

**Cultural Changes** The arrival of Europeans in the Americas altered life for everyone. Native Americans introduced the Europeans to new farming methods and foods like corn, potatoes, squash, pumpkins, beans, and chocolate, as well as tobacco and chewing gum. Europeans also adopted many Native American inventions, including canoes, snowshoes, and ponchos.

Meanwhile, the Europeans introduced Native Americans to wheat, rice, coffee, bananas, citrus fruits, and domestic livestock such as chickens, cattle, pigs, sheep, and horses. In addition, Native Americans acquired new technologies, including firearms and better metalworking and shipbuilding methods. Along with these beneficial imports, however, came invisible and deadly ones—germs that cause diseases. Native Americans had never before been exposed to influenza, measles, chicken pox, mumps, typhus, or smallpox. With no immunity, millions of Native Americans died in widespread epidemics. Military conquests also devastated Native Americans, costing them their lands and their traditional ways of life.

 **Reading Check** **Identifying** Why did millions of Native Americans die as a result of contact with Europeans?

## Early French and English Settlement

**Main Idea** The French and English settled in North America, and English colonists began their own local governments.

**Reading Connection** Some people today dream about settling new frontiers such as oceans or other planets. Read on to learn what brought the first French and English settlers to North America.

Soon after Columbus made his historic voyage, France and England began exploring the new lands. These countries directed their efforts to the eastern part of North America. England sent John Cabot on expeditions in 1497 and 1498. France funded trips by Giovanni da Verrazano and Jacques Cartier in the early 1500s. Yet it was not until the 1600s that the French and the English succeeded in establishing colonies.

**New France** In 1608 French geographer Samuel de Champlain founded the outpost of Quebec. Instead of having settlers clear land and build farms, the backers of New France sought profits from fur. Frenchmen began a brisk trade with Native Americans. Quebec eventually became the capital of New France, a sparsely settled colony of fur traders and Jesuit missionaries.

In the late 1600s, France focused on increasing the population and size of the colony. Explorers Louis Joliet and Jacques Marquette found the Mississippi River, and René-Robert Cavalier de La Salle followed the Mississippi to the Gulf of Mexico. The French claimed the region and named it Louisiana. Settlers founded the towns of New Orleans, Biloxi, and Mobile, and they began growing sugar, rice, and tobacco. The French also began importing enslaved Africans to do the hard field work that these labor-intensive crops required.

**Jamestown** A year before the French founded Quebec, the English established their first lasting settlement in Virginia. The colony, **Jamestown**, was funded by a **joint-stock company**, a group of private investors who pooled their money to support big projects. These investors, along with many others in business and government, saw colonies as vital sources of raw materials and as markets for English goods.

Despite early troubles, the settlers persevered with the help of the Powhatan Confederacy, a group of local Native Americans. Within a few years, they began to prosper by growing tobacco. Newcomers



### Picturing History

**Critical Leadership** Captain John Smith helped save early Jamestown by trading with local Native Americans. Sidney King painted its fort as it might have appeared around 1607. **Why do you think the fort was set up with only three sides?**



## History Through Art

**Solemn Signing** Tompkins Matteson painted his vision of the Mayflower Compact signing. By signing this document, the Pilgrims wanted to set up a legal basis for their colony. **How did the artist try to suggest the seriousness of the occasion?** (See page 985 for an excerpt from the *Mayflower Compact*.)



arrived, attracted by the promise of land ownership. In 1619 colonists formed an assembly, the House or Burgesses, to make their own laws.

With encouragement of the Virginia Company, by 1622 more than 4,500 settlers **immigrated** to Virginia. This expansion alarmed Native Americans, who attacked Jamestown in 1622. An English court blamed the Company's policies for the high death rate and revoked its charter. Virginia became a royal colony run by a governor appointed by the king.

**The Pilgrims in Plymouth Colony** Not all settlers came for economic gain. King James was persecuting a group of Puritans who were called Separatists because they wanted to form their own congregations separate from the Anglican Church, the official church of England. These Separatists hoped to be able to worship freely in America.

