

The 13 Colonies Information Packet

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Created by Mrs. Forgit 2014

Massachusetts Bay Colony



In 1620, about 50 separatists set sail from Holland seeking religious freedom in the new world. They sailed on a ship called *The Mayflower*. They came to be known as the Pilgrims. The Pilgrims, led by William Bradford, landed in Massachusetts and called their settlement Plymouth. They arrived in the beginning of winter and did not have many supplies left after their long journey across the sea. The winter was very harsh and they would have died if they had not received help from the local Native Americans. The Native Americans taught them how to plant crops, catch fish and trap animals to eat. The next year when the Pilgrims had their first harvest they held a celebration, or feast, of thanksgiving. They invited the Native Americans who had helped them to join. Americans still celebrate this holiday today.

Ten years later, in 1630, a group of Puritans (people who wanted to purify the church by making the services simpler and getting rid of the ranks within the church) left England for America. Much like the Pilgrims, the Puritans left England seeking religious freedom. They were given a charter from King James of England for the Massachusetts Bay Company. They arrived during the warm weather so they could avoid some of the hardships that the Pilgrims had suffered. They also brought more supplies, livestock and horses to help their settlement thrive. The Puritans' charter allowed them to govern themselves. They held elections and voted John Winthrop as their first governor. Their first settlement was called Boston.

The Puritans thought that religion was the most important aspect of everyday life, and that shaped how their settlement was organized. Every member of the community had to agree to a contract, or covenant, with the church. The contract made them promise to follow the rules of the Puritan church. The Puritans believed that children were little adults and so they treated them like small adults. Children in Puritan communities had to do a lot of work. Young girls had to spin wool, cook, do household chores and make soap. Young boys were responsible to chop wood, care for animals and do much of the work on the farms. Every village had a school and because education was so important for the Puritans they established Harvard College in 1636.

Geography:	Good ports with sandy coast, rich pastures, and abundant forests
Founders:	William Bradford (Pilgrims) and John Winthrop (Puritans)
Climate:	Harsh, cold winters and warm summers
Occupations:	Lumbering, shipping, shipbuilding, farming, raising livestock, fishing and shop owners
Religion:	Puritan
Why:	Religious freedom
Name:	Massachusetts is a Native American phrase meaning "great hill"
Region:	New England/Northern Colony

Rhode Island Colony



In 1636, Roger Williams who was a young minister was banished from the Massachusetts Bay Colony for preaching different ideas. He fled south from Massachusetts in the middle of winter looking to start a new settlement where people could worship as they wanted. He met a group of Native Americans near the Narragansett Bay who took care of him throughout the winter. When spring came Roger Williams purchased some land from the Native Americans and called it "Providence." Providence means in the "guidance and care of God."

Two years after Roger Williams had established Providence, Anne Hutchinson was banished from Massachusetts for preaching against the Puritans. She and her family went to Rhode Island and established the settlement of Portsmouth.

Roger Williams welcomed people of all faiths and beliefs to the colony, but the ideal of freedom did not extend to African slaves. Rhode Island had great ports and the merchants soon realized that they could make a lot of money in the slave trade. Rhode Island became one of the largest slave trading centers in the whole world. The coast featured many small coves which were perfect hiding spaces for pirates and others hiding stolen or illegal goods. Due to these activities the Puritans began to call Rhode Island "Rogues' Island," implying that the colonists who lived there were all rogues or criminals.

Geography:	Rocky woodlands and low, flat coastal lands
Founders:	Roger Williams and Anne Hutchinson
Climate:	Harsh, cold winters and warm summers
Occupations:	Farming, dairy farming, lumbering, shipbuilding, fishing, whaling, trade and slave trade
Religion:	Various faiths
Why:	Religious freedom
Name:	Giovanni da Verrazano saw a similarity between it and the Greek island of Rhodes
Region:	New England/Northern Colony

Connecticut Colony



Thomas Hooker, a Puritan clergyman, left Massachusetts to form a new colony. Although Hooker was a Puritan, he disagreed with some of the Puritan beliefs. He thought that each church should choose its own leaders and be separated from one another. In 1636, Thomas Hooker and 100 of his family and friends formed a settlement on the site of an old Dutch fort and called it Hartford.

Thomas Hooker believed that government should be based on the choice of the people and God. He created one of the first written plans of government in the colonies called *The Fundamental Orders*. This document gave all men who were members of the Puritan church the right to vote.

