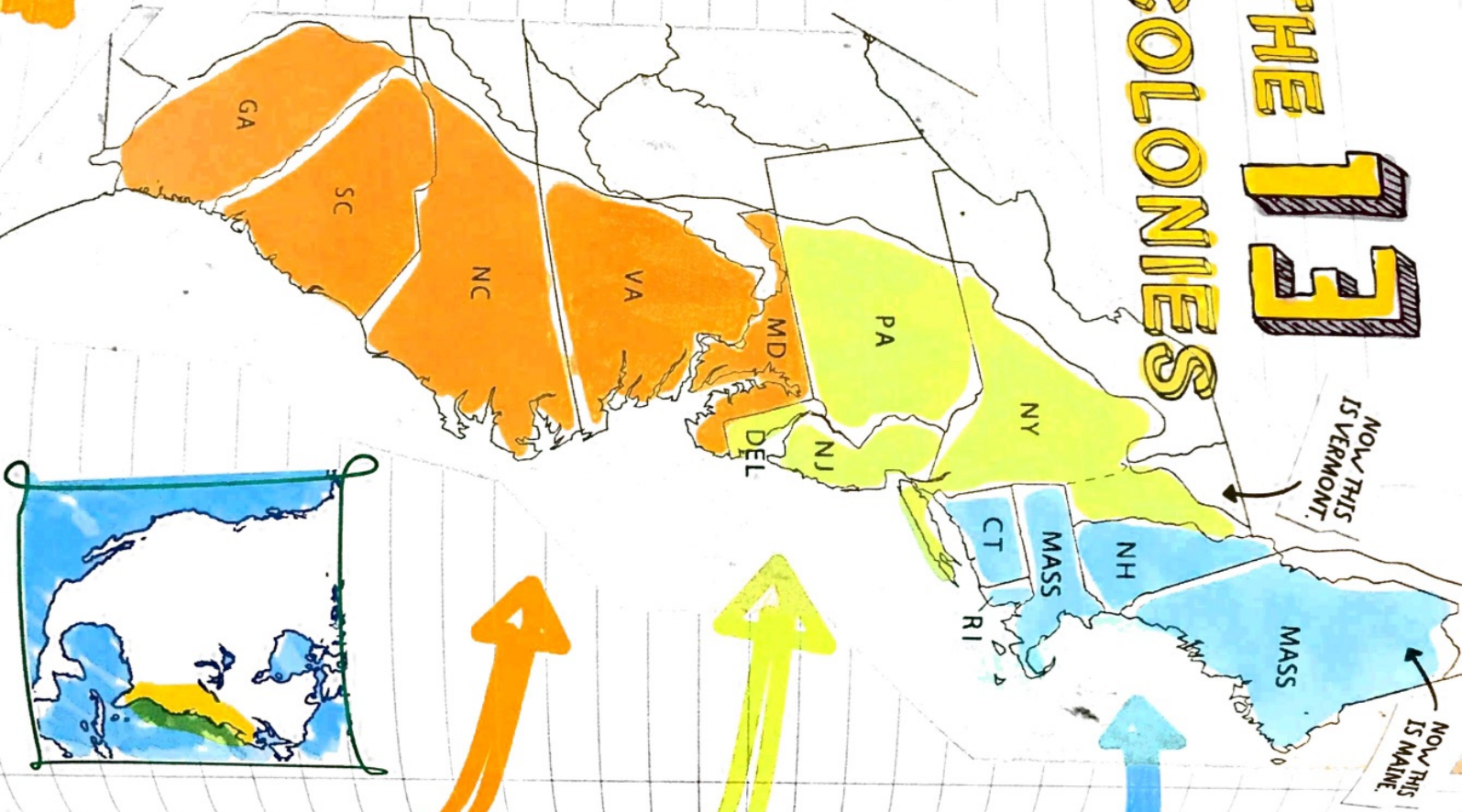
3) ROYAL COLONIES

under the control, via an appointed governor, of English royalty

Examples: North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia, which started as proprietary colonies and later became royal colonies