In 1620 a small band of Separatists, who came to be known as **Pilgrims**, headed for Virginia on the *Mayflower*. During the voyage, a storm blew the ship off its course. The Pilgrims finally dropped anchor off the coast of Cape Cod. Since they would be landing in territory without an English government, they drew up a plan for self-government called the Mayflower Compact. (See page 985 for an excerpt from the *Mayflower Compact*.)

The settlers quickly built homes and befriended the local Wampanoag people. The following autumn, the Pilgrims joined with the Wampanoag in a harvest celebration—the first Thanksgiving.

Ten years later, as the persecution of Puritans increased, another group of Puritans arrived in Massachusetts Bay with a charter for a new colony. They founded several towns, including Boston. A depression of England's wool industry encouraged more people to leave, and Massachusetts expanded rapidly.

The people of Massachusetts set up a representative government, with an elected assembly to make laws. Government and religion were closely intertwined. The government collected taxes to support the church, and the Puritan leaders of the colony set strict rules for behavior.

**Reading Check Explaining** Why did English colonists come to America?

## The Thirteen Colonies


**Main Idea** As English settlements grew, colonists developed different forms of government to regulate life in their communities.

**Reading Connection** Have you ever been a part of a new group or organization? What rules did you draw up? Read on to learn about new colonies and their new kinds of government.

The Jamestown, Plymouth, and Massachusetts Bay colonies were only the beginning of English settlements in the Americas. Although slow at first, over the next century the English began establishing colonies all along the eastern shore of the Atlantic Ocean.

**New England** Puritan efforts in the Massachusetts Bay Colony to suppress other religious beliefs led to the growth of other New England colonies. One early dissenter was a young minister named Roger Williams. He challenged many Puritan beliefs as well as the authority of the king to claim Native American lands. In 1636, after being banned from Massachusetts, Williams headed south, purchased land from the Narragansett people, and founded the town of Providence. There the government had no authority in religious matters, and different beliefs were tolerated rather than suppressed.

Like Roger Williams, Anne Hutchinson was also exiled from Massachusetts because of her religious views. Hutchinson and a few followers ended up settling near Providence, as did other free-thinking Puritans over the following years. In 1644 Providence joined with neighboring towns to become the colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantation. Religious freedom, with a total separation of church and state, was a key feature of the new colony.

Religion also played a part in the founding of Connecticut. In 1636 the Reverend Thomas Hooker moved his entire congregation from Massachusetts to the Connecticut River valley. The group needed more land to raise cattle, and Hooker disagreed with the political system that allowed only church members to vote. The new colony came to be called Connecticut. Three years later, the people adopted America's first written constitution, the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut. It allowed all adult men to vote and hold office.  (See page 986 for more on the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut.)

Not everyone who left Massachusetts headed for Rhode Island or Connecticut. Some religious dissenters, along with fishers and fur traders, went north instead. In 1679 a large area north of Massachusetts became the royal colony of New Hampshire.

New England Puritans valued religious devotion, hard work, and obedience to strict rules regulating daily life. Puritan society revolved around town life. Towns included a meetinghouse (church), a school, and a marketplace around an open public area called the town common. At town meetings, New Englanders would gather to discuss local problems and issues. These meetings evolved into the local government, with landowners voting on laws and electing officials to oversee town matters. Yet even residents without property could attend a town

meeting and express an opinion. For a peasant back in England, this would have been unthinkable. The colonists in New England—and indeed throughout America—grew used to managing their own affairs, and they came to believe strongly in their right to self-government.

New England's thin and rocky soil was ill suited for cash crops. Instead, on small farms from Connecticut to Maine, colonists practiced **subsistence farming**, raising only enough food to feed their families. The main crop was corn, but farmers also grew other grains, vegetables, apples, and berries, and they raised dairy cattle, sheep, and pigs.

It was maritime activity, however, that brought prosperity to New England. Fishers sold their catch of cod, mackerel, halibut, and herring to other colonists, Southern Europeans, and people in the Caribbean. Whaling also played a major role in New England's economy, providing blubber for making candles and lamp oil.

