

Colonization and Settlement

Colonization and Settlement
(1585–1763)



The New World

The thirteen colonies

Religion and commerce

Ruling America

Thematic Icons



Economics and business



Geography and environment



Historical concepts and questions



Politics, government and citizenship



Society and culture



War, diplomacy and foreign policy

Icons: For more detailed instructions, see the *User Guide*



Flash activity (these activities are not editable)



Teacher notes included in the Notes page



By the end of this section, you will find out about how various aspects of society functioned in the thirteen colonies:

- Religion
- Social class and divisions
- The role of minorities
- Economics, commerce and trade.



Early American culture was shaped by the religious experience of its earliest settlers. Religion was the primary motivation for many who came to the colonies, especially in New England. Immigrants came both to escape persecution in England and to practice their faith openly.

Many settlers were highly intelligent. They often put their intellectual efforts into religion. In New England, 95% of all clergymen held college degrees.



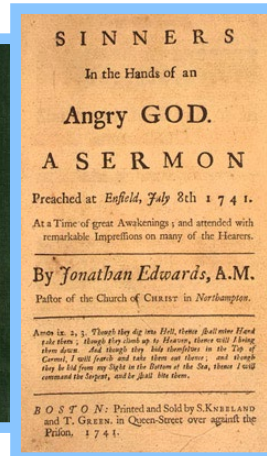
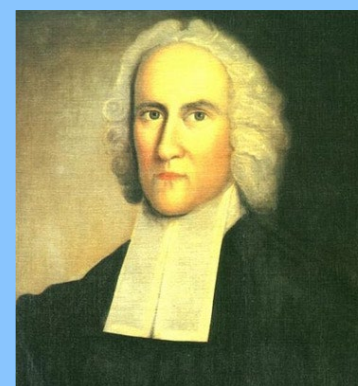


The Great Awakening



In the 18th century period known as the **Enlightenment**, key philosophers looked beyond religion. They used reason and science to obtain knowledge. At the same time, religion was perceived to be in decline, particularly in New England.

The **Great Awakening** in the 1730s and 1740s was an emotional response to the highly intellectualized religion practiced in many congregations. It differed from the Enlightenment but produced a similar response.



It brought many people into the church and gave them the chance to worship in their own way. It also spawned many variants of the “true faith” as new denominations formed.



As highlighted by Bacon's Rebellion, there were class differences in the early colonies. In both the Middle and Southern Colonies there was a clear division between the elites and the great majority of settlers.



The potential for violent uprising combined with the chronic shortage of labor, meant that slavery was introduced to the colonies as early as 1619. It quickly becoming necessary in order for plantation economies to function.

Can you find out anything about the population size and demographics of the colonies?



In most of the early colonies, women had few legal or social rights and were subservient to their husbands. Education was minimal, even for the wealthy, and most had domestic duties that occupied much of their time.

The Africans brought over as slaves maintained elements of their own culture, such as stories, songs and crafts. Family was of central importance. Even as real families were ripped apart, surrogate families with strong bonds were created.



Despite being minorities, women, Africans and Indians all played a crucial role in shaping the American identity.



The thirteen colonies all developed different economies. This was mainly due to their varying environments, natural resources and suitability for different sorts of agriculture. Press on each group of colonies to find out more about the economy in that region.

Press **start** to begin.

start

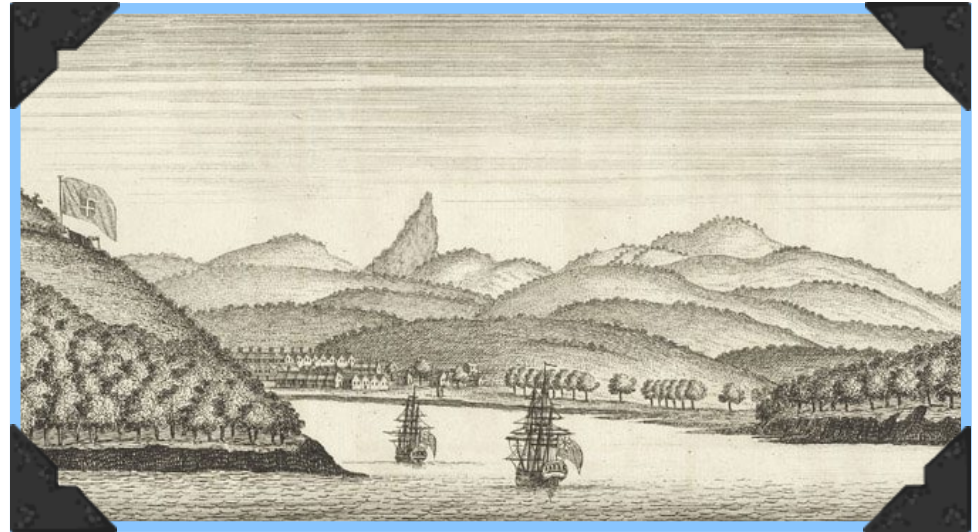


Why was there such a labor shortage in the colonies?



Mercantilism is an economic term to describe the various government policies designed to encourage self-sufficiency and enrich the state through the acquisition of gold and silver.

This idea evolved into a policy to create a positive **balance of trade** by selling more goods than were being bought and, therefore, acquiring more gold than was spent.



England wanted colonies that would serve both as a source of raw materials and a market for domestic manufactured goods.

How did the colonies feel about mercantilism?



The triangular trade



The **triangular trade** was a trade system that operated between Europe, Africa and the Americas from the late 16th to the early 19th century. It gave each place access to the commodities it needed. Can you drag the labels of the main commodities to the correct places?

Press **start** to begin.

start



What other goods were part of the triangular trade?



There were many differences between the early colonies. These were based on the varying climates, systems of government and economics, and the religion, education and culture of the settlers.

Drag each statement to the correct place, depending on whether they are features of the New England, Middle or Southern Colonies.

Press **start** to begin.

start