THE 13 COLONIES



NEW ENGLAND COLONIES

- Plymouth/Massachusetts Bay (1620)
- New Hampshire (1629)
- Rhode Island (1636)
- Connecticut (1662)

MIDDLE COLONIES

- New York (1624)
- New Jersey (1664)
- Pennsylvania (1681)
- Delaware (1634)

SOUTHERN COLONIES

- Maryland (1633)
- Virginia (1607)
- North Carolina (1663)
- South Carolina (1663)
- Georgia (1733)

THE SOUTHERN COLONIES ESTABLISHED AFTER VIRGINIA:

MARYLAND

George Calvert, Lord Baltimore, wanted to set up a place for fellow Catholics.

He requested a charter from King

Charles I in 1632. His son, Cecilius,

inherited the **PROPRIETARY**

COLONY and named it

MARYLAND. Although it was meant

to be a safe place for Catholics,

Protestants moved in too, causing

conflicts. In 1649, Lord Baltimore issued

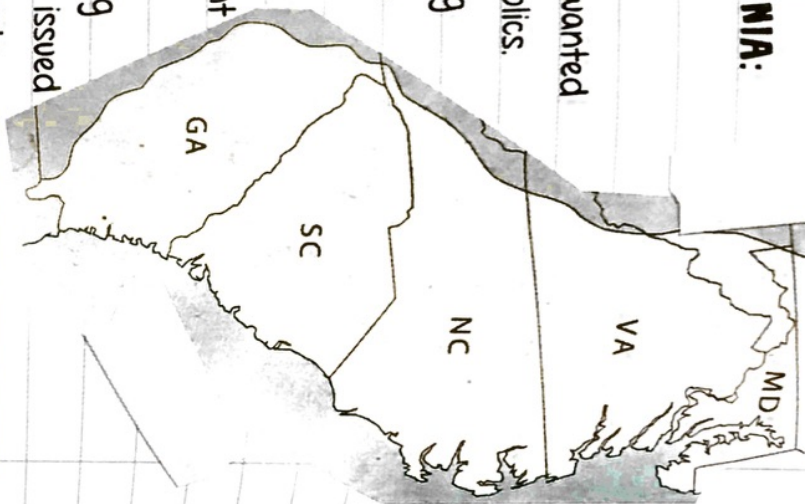
the **ACT OF TOLERATION**, which made

it illegal to **PERSECUTE** any Christian

for his religion. However, in 1654, the

Protestants gained control of the local

government and revoked the act.



PERSECUTION
punish/harass, usually
because of one's identity

The CAROLINAS

After a civil war in England,

CHARLES II became king in

1660. To reward the aristocrats who had supported him, he

gave them a proprietary colony south of Virginia, which they

named **CAROLINA**. Most people in the northern half were

originally Virginians. Most in the southern half came directly



from England, with slaves, attracted by farmland, religious tolerance, and self-government. It became difficult to rule both sides as one unit. The people of the more prosperous South Carolina split from the colony's rule. In 1729, North and South Carolina became royal colonies.

GEORGIA

Georgia was the last British colony founded in North America.

In 1732, **JAMES OGLETHORPE** received a charter from King

George II to establish a colony for **DEBTORS** (people unable

to pay back money could be sent to jail at the time) and poor

people to make a new start. The king saw Georgia as a buffer

between the colonies and **SPANISH FLORIDA**. Because it was

an alternative to jail, Oglethorpe had strict rules: no large

plantations, no rum, few slaves, and no Catholics. Few settlers

were actually debtors, however. Oglethorpe gave up on his

plan, and in 1752, Georgia also became a royal colony.

DEBTOR
someone in debt

PURITANS and PILGRIMS

Some people settled in North America for religious

freedom. Catholics in England had been persecuted since

the establishment of the **CHURCH OF ENGLAND** (Anglicans)

and there was constant fighting between Catholic and

Protestant nations.

Catholics weren't the only persecuted Christians.

