

13 COLONIES

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13 COLONIES

When people speak of "Colonial America", they are referring to the Thirteen Colonies before 1776. The Thirteen Colonies were thirteen British settlements along the Atlantic coast in the present-day United States.

These thirteen colonies can be broken up into three geographic areas: (1) the New England Colonies, (2) the Middle Colonies, and (3) the Southern Colonies. The New England Colonies included Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire. The Middle Colonies included New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. The Southern Colonies included Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

The first colony to be settled was Jamestown, Virginia. It was settled in 1607 by John Smith and businessmen from England. The next settlement was founded in 1620 in Plymouth (which eventually became part of Massachusetts).

Most of the colonies were settled for two reasons: (1) to make money, and (2) religious freedom. Colonies made money by exporting things such as tobacco and fur. Many different groups came for religious freedom. Some of these groups were the Separatists (Pilgrims), Puritans, Quakers, and Catholics. Some colonies were set up to separate from Massachusetts Bay Colony, which had strict religious rules.

While the Thirteen Colonies were controlled by the British, the British colonists were far from being the only people in the area. First, there were the Native Americans. Many different tribes made their homes along the Atlantic coast. Also, the Spanish and French had explored the area extensively and settled in certain areas. The French settled parts of the north, and the Spanish settled parts of the south. Most notable were the Dutch, who had a settlement called New Amsterdam on the island of Manhattan. Eventually, the Dutch surrendered this land to the British.

While the thirteen colonies had separate governments, they came together at the First Continental Congress in 1774. They united to fight against the oppressive British government and declare independence.

WORDS TO KNOW

Colony - an area under control of another country
Surrendered - gave up
Oppressive - cruel



When people speak of "Colonial America", they are referring to the Thirteen Colonies before _____.

- ☐ 1774
- ☐ 1776
- ☐ 1778
- ☐ 1780

The 13 Colonies were _____ settlements.

- ☐ French
- ☐ Dutch
- ☐ British
- ☐ Spanish

Which colony was not a part of the Middle Colonies?

- ☐ New York
- ☐ New Jersey
- ☐ Pennsylvania
- ☐ Georgia

Where was Jamestown?

- ☐ New York
- ☐ New Jersey
- ☐ Virginia
- ☐ Georgia

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NEW ENGLAND COLONIES

The New England Colonies were in the north. The New England colonies included Massachusetts Bay, Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire.

People came to Massachusetts for religious freedom. The first group to come was the Separatists, who later became known as the Pilgrims. In 1620, they started a colony called Plymouth Plantation. This group had about a hundred people. They came on a boat called the Mayflower, and were led by William Bradford.

Ten years later, a much larger group came to Massachusetts Bay Colony. They settled north of Plymouth. They were called the Puritans. They wanted a society that strictly followed religious rules.

However, some people felt oppressed by the rules in Massachusetts Bay Colony. In 1636, Thomas Hooker left Massachusetts Bay Colony because he was unhappy with life there. He set up three settlements along the Connecticut River. He united these governments under one constitution. This constitution later served as a guide in writing the United States Constitution.

Some people did not leave Massachusetts Bay Colony by their own choice. In 1636, Roger Williams was banished from Massachusetts Bay Colony because of religious differences. He set up a colony called Providence. Later, others fleeing from religious persecution in the Massachusetts Bay Colony went to Rhode Island. The most famous person in this group was a woman by the name of Anne Hutchinson. The group founded Portsmouth, Rhode Island. They were welcomed by Roger Williams, and the two colonies later united.

New Hampshire was first settled in 1623 when Captain John Mason was granted land. He sent two groups of settlers to set up a fishing village along a river. These colonies did not do well, and Captain John Mason did not live long after their failure. Others were inspired to come and set up colonies in the area. However, New Hampshire struggled to gain independence from Massachusetts. Eventually, by 1744, New Hampshire broke free from Massachusetts and declared a governor.

WORDS TO KNOW

Banished - sent away

Persecution - treated harsh due to beliefs

Oppressed - subject to harsh treatment



Which colony was not a part of the New England Colonies? *

- ☐ Connecticut
- ☐ Rhode Island
- ☐ New Hampshire
- ☐ New York

What was the first group to come to Massachusetts? *

- ☐ Evangelists
- ☐ Separatists
- ☐ Loyalists
- ☐ Patriots

Who was granted land in New Hampshire? *

- ☐ Mason
- ☐ Williams
- ☐ Hooker
- ☐ Platt

How many settlements along the Connecticut River did Hooker establish? *

- ☐ 1
- ☐ 2
- ☐ 3
- ☐ 4

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MIDDLE COLONIES

The Middle Colonies, as the name suggests, were in the middle. They were south of the New England Colonies and north of the Southern Colonies. The Middle Colonies were New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

The New York Colony was originally settled by the Dutch. They were led by Peter Minuit in 1624. They came to earn money for the Dutch West India Company. They purchased the island of Manhattan and settled there. They named the settlement New Amsterdam. They spread up the Hudson River and down to the south.

However, the colony was plagued with problems from the beginning. They had conflict with native tribes, English settlers, and even with each other. In 1664, the Dutch surrendered the colony to England, and New York became one of the Thirteen Colonies.

In 1664, Sir George Carteret and Lord Berkley established the New Jersey Colony. Before that, the Dutch and Swedish had created settlements in the area. From 1664 to 1702, the New Jersey Colony was divided into East Jersey and West Jersey. Each side had its own constitution, but there was debate about where the boundary was. Eventually, the two sides united and New York took them over. However, in 1738, New Jersey finally became an independent colony.

Pennsylvania was settled by William Penn in 1681. William Penn was part of a persecuted religious group called the Quakers. He was given land, but with many more restrictions than others who settled colonies had been given. However, as a Quaker, Penn believed that all people were good, and he trusted the government. Quakers were also very tolerant. Many people who were attracted to the idea of religious tolerance moved to Pennsylvania. The Quakers were also a very peaceful group, and built strong relationships with the Native Americans.

Penn also started the colony of Delaware. Delaware was governed as part of Pennsylvania from 1682 to 1702. It was not a religious colony, but many people who lived there were Quakers. While Delaware was considered a separate colony, New Jersey and Delaware were ruled by the same governor until 1776, when the 13 Colonies gained independence.

WORDS TO KNOW

Plagued - cause continual trouble

Tolerance - endure or sympathy for beliefs

Persecuted - treated harshly



Which colony was established by Carteret? *

- ☐ New York
- ☐ New Jersey
- ☐ Maryland
- ☐ Delaware

Who led the New York colony? *

- ☐ Calvert
- ☐ Minuit
- ☐ Penn
- ☐ Bradford

When did New Jersey become an independent colony? *

- ☐ 1738
- ☐ 1750
- ☐ 1740
- ☐ 1741

What does plagued mean? *

- ☐ To owe money
- ☐ To sell
- ☐ To make one happy
- ☐ To cause continual trouble