

# 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 founded 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 others. 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, 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



# CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Who was granted land in New Hampshire?

Mason

Hooker

Bradford

2. How many settlements did Hooker establish?

1

2

3

3. Which colony was not part of the New England colonies?

Connecticut

Rhode Island

Virginia

4. Who was banished from Massachusetts Bay Colony?

Williams

Mason

Bradford

## TRUE OR FALSE

In 1796, Thomas Hooker left Massachusetts Bay Colony because he was unhappy with life there.

TRUE

FALSE

Eventually, by 1776, New Hampshire broke free from Massachusetts and declared a government.

TRUE

FALSE

The New England Colonies were in the South.

TRUE

FALSE

Some people did not leave Massachusetts Bay Colony by their own choice.

TRUE

FALSE

New Hampshire was first settled in 1623 when Captain John Mason was granted land.

TRUE

FALSE

New Hampshire struggled to gain independence from Massachusetts.

TRUE

FALSE

# 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 an island on 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 farmers, 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 Berkeley 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 with New York to take 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 respected 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



# CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. Which colony was not a part of the Southern colonies?

- Virginia       Georgia       Pennsylvania

2. When did the Carolinas separate into two areas?

- 1712       1713       1724

3. Who started the colony of Maryland?

- Calvert       Smith       Oglethorpe

4. \_\_\_\_\_ gave a tract of land to eight noblemen.

- King Charles II       King George II       King James II

## TRUE OR FALSE

The colonists who settled Virginia were businessmen, and they had little to no experience farming.

TRUE      FALSE

Virginia was settled after King George II.

TRUE      FALSE

Maryland was started as a place for religious freedom.

TRUE      FALSE

Northern and southern Carolina separated in 1632.

TRUE      FALSE

After the success of the Virginia colony, England sent more settlers.

TRUE      FALSE

The main story near Jamestown is of Sacagawea.

TRUE      FALSE