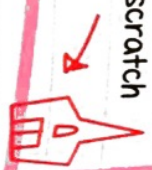
PURITANS:

wanted to reform the Church of England so that it would be more pure (or closer, they believed, to the text of the Bible)



SEPARATISTS:

wanted to start their own church from scratch



In 1608, many Separatists fled England for Holland.

Later, they formed a joint-stock company and were given permission from the Virginia Company to settle in North America. They thought of themselves as **PILGRIMS**.

The MAYFLOWER and the MAYFLOWER COMPACT

On SEPTEMBER 16, 1620, a ship called the MAYFLOWER left England. Not everyone on board was a Pilgrim. They were bound for Virginia, but after two months of sailing, they spotted land farther north, in NEW ENGLAND. They decided to settle there instead, where they could make their own rules.

PILGRIM
one who travels to a sacred place as an act of religious devotion



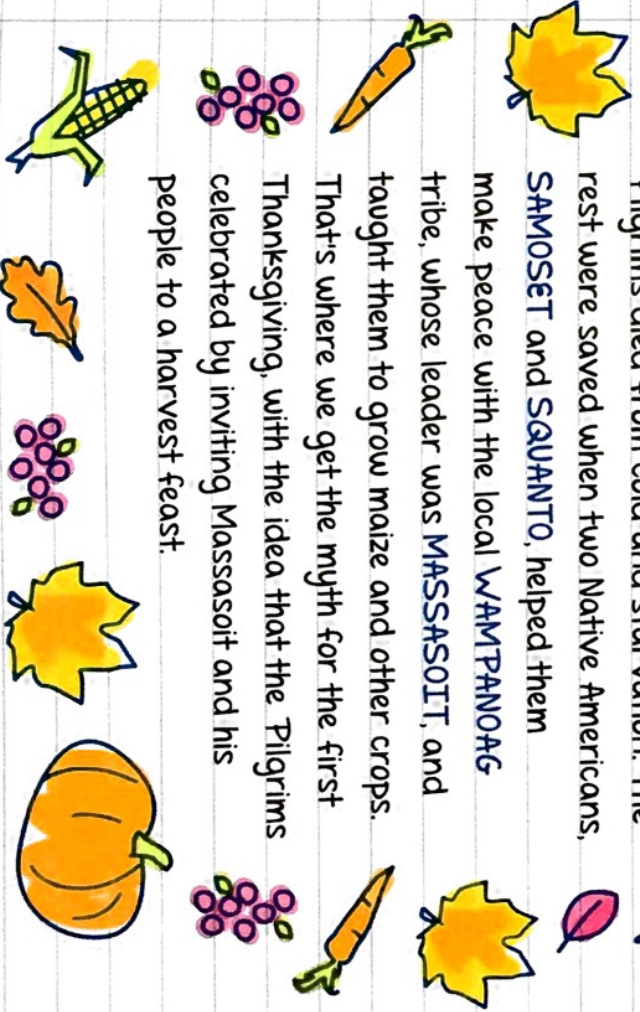
On NOVEMBER 21, 1620, before they went ashore, the men, led by WILLIAM BRADFORD, signed the MAYFLOWER COMPACT, a **COVENANT** agreeing to obey "just and equal laws" created for the "general good of the colony" in order to benefit "the glory of God" and the "honor of our King" (of England). The Pilgrims landed at Cape Cod and later chose to settle at PLYMOUTH ROCK in Massachusetts.