A thriving lumber industry developed too. Timber was plentiful, and lumber was in high demand for furniture, building materials, and the barrels that were used to store and ship almost everything in the colonial era. Lumbering led to another successful industry: shipbuilding. With forests and sawmills close to the coast, ships could be built quickly and cheaply. By the 1770s, one out of every three British ships had been built in America.

## Profiles IN HISTORY

### Anne Bradstreet

c. 1612–1672

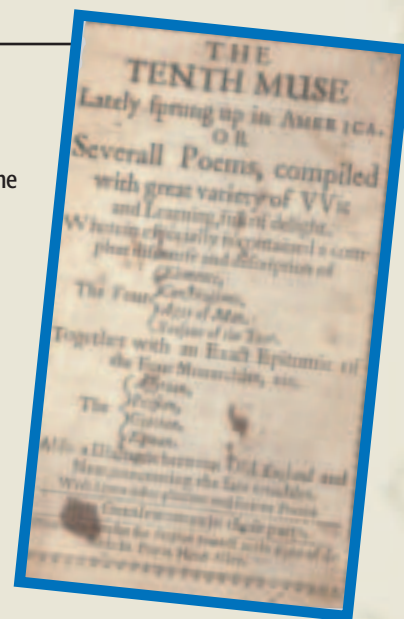
Anne Dudley was born about 1612 in Northampton, England. At the age of 16 she married Simon Bradstreet, and two years later she accompanied her husband to America. The Bradstreets, traveling with John Winthrop's party, were among the first settlers of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

In America Anne Bradstreet faced the difficult task of building a home in the wilderness. Despite the hard work of raising eight children, she found time to write poetry. In 1650 the first edition of her poetry was published in England as *The Tenth Muse Lately Sprung Up in America*. Bradstreet had not anticipated this recognition. Her brother-in-law had secretly taken a copy of her manuscript to a London publisher.

Anne Bradstreet was a devoted supporter of her husband, who became a leading political figure in Massachusetts, serving two

terms as governor. During the period of the Dominion of New England, he spoke out against the harsh rule of Edmund Andros. In a poem, *To My Dear Loving Husband*, published after her death, Anne described their relationship:

*If ever two were one, then  
surely we.  
If ever man were loved by  
wife, then thee;  
If ever wife was happy in  
a man,  
Compare with me ye  
women if you can.*



Relations of the English settlers with their Native American neighbors were peaceful most of the time. In 1636 war broke out with the Pequot over the killing of two Massachusetts traders. For almost the next 40 years, good relations continued. By the 1670s, however, new conflict arose when colonial governments demanded that Native Americans follow English laws and customs. Tensions touched off what came to be called King Philip's War. After the colonists won the war in 1678, very few Native Americans were left in New England.

**The Middle Colonies** While the English focused their early settlements on Virginia and New England, the Dutch had claimed much of the land south of Connecticut. In 1609 Henry Hudson, a navigator hired by Dutch merchants, had discovered what is now the Hudson River valley in New York. The Dutch called the region New Netherland and established their main settlement of New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island. Dutch policies encouraged immigration, and by 1664 New Netherland had become England's main rival in North America.

Charles II, who had become king of England in 1660 after the English Civil War, decided to act. He seized New Netherland from the Dutch and granted the land to his brother, James, the Duke of York. James held onto the largest portion of the land, which he renamed New York. The rest of the land became New Jersey, a colony which offered generous land grants, religious freedom, and the right to have a legislative assembly.

In 1681 King Charles agreed to let **William Penn** create a new colony south of New York. Penn regarded Pennsylvania as a "holy experiment" where settlers would have religious freedom and a voice in government. He particularly wanted to help his fellow Quakers escape persecution in England. Quakers objected to all political and religious authority, including obligatory taxes and military service. They also opposed war or violence as a means to settle disputes. In Pennsylvania, people of all faiths found a safe haven. A treaty Penn signed in 1682 assured peace with a local group of Native Americans. To give his colony access to the Atlantic Ocean, Penn soon acquired a strip of coastal land to the southeast. This land later became a colony in its own right—Delaware.