At the same time as Hartford was being settled another settlement called "New Haven" was being established. New Haven was founded by a group of Puritans that all agreed to live by the word of god. This community had extremely strict rules, even more strict than those in the other communities.

Connecticut was not originally authorized by the king and was thus not given any rights from England. In 1662, King Charles II granted the Connecticut Colony a charter. The charter granted the colonists more rights than the colonists in any other colony were given.

Geography:	Sea coast, forests and hills
Founders:	Thomas Hooker
Climate:	Cold winters and mild summers
Occupations:	Farming, livestock, shipbuilding, fishing and whaling
Religion:	Puritan
Why:	Puritans seeking a new settlement
Name:	From the Mohican Indian word "quonehtacut", which means "the place of the long tidal river."
Region:	New England/Northern Colony

New Hampshire Colony



In 1638, Sir Ferdinando Gorges and John Mason were granted the charter to start a settlement. When they first settled in New Hampshire their goal was to form a fishing colony. When they first arrived they built a fort and buildings for fish-processing in an area named Pannaway Plantation. Some of the settlers moved from Pannaway to a new settlement called Strawberry Banke which would eventually become Portsmouth. The first elected governor of New Hampshire was John Wentworth.

In the beginning New Hampshire was part of Massachusetts. It was not until 1679 when King Charles II issued a charter separating Massachusetts from the Royal Province of New Hampshire. The relationship between the settlers in Massachusetts and New Hampshire was very turbulent because of arguments of land claims and borders.

In the early 1700s a large group of Scottish-Irish immigrants came to New Hampshire. They settled in a town and called it Londonderry after the name of their city in Ireland. The people of Londonderry grew flax and manufactured textile/linen goods.

Due to its location, New Hampshire was right in the center of many conflicts. There were many disputes and fights in the northern areas of the colony with the French of Canada. There were also many disagreements that led to violence with the Native Americans. New Hampshire found itself on the front lines of many military conflicts including King William's War, Queen Anne's War and others.

Geography:	Hills, mountains and low coasts with rocky soil and thick forests, also had many rivers
Founders:	John Mason, John Wheelwright and Sir Ferdinando Gorges
Climate:	Harsh, cold winters and mild, short summers
Occupations:	Fishing, farming, manufacturing of textiles, and shipbuilding
Religion:	Various faiths
Why:	To establish a fishing colony and make money
Name:	Named after the English county of Hampshire where Mason came from.
Region:	New England/Northern Colony

New York Colony



In 1664, the British took over the New Netherlands which was a settlement in what is currently New York. James, the Duke of York, was the proprietor which means he was the owner of the land. James renamed the area New York to match his title of the Duke of York. He gave two large pieces of his colony to Sir George Carteret and Lord John Berkeley who were his friends. Those pieces of land became a different colony named New Jersey.

The proprietor wanted to attract new settlers and so he gave out land to wealthy Englishmen and other settlers willing to come try their luck. The only cost that the proprietors had to pay for their land was a tax to the Duke. The proprietors charged the farmers who worked the land very high rents. This allowed the proprietors to become very rich and kept the farmers poor.

A very diverse population of people immigrated to the New York colony including: Germans, Dutch, Englishmen, Quakers, Swedish and Irish settlers. This diversity led to a mixing of cultures. In colonial New York City there would be people speaking many different languages, practicing different religions and eating different foods. The settlers shared knowledge about farming, home building, hunting and fishing.

The colonists in New York did not like the Duke's way of governing and wanted to be able to elect representatives to make the laws. The Duke refused for many years, but in 1683 he finally agreed. The assembly passed many laws during their first meeting, including a list of all of the rights that the colonists had as English citizens. They also listed the rights to elect representatives, have a trials judged by a jury, and religious freedom. The Duke was so upset about the laws that the first assembly had passed that he repealed the right to have an assembly. It was not until 1689 when Jacob Leisler took over New York that the colonists were given the right to have representation in their own government.

Geography:	Forests, mountains, wetlands along the Atlantic Coast and Hudson River Coast
Founders:	Dutch West India Company, James (Duke of York)
Climate:	Hot, humid summers and cold and snowy winters
Occupations:	Fur trapping, shipping, merchants, farming, slave trade, iron mining, and lumber
Religion:	Various faiths
Why:	English and Dutch seeking new lives
Name:	Named after its owner James the Duke of York
Region:	Middle Colony

Delaware Colony



In 1638, Swedish settlers created a settlement along the Delaware River called Fort Christina, which is now called Wilmington. In 1682, William Penn was granted the land of Pennsylvania and soon after convinced the Duke of York to lease him the western shore of the Delaware Bay. This area became known as the Three Lower Counties on the Delaware.