COVENANT
an agreement or promise, with religious overtones



THANKSGIVING in PLYMOUTH

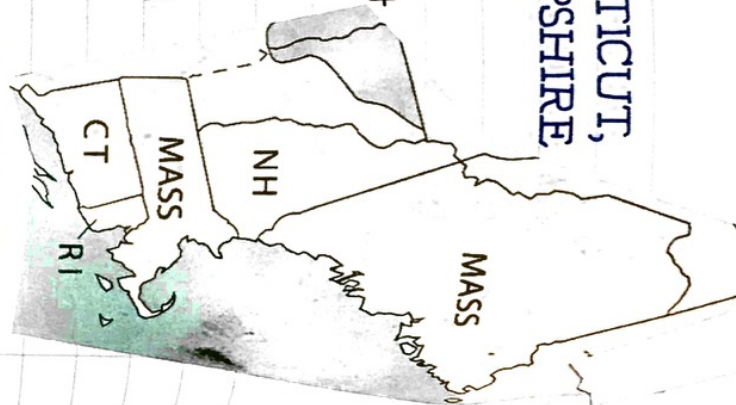
That first winter in Plymouth, about half the Pilgrims died from cold and starvation. The rest were saved when two Native Americans, SAMOSET and SAUANTO, helped them make peace with the local WAMPANOAG tribe, whose leader was MASSASOIT, and taught them to grow maize and other crops. That's where we get the myth for the first Thanksgiving, with the idea that the Pilgrims celebrated by inviting Massasoit and his people to a harvest feast.



NEW ENGLAND COLONIES: MASSACHUSETTS, CONNECTICUT, RHODE ISLAND, NEW HAMPSHIRE

MASSACHUSETTS

In 1630, led by JOHN WINTHROP, about 900 people settled in BOSTON. Their goal was to start a perfect Christian society, a concept known as a "city on a hill." A GENERAL COURT was established to create local laws. It was made up of representatives—but only male members of the church (those who were **ELECT**, or thought to be chosen by God) could vote. Meanwhile, the Puritans in England were feeling more and more threatened by religious persecution. Tens of thousands left between 1629 and 1640 in what is known as the **GREAT MIGRATION**. King Charles I granted the **MASSACHUSETTS BAY COMPANY**, a Puritan



ELECT
not "elected," but thought to be chosen by God

joint-stock company, a charter to establish a colony near Plymouth.

THE SALEM WITCH TRIALS

In 1692, in Salem, Massachusetts, some young girls accused people of casting spells on them. A special court was formed to judge witchcraft cases. The court often forced confessions from the accused. Although people eventually admitted that they had made false accusations, by the time the witch scare ended, nineteen people had been executed for witchcraft.

CONNECTICUT

THOMAS HOOKER, a minister, disagreed with John Winthrop's leadership. He led his **CONGREGATION** to found Hartford, Connecticut, in 1636. Hartford and two other towns joined together to become their own colony, and Hooker drafted the **FUNDAMENTAL ORDERS OF CONNECTICUT**, the first written constitution in North America. Under the orders, male citizens who were not thought to be **ELECT** could still vote.

CONGREGATION
a group of people brought together for religious worship

RHODE ISLAND

ROGER WILLIAMS, another Massachusetts minister, believed that people shouldn't be forced to go to church, that settlers should pay Native Americans for land, and that church and state should be separate. This was so controversial that he was **BANISHED** from Massachusetts in 1636. His congregation followed him and founded **PROVIDENCE**.

BANISHED
forced to leave or no longer welcome

In 1638, **ANNE HUTCHINSON** was **BANISHED** from Massachusetts because she believed in personal revelation and that ministers didn't need to be members of the elect. (Another reason for her banishment was probably that she was a woman who spoke out.) Hutchinson and her sympathizers founded Portsmouth, near Providence. In 1644, the area became the colony of **RHODE ISLAND AND PROVIDENCE PLANTATIONS**.

NEW HAMPSHIRE

In 1638, Anne Hutchinson's brother-in-law, JOHN WHEELWRIGHT, fled Massachusetts for similar reasons. He led people who agreed with him north and founded the town of Exeter. The area became the independent colony of NEW HAMPSHIRE in 1679.

KING PHILIP'S WAR

In 1675 three members of the Wampanoag tribe were tried and executed by the English for a murder. The Wampanoag chief METACOMET (known as King Philip to the settlers) son of Massasoit, felt that the British had no right to execute his people. Also, the Wampanoag were losing land in spite of efforts to compromise with the British.