The Middle Colonies were blessed with fertile land and a long growing season. Farmers produced bumper crops of rye, oats, barley, and potatoes. Most important, however, was wheat, which rapidly became the region's main cash crop.



### Picturing History

**Bethlehem, Pennsylvania** Laid out along a river with farmsteads on the village outskirts, this town is typical of many in the Middle Colonies. [What was the region's main cash crop?](#)

In the early and mid-1700s, the demand for wheat soared, thanks to a population explosion in Europe. Between 1720 and 1770, wheat prices more than doubled in the Middle Colonies, bringing a surge of prosperity. Europe's population growth also brought a new wave of immigrants to America, particularly to the Middle Colonies where land was still available.

Some people who grew wealthy from the wheat boom invested in new businesses. They established glass and pottery works and built large gristmills that produced vast quantities of flour for export.

**The Southern Colonies** Farther south, tobacco helped Virginia to thrive. The colony had been joined by Maryland, a **proprietary colony** which began in the 1630s. A proprietary colony was one owned by an individual who could govern it any way he wanted, appointing government officials, coining money, imposing taxes, and even raising an army. The owner of the colony was George Calvert, also known as Lord Baltimore. He hoped to make the colony a refuge for Catholics, because they, like the Puritans, were persecuted in England. Most settlers, however, were Protestants. Maryland passed the Toleration Act in 1649, granting religious toleration to all Christians in the colony.

In the meantime, Virginia continued to thrive. After the end of the English Civil War, though, new colonies sprang up south of Virginia. In 1663 King Charles II gave eight friends and political allies a vast tract of land that had been named Carolina. From the start, Carolina developed as two separate regions. North Carolina was home to a small and scattered population of farmers who grew tobacco. Because North Carolina's coastline made the colony hard to reach, many more settlers came to South Carolina.



### History Through Art

**The Ideal Plantation** This painting depicts the well-structured plantation as a world unto itself. Centered around the family home, the plantation's fields, support houses, and merchant ships unite to serve the needs of the plantation. [What influence did large landholders have on life in the South?](#)

There they established the community of Charles Town (Charleston), exported deerskins, and grew rice in the tidal swamps.

The last Southern colony, Georgia, arose south of the Carolinas in 1733, based on an idea of James Oglethorpe, a wealthy member of Parliament. Oglethorpe had been horrified to learn that many people in English prisons were jailed simply because they could not pay their debts. Oglethorpe asked King George II for a colony where the poor could start over. The king agreed, realizing that in addition to helping those in need, a new Southern colony would keep Spain from expanding north of Florida. Georgia soon attracted settlers from all over Europe.

As in Jamestown, agriculture was the focus of the Southern economy. In early colonial days, there was plenty of land for farmers, but not enough labor to work it. England had the opposite problem—not enough land and high unemployment. The situation led many poor English people to come to America as **indentured servants**. They signed contracts with American colonists, agreeing to work for four or more years in return for paid passage to America and free food, clothing, and shelter. Southern farmers also relied on the labor of enslaved Africans, a practice that grew dramatically as time passed.

The hard lives of enslaved workers and indentured servants contrasted sharply with the privileged lives of the elite. A small number of wealthy colonists

bought most of the land along the rivers and established large plantations. These large landholders had enormous economic and political influence. They served in the governing councils and assemblies, commanded the local militias (citizen armies), and became county judges. With few towns or roads in the region, their plantations functioned as self-contained communities.

Although they dominated Southern society, large landowners were few in number. Most Southerners were small farmers living inland in the backcountry. They owned modest plots devoted mostly to subsistence farming. Another group of colonists were tenant farmers—landless settlers who worked fields that they rented from the well-to-do.

By the 1660s, Virginia's government was dominated by wealthy planters led by the governor, Sir William Berkeley. Berkeley arranged to restrict voting to property owners, cutting the number of voters in half. Berkeley also exempted himself and his councilors from taxation. These actions angered the backcountry farmers and tenant farmers. Yet it was the governor's policies toward Native American lands that led to a rebellion.