The colonists in the Three Lower Counties wanted to be separate from Pennsylvania. The colonists wanted to make their own laws. In 1704, William Penn gave these counties the ability to elect their own assembly, while still under the control of Pennsylvania's governor. It was not until 1776 that Delaware became a completely independent area.

Geography:	Atlantic coastal plain, wet lowlands, fertile soil
Founders:	Peter Minuit
Climate:	Hot, humid summers and snowy winters
Occupations:	Livestock, furs, fishing, lumber, trade, and saw/flour milling
Religion:	Various faiths
Why:	Settlers seeking to make money and start a new life
Name:	The river and bay were named after Lord De La Warr and the name later spread.
Region:	Middle Colony

Maryland Colony



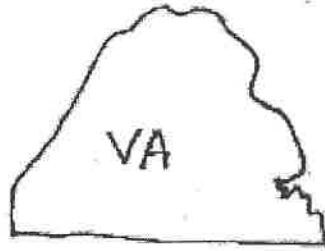
Geroge Calvert, who was also known as Lord Baltimore, wanted to start a colony where he and other Roman Catholics would be able to practice their faith freely and also make money. George Calvert died while still negotiating with the King. When King Charles I became king, he granted a charter to Calvert's son Cecil Calvert who was the new Lord Baltimore. The charter gave Lord Baltimore complete control of the colony of Maryland. Leonard Calvert, Cecil's brother, became the first governor of Maryland.

Leonard Calvert and his followers first settled in St. Mary's City on a hill they purchased from the local Native Americans. Leonard wanted to keep the peace between all of the settlers and so he allowed them to elect an assembly to make the laws for the colony. As more Protestant settlers arrived Leonard began to worry that the Catholics would be outnumbered and outvoted so he passed a law to protect their rights. It was in 1649 that the Toleration Act, which was the first law that guaranteed religious freedom to all Christians, was passed.

The Calverts ran Maryland Colony like a business. They took advantage of the rich soil and encouraged settlers to plant cash crops like tobacco. The city of Baltimore became a bustling port. Under Leonard's governorship the colony grew very wealthy.

Geography:	Rich, fertile land, lowlands near the Chesapeake Bay
Founders:	Cecil Calvert (Lord Baltimore)
Climate:	Hot summers and cold, rainy winters
Occupations:	Farming, livestock, dairy farming, lumbering, shipping, iron mining and fishing
Religion:	Many Catholics but various other faiths as well
Why:	Settlers seeking religious freedom, especially Protestants and Catholics
Name:	Named after Queen Mary.
Region:	Southern Colony

Virginia Colony



Started in the early 1600s, Jamestown was the first successful English settlement in America. Virginia began to grow and by the 1700s was very prosperous. The farming of tobacco on large farms called plantations was what brought the most money into Virginia.

Plantation farming was the backbone of Virginian economy. They farmed many cash crops including tobacco, rice, indigo and cotton. The problem with this was that the plantation owners needed a large number of workers to plant and harvest the vast fields. When they first arrived the Virginian colonists tried to use the local Native Americans to help them farm, but the Native Americans were not accustomed to this lifestyle or the diseases that the colonists brought and as a result many died or returned to their villages/the forest. Plantation owners then tried to use poor people from England as indentured servants (people who were given free passage to America and a small plot of land and tools in exchange for 5-7 years of service on the farms). This system worked for a little while, but it began to cost the plantation owners a lot of money and land. The plantation owners then turned to African slaves. The slaves cost more money than indentured servants, but they would never leave. It was also harder for the African slaves to escape or blend in because of their dark skin.

The plantation owners became dependant on the slaves to work their land and remain profitable. In 1661, the Virginia assembly passed a law that made African workers slaves for life. As time went on, Virginia's slave population grew to more than one-fourth of the total colony's population.

Geography:	Wooded mountains, fertile soil and coastal lowlands
Founders:	John Smith, Sir Walter Raleigh and the Virginia Company
Climate:	Hot summers and mild winters
Occupations:	Plantation farming (cash crops) and small independent farms
Religion:	Church of England
Why:	Settlers seeking to make money (tradesmen, landowners, skilled laborers)
Name:	Named after Queen Elizabeth I, the Virgin Queen.
Region:	Southern Colony

Georgia Colony



Georgia was the last colony to be founded. It was founded by James Oglethorpe who wanted to create a colony where the poor from England could start a new life. At that time in England if people owed too much money, or were in debt, they would have to go debtor's prison. King George II liked the idea of establishing the colony because it would serve as a buffer, or barrier, between the Spanish settlement in Florida and the Carolina colonies. The main problem that Oglethorpe faced was getting enough settlers, because many of the poor Englishmen believed that prison was safer than the North American wilderness.