War broke out and hundreds of settlers and many Wampanoag were killed, including Metacomet. The English claimed victory with help from their trading partners, the Pequot and Mohegan tribes. Afterward, the English expanded into Native American lands faster than ever.

THE MIDDLE COLONIES:

NEW YORK, NEW JERSEY,
PENNSYLVANIA, DELAWARE

NEW YORK

New Netherland was a thriving Dutch colony. Seeing the large number of prosperous Dutch people between New England and Virginia, England wanted this land for itself. In 1664, England sent a fleet and, unprepared for a battle, the Dutch surrendered. The colony was renamed NEW YORK, after the Duke of York, who got it as a proprietary colony.



NEW JERSEY

The Duke of York gave some of his land to LORD JOHN BERKELEY and SIR GEORGE CARTERET, who named it NEW JERSEY. They attracted settlers by starting a representative assembly and offering large amounts of land. But because New Jersey had no harbor, it was hard to make a profit. They sold their shares of ownership in the colony, and the colony reverted to the king's control in 1702.

PENNSYLVANIA

New Jersey had a large population of **QUAKERS**, a religious group later called the **RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS** who were said to tremble (or quake) before God and who had been banished from New England. The Quaker beliefs of equality of the sexes, nonviolence, and tolerance felt like a threat to Puritans.

King Charles II handed over land to Quaker **WILLIAM**

PENN in 1681 to pay off a debt Charles owed Penn's family. Penn established **PENNSYLVANIA**, where Quakers would have religious freedom, and founded Philadelphia. It attracted thousands of people and became one of the largest cities in North America.

The **MASON-DIXON LINE** was originally a line of rocks laid down by two people named Mason and Dixon to mark the border between Pennsylvania and Maryland.

DELAWARE

Penn also got land from the Duke of York. **DELAWARE** was south of his other holdings and was occupied by a large Swedish population. It was still officially part of Pennsylvania, but Penn let them govern themselves.

UGH,
CAN'T
WE JUST
DRAW
THIS ON
A MAP?



CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What were the three types of British colonies in North America?
2. Why did Carolina split into North and South?
3. What is the difference between a Puritan and a Separatist?
4. What did the Mayflower Compact promise?
5. Why did Roger Williams leave Massachusetts to found Rhode Island?
6. What did their loss in King Philip's War mean for Native Americans?
7. How did the Quakers get their name?

CHECK YOUR ANSWERS

- 1 Royal, proprietary, and chartered
- 2 The southern part of Carolina was wealthier, and the sides were too different to rule at the same time. Eventually, South Carolina split from colonial rule.
- 3 Puritans wanted to purify the existing English Church. Separatists wanted to start their own church.
- 4 The Mayflower Compact was a promise to obey "just and equal laws" created for the "general good of the colony" in order to benefit "the glory of God" and the "honor of our King" (of England).
- 5 He disagreed with the church in Massachusetts (for example, he believed in the separation of church and state, that settlers should pay Native Americans for land, and people shouldn't be obligated to go to church).
- 6 Expansion of English settlers into their lands accelerated.
- 7 They were said to tremble before God.



