

Chapter 4 – English Colonies Thrive in North America (1607-1763)

I. Why did people come to live in the English Colonies?

A. Opportunities in America

1). Why did English people lack the chance to own land?

- The enclosure movement

2). Why was city life unpleasant?

- It was overcrowded, dirty and unhealthy

B. Desire for Religious Freedom

1). Why did people resist the Church of England?

- Many dissented from the Church of England (Anglican Church) because thought it was too rich and elaborate and similar to the Catholic Church

2). How did English dissenters suffer mistreatment?

- English rulers persecuted people who refused to belong to the Church of England by threatening jail or death for some
- The Crown persecuted Catholics, Puritans, Separatists and other dissenters

C. A Greater Voice in Government

1). How did English monarchs claim so much power?

- The kings were absolute monarchs with “divine right”. This allowed the king to ignore Parliament

2). How did Africans come to America?

- Africans were the only group of people to be forced to come to America because of the slave trade out of Africa (Middle Passage).

II. Why did the Jamestown and Plymouth settlements succeed?

A. Jamestown Colony

1). Who started the settlement of Jamestown?

- A charter was granted by the king to a joint stock company called the London Company

2). Hardships

- Poor location, fear of the local Indians, food shortages and building shelters

3). How did Jamestown grow stronger?

- After overcoming early problems, tobacco became the cash (profitable) crop for the settlement

4). How did the colonists gain a voice in their government?

- In 1619, Virginia settlers created the 1st representatives body in the colonies called the Virginia House of Burgesses

B. Plymouth Colony

1). The Pilgrims

- Separatists from England who were looking for a home to allow them to practice religion freely.
- In 1620 about 100 people set sail for Virginia on the "Mayflower". A storm blew them off course, and they landed north near present-day Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

2). How did the Pilgrims plan their first government?

- They drew up an agreement called the "Mayflower Compact", which was the start of self-government in the colonies

3). How did Native Americans help Pilgrims survive?

- The Wampanoag taught the Pilgrims how to plant corn and trap animals for fur

4). The First Thanksgiving

- It was the first harvest for the Pilgrims and it was a day to celebrate their survival. They invited their Native American friends to share in the great feast and give thanks to God.

III. How were the other English Colonies founded?

A. New England Colonies

1) Massachusetts Bay Colony

- This colony was founded by the Massachusetts Bay Company made up of mostly a very religious group called Puritans. Religion was the guiding force of this colony.

2). Rhode Island

- Founded by Roger Williams and other Puritans who left Massachusetts Bay colony
- Anne Hutchinson was also forced to leave the Puritans because of her religious beliefs

3). Connecticut and New Hampshire

- Thomas Hooker led a number of unhappy Puritans away from Massachusetts Bay to start a settlement at Hartford
- The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut 1639 was considered the first written Constitution of the colonies

B. Southern Colonies

1). Maryland

- Lord Baltimore (Sir George Calvert) led a group of persecuted Catholics from England in 1634
- Maryland enacted the Act of Toleration which stated that Christians could not be persecuted for their beliefs, non-Christians were not included

2). North and South Carolina

- Eight nobles were granted a large piece of land south of Virginia and named it Carolina (Latin for Charles). In 1712, the king divided the colonies into two parts North and South Carolina.

3). Georgia

- Founded by James Oglethorpe, who wished to improve living conditions for Englishmen who were debtors

C). Middle Colonies

1). New York and New Jersey

- First settled by the Dutch in the 1620's and it was called New Netherlands. Manhattan was called New Amsterdam until 1664 when the British took it from the Dutch by force.

2). Pennsylvania and the "Holy Experiment"

- William Penn started a colony as a refuge for Quakers who were bitterly persecuted and he welcomed people of all faiths and backgrounds. He insisted that Native Americans be treated with respect and in a fair way.

3). Delaware becomes a separate colony

- It was first a part of New Sweden in 1638, then was taken over by the Dutch in 1655 and eventually went to the British in 1664. It was a part of Pennsylvania until becoming a separate colony in 1704.

IV. What challenges did the English face on their frontiers?

A. Conflict with Native Americans

- 1). The English settlements expanded from their original locations to frontier areas which meant forcing Indians off more land.
- 2). The Indians resist the settlers on the frontier by threatening attacks. King Philip's War 1675 and Chief Metacomet.

B. New France and New Spain

- 1). Many Native American groups were friendly with the French because the French traded with them and did not take away their land.
- 2). Marquette and Joliet explored the Ohio and Mississippi River Valley in search of the Northwest Passage.
- 3). Robert de La Salle sailed down the mouth of the Mississippi River and claimed the area from the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico and called it Louisiana.
- 4). New France now borders the English colonies
- 5). The French feared that the English colonists would look to expand into New France so they gave weapons to the Native Americans and built a series of forts to defend New France.
- 6). The English and Spanish signed a treaty in 1748 to settle land conflicts between Spanish Florida and Georgia.
- 7). The English colonies developed self-reliance which helped the colonists thrive in the wilderness and hold off their enemies.