Georgia ended up being a colony settled by adventurers and people seeking religious freedom, especially Protestants, Catholics and Jews. Many people from Switzerland and Germany seeking religious freedom came to Georgia. As a result of this immigration Georgia had the highest percentage of non-British settlers. Life in Georgia was not easy for the colonists. The Spanish in Florida wanted to control Georgia and would attack the new settlements.

Oglethorpe wanted to have peace with the Native Americans. He befriended the Creek tribe which were located near where he wanted to establish his first settlement of Savannah. Oglethorpe wanted to raise silkworms, as silk was in high demand in England, but that failed.

Oglethorpe also set very strict laws. He outlawed alcohol and owning slaves and said that all settlers should own small independent farms. He offered the settlers religious freedom and free land to use for 10 years. He also made the use of slaves illegal as he wanted the settlers to farm their own land. The settlers in Georgia did not agree, they wanted to have large plantations like there were in the Carolinas and also did not like many of his other laws. As time went on rice became the most profitable cash crop in Georgia and as the plantations grew slavery became legal in the colony.

Geography:	Plains of red clay, mountains, forests and wetlands
Founders:	George II and James Edward Oglethorpe
Climate:	Long, hot, humid summers and mild winters
Occupations:	Plantation farming (cash crops) and small independent farms
Religion:	Various faiths
Why:	English debtors and Swiss and Germans seeking religious freedom.
Name:	Named after King George of England.
Region:	Southern Colony

South Carolina Colony



In 1663, King Charles II gave eight proprietors a charter to found the Carolina colony. At first there was just one colony of the Carolinas. The northern part of Carolina grew slowly because they did not have a good port, but the southern part of Carolina grew quickly due to the great harbor in Charles Town. In 1729, the colony split into North Carolina and South Carolina.

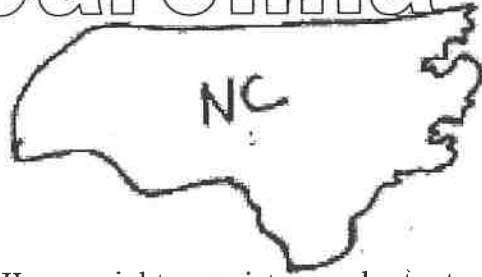
The first major city in the Southern Colonies was founded in 1670 named Charles Town. Charles Town was in a perfect location, it had a great harbor for shipping, a warm climate and nice rich soil which made it the perfect place for agriculture and trade. By 1770, Charles Town was the fourth largest city in America. Today it is called Charleston. Life was not always easy for the original settlers, the Spanish and local Native Americans often fought with the settlers.

Plantations were the way of life in the South Carolina Colony. The plantations were large farms that grew cash crops such as tobacco, indigo and rice. Plantations in South Carolina were like small towns/villages. They had stables, carpenters, blacksmiths, fields, houses, quarters for the slaves, vegetable gardens, mills for flour and laundry buildings.

In 1669, John Locke wrote the *Fundamental Constitutions of Carolina* which gave the colonists their rights and served as a form of government. These freedoms did not extend to the African slaves who were needed to work the plantations in South Carolina. As time went on the African slaves constituted a majority of the population in South Carolina, but they were not free or able to vote.

Geography:	Rich fertile soil, sandy coastal plains, hills and forests
Founders:	King Charles II and the Lord Proprietors (8 English Noblemen)
Climate:	Long, hot, humid summers and mild winters
Occupations:	Plantation farming (cash crops), lumbering, slave trade and livestock
Religion:	Various faiths
Why:	English settlers looking to make money.
Name:	Named for King Charles I.
Region:	Southern Colony

North Carolina Colony



In 1663, King Charles II gave eight proprietors a charter to found the Carolina colony. At first there was just one colony of the Carolinas. The northern part of Carolina grew slowly because they did not have a good port, but the southern part of Carolina grew quickly due to the great harbor in Charles Town. In 1729, the colony split into North Carolina and South Carolina.