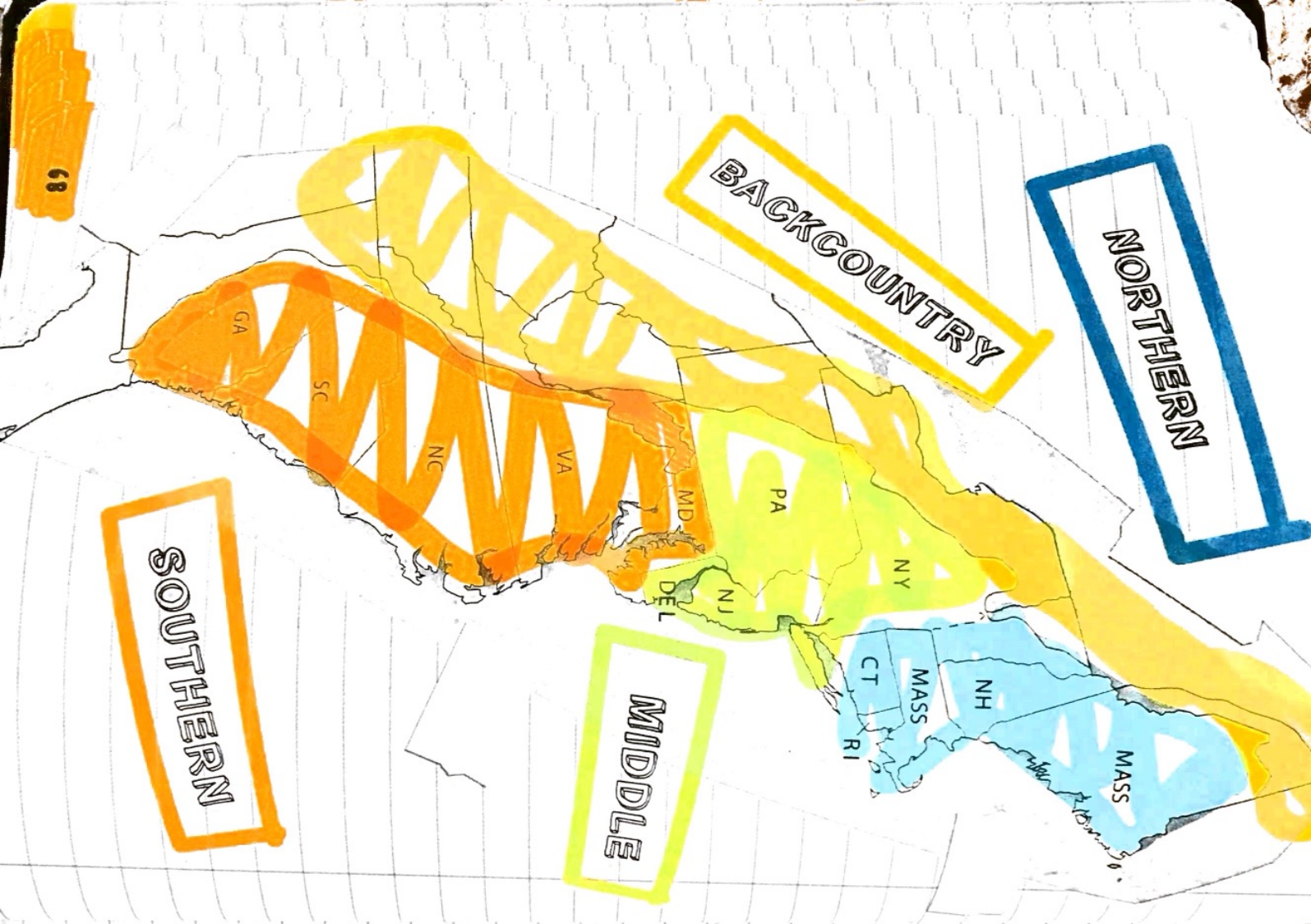
Chapter 7

REGIONAL DIFFERENCES

As the populations of the thirteen colonies increased from immigration and high birth rates, the differences between them became more prominent. Vast distances and poor communication also led to differences. They developed individual cultures as well as a shared American culture.

The main differences between the colonies hung on **PEGS**:

POPULATION
ECONOMY
GOVERNMENT
SLAVERY



SOUTHERN IDENTITY

Plantations: The south had a lot of plantations that grew cash crops, including tobacco, indigo, and rice. Each plantation was like its own town, and people lived far apart. There was almost no manufacturing or other business.

Tidewater Aristocracy: Because plantations were large and few, a small number of wealthy people lived in the south. A tiny percentage of the population controlled almost all the money and power. The wealthiest planters lived along the Tidewater section of Virginia, which had good soil and navigable rivers and shipped tobacco and other crops to England.

Dependence on Slavery: Even though only a small percentage of the citizens owned slaves, the agricultural economy depended on slavery.