**Crisis Over Land** Over time, the most important issue for most colonists was acquiring land. Many indentured servants and tenant farmers wanted to own farms eventually. Backcountry farmers wanted to expand their holdings. By the 1670s, most land left was in areas claimed by Native Americans in the Piedmont, the region of rolling hills between the coastal plains and the Appalachians. Most wealthy planters, who lived near the coast, opposed expanding Virginia's territory because they did not want to endanger their plantations by risking war with the Native Americans.

In 1675 war broke out between settlers and a Susquehannock group, but Governor Berkeley refused to support further military action. Nathaniel Bacon, a well-to-do but sympathetic planter, took up the cause of outraged backcountry farmers. After organizing a militia to attack the Native Americans, he ran for office and won a seat in the House of Burgesses. The assembly immediately authorized another attack. It also restored the right to vote to all free men and took away tax exemptions Berkeley had granted to his supporters. Not satisfied with these reforms, Bacon challenged Berkeley, and a civil war erupted. Bacon's Rebellion ended suddenly the next month, when Bacon, hiding in a swamp, became sick and died. Without his leadership, his army rapidly disintegrated, and Berkeley returned to power.

Bacon's Rebellion convinced many wealthy planters that land should be made available to back-country farmers. From the 1680s onward, Virginia's government generally supported expanding the colony westward, regardless of the impact on Native Americans.

Bacon's Rebellion also helped increase Virginia's reliance on enslaved Africans rather than indentured servants to work their plantations. Enslaved workers did not have to be freed and, therefore, would never need their own land. In addition, in 1672 King Charles II granted a charter to the Royal African Company to engage in the slave trade. Planters now found it easier to acquire enslaved people because they no longer had to go through the Dutch or the Portuguese. Earlier purchases had been difficult because English laws limited trade between the English colonies and other countries. Planters also discovered another economic advantage to slavery. Because enslaved Africans, unlike indentured servants, were considered property, planters could use them as collateral to borrow money and expand their plantations.

**Reading Check** **Analyzing** How did the types of settlements influence the way each was governed?

## A Diverse Society

**Main Idea** The different colonies created new social structures that were more open than those of aristocratic Europe.

**Reading Connection** Think about the social structure in your school, from the principal down to you, the student. Read on to learn about the social structure that developed in the growing English settlements.

The increasing population of enslaved Africans, along with a rise in trade, changed colonial society. This brought with it a growth of cities, increased immigration, and changes in status for women and Africans.

**Trade and the Rise of Cities** In the early colonial period, settlers produced few goods that England wanted in exchange for the goods they purchased. Instead, colonial merchants developed systems of **triangular trade** involving exchanges of goods among the colonies, England, Caribbean sugar planters, and Africa.

This trade brought great wealth for merchants, who began to build factories. It also fostered the growth of cities in the North. By 1760 the Middle Colonies

boasted the two largest cities in America: Philadelphia, with 30,000 people, and New York with 25,000.

In these cities, a new society with distinct social classes developed. At the top of the **hierarchy** were a small number of wealthy merchants who controlled trade. Below them, artisans, or skilled workers, made up nearly half of the urban population in colonial times. Innkeepers and retailers with their own businesses held a similar status. The lower class consisted of people without skills or property. Below them in status were indentured servants and enslaved Africans. Although relatively few enslaved people lived in the North, many dwelled in the cities there, making up 10 to 20 percent of the urban population.

**Enslaved Africans** No group in the American colonies endured lower status or more hardship than enslaved Africans. Africans had arrived in Virginia as early as 1619, when they were regarded as "Christian servants." By about 1775, these unwilling immigrants and their descendants numbered about 540,000 in all colonies, roughly 20 percent of the colonial population. Throughout the colonies, laws called **slave codes** kept African captives from owning property, receiving an education, moving about freely, or meeting in large groups.

Most enslaved Africans lived on Southern plantations, where they worked long days and were subjected to beatings and brandings by planters. Planters also controlled enslaved Africans by threatening to sell them away from their families. Family and religion

**Port of Boston** As one of the main cities in the colonies, Boston was a center of activity in colonial America. It was a central point for the anger over the creation of the Dominion of New England.