The first attempted English settlement in North America was in what is now North Carolina on Roanoke Island. This settlement was attempted by Ralph Lane in 1585, but it failed due to lack of supplies. It was tried again in 1587 and the first English colonist to ever be born in the New World was Virginia Dare. A ship went to England to get supplies, and when it returned three years later the settlement had been abandoned, it is still a mystery today what happened to the people of Roanoke and it is still known as the "Lost Colony of Roanoke."

When colonists started to settle in North Carolina in the late 1600s they faced many challenges. The first and most difficult was that there were no good ports from which to ship cash crops. Another problem was that there were not many rivers within the colony to move goods easily towards the coast. As a result, the North Carolinian economy grew slowly. In 1665 a permanent settlement was created on the Cape Fear River, called Cape Fear it is now called Wilmington.

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Geography:	Rich fertile soil, mountains, plateaus and forests
Founders:	King Charles II and the Lord Proprietors (8 English Noblemen)
Climate:	Long, hot, humid summers and mild winters
Occupations:	Plantation farming (cash crops), lumbering and slave trade
Religion:	Various faiths
Why:	English settlers looking to make money.
Name:	Named for King Charles I.
Region:	Southern Colony

Pennsylvania Colony



William Penn was granted land to start a colony by King Charles II. The King was very happy to grant William Penn the land for a few reasons, including that the King owed Penn's father a lot of money and the King thought that this would be the best way to repay his debt and also the King and Penn disagreed about many of Penn's views.

William Penn was a Quaker, or a member of the Society of Friends. The Quakers believed that everyone should be treated equally and should live a very simple lifestyle. The Quakers and the King were often arguing because they refused to bow to the King, fight in wars and even pay taxes to the Church of England.

In 1681, William Penn and his followers traveled to their new land in America. Penn called the colony Pennsylvania, meaning "Penn's Woods" in honor of his father. Penn advertised his colony throughout Europe and promised religious freedom and equality to all people who came. Penn named his first settlement and capital Philadelphia which means "City of Brotherly Love." Penn wrote the *Frame of Government of Pennsylvania* which created the first democracy in America.

Pennsylvania attracted people of many different cultures, faiths and backgrounds. Some came to Pennsylvania to escape fighting in their homeland, others came for religious freedom. Other than the Quakers, another large religious group seeking freedom were the Mennonites from Germany. There were also many Scottish, German and Irish immigrants who came to start a new life.

One of the greatest differences between Pennsylvania and other colonies was their treatment of the Native Americans. William Penn paid the Native Americans for all of the land that they acquired through the charter. Penn believed that they could live in harmony.

Geography:	Forests, rich fertile soil, mountains, hills and rivers
Founders:	William Penn
Climate:	Hot, humid summers and cold winters
Occupations:	Farming, dairy farming, merchants, tradesmen, lumbering, shipbuilding
Religion:	Various faiths
Why:	Quakers and others seeking religious freedom and equality.
Name:	Named Pennsylvania or "Penn's Woods" for William Penn's father.
Region:	Middle Colony

New Jersey Colony



In 1664, the British took over the New Netherlands which was a settlement in what is currently New York. James, the Duke of York, was the proprietor which means he was the owner of the land. James gave two large pieces of his colony to Sir George Carteret and Lord John Berkeley who were his friends. Those pieces of land became a different colony named New Jersey.

To attract new settlers to New Jersey, the proprietors offered new settlers free land and the promise of religious freedom. All that the new land owners had to pay was a tax. The flat and rich farmland in New Jersey, along with the mild climate allowed for good agriculture. Trade was a major aspect of life for colonists in New Jersey. They used the Delaware River as a major trade route.

One of the first towns that was established in New Jersey was called Bergen. This town is still around today, but it is now call Jersey City. When Carteret and Berkeley originally established New Jersey it was split into two colonies, East Jersey and West Jersey. In 1702 the two colonies were united into the Royal Colony of New Jersey.

New Jersey was a melting pot of different cultures. The lure of religious freedom attracted many settlers of different faiths, much like in the New York Colony, there were Quakers, Protestants and Catholics living peacefully together in this colony. New Jersey was also one of the only colonies to escape from conflicts with Native Americans. They worked in partnership with the Native Americans working together on fur trade and farming.

Geography:	Rich fertile soil, wetlands along the Delaware River, forests and hills
Founders:	Sir George Carteret and Lord John Berkeley
Climate:	Hot, humid summers and cold winters
Occupations:	Farming, manufacturing of textiles, lumbering
Religion:	Various faiths
Why:	Many seeking religious freedom, others to make money and start a new life
Name:	Named after the English isle of Jersey where Sir Carteret had been the governor.
Region:	Middle Colony