Population Imbalance: There were many more slaves than slave owners. Slaveholders lived in fear of rebellion. This fear caused local governments to make slave codes even stricter.

Elected Representative Assemblies: Starting with the House of Burgesses, most local government was in the form of assemblies. Often these assemblies were **BICAMERAL**, with one house elected by the people and the other appointed by the royal governor.

BICAMERAL
a legislature having
two houses

NORTHERN IDENTITY

Town Life: Life for New Englanders revolved around the **MEETINGHOUSE** and church, which were usually the same building. The meetinghouse (where churchgoing men worked together to make laws) 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 their neighbors.

SUBSISTENCE FARMING
producing just enough crops to survive

Trade and Industry: Unable to raise cash crops (due to long winters and poor soil), New England depended on trade, mills, lumber, shipbuilding, fishing, fur trading, whaling, and craftsmanship. New Englanders were, on average, better off than Southerners.

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 the Puritan values of hard work, modesty, and education. Massachusetts **MANDATED** schools in any town of more than 50 households. Puritan values did not include tolerance of religious differences.

MANDATE
to require, usually by law

MIDDLE-COLONY IDENTITY

The Middle Colonies linked the **NORTHERN** and **SOUTHERN** cultures:

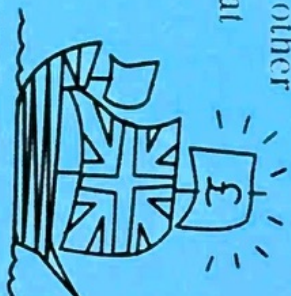
Mixed Agriculture and Industry: The Middle Colonies grew some cash crops, especially grain, as well as fruits and vegetables. They developed industries such as ironworking and forestry. Trade was made easier by access to Philadelphia and New York City, the largest ports in the colonies and the centers of shipping.

Mixed Use of Slavery: Slaves were forced to work both in cities and on farms. Some were able to make money when their slaveholders allowed them to work as longshoremen or shipbuilders in exchange for a portion of the slaves' wages. A rare few slaves were able to save enough to buy their freedom.

Mixed Populations: With large immigrant populations and a tradition of tolerance, the Middle Colonies were home to the most diverse populations.

Mixed Government: The Middle Colonies used a combination of assemblies, town meetings, and royal government.

England expected to profit from its colonies. So England passed the **NAVIGATION ACT OF 1651**, making it illegal for the colonies to sell to countries other than England, use ships other than English ships, or go through ports other than English ports. The colonists soon saw that the Acts limited their wealth by cutting back free trade. Many resorted to **SMUGGLING** (conducting illegal/secret trade).



BACKCOUNTRY IDENTITY

The **BACKCOUNTRY**, or the western frontier, stretched along the **APPALACHIAN MOUNTAINS**, from the far north to the far south and was populated by recent immigrants and former indentured servants. Although it wasn't very far west, it had a Wild West atmosphere. Few people had large farms or owned slaves.

NEW and UNIQUE AMERICAN IDENTITY

Even though regional identities became stronger, a culture was evolving, with:

COMMON HISTORY, from a shared English background

Perception of **CHEAP** and **AVAILABLE LAND**

NOT THE CASE
IN EUROPE!

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AN EMERGING MIDDLE CLASS, from wealth and social mobility because of the lack of aristocrats and use of slaves instead of lower-class white workers

POWER FOR LAND OWNERS, because of the connection between land ownership and the right to vote

SOCIAL MOBILITY (among white males) from lack of hereditary titles or classes

TOLERANCE (mostly) **OF RELIGIOUS DIFFERENCES**, due to diversity

SHARED ENEMIES, from conflicts with Native Americans and French and Spanish settlers

APPRENTICE
to work for another in order to learn a trade

Women mostly worked in the home (cooking, cleaning, raising children, gardening, making soap and candles, etc.) or running stores or inns in cities. Farming was mainly the job of men. Boys were often sent to **APPRENTICE** with a master craftsman, while girls learned their crafts at home.

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