

## Settlements in the New World

The explorers who discovered the New World had many reasons for their voyages. Some came looking for trade routes. Others wanted adventure or fame. Many were looking for riches—gold, silver, and gems. After a time, most explorers became discouraged when they realized that their voyages would not achieve what they had intended. The explorers did not discover a shorter route to the East. Many died on the voyage or did not reap any benefits from the voyage. While some conquistadors, such as Cortés and Pizarro, did find gold, silver, and jewels and plundered the wealth of the natives, most did not. However, as the explorers came ashore and explored the New World, they found a land that was rich in game, natural resources, and fertile soil. It was the kind of country that would be ideal for establishing colonies. And after awhile, that is exactly what they did. The settlements in the New World varied widely, depending on which country settled in the region, but gradually, the English Colonies dominated the New World.

### New Spain



While Columbus and other explorers arrived in the New World in their search for a better route to India and China, many Spaniards had other reasons for their voyages.

- Searching for gold, silver, and other valuables.
- Converting the natives to their Christianity and specifically to Catholicism.
- Creating empires for some Spanish noblemen.
- Profiting from trade.

The very reasons Spaniards explored the New World were the same reasons they decided to establish colonies. In fact, Spanish explorers were the first to establish colonies in the New World. For the most part, Spain colonized the areas that are south of what is now the United States. This new country was called *New Spain*, and Mexico City was at its center. The exploration and colonization spread in all directions from Mexico City. While the first Spanish settlement in the New World was established by Columbus on the island of Hispaniola, which is now Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the first permanent colony on the mainland of what is now the United States was established by a Spanish soldier in 1565. The name of that colony was St. Augustine, and it was located in Florida. St. Augustine is still a thriving city today, and visitors are able to view the remnants of the Spanish settlement established centuries ago.

Most of the Spanish colonists were farmers. Others were engaged in mining gold, silver, and gems. Others mined nonprecious metals such as tin, iron, lead, and copper. Still others raised livestock and harvested lumber. All of these occupations required a great deal of manpower, since there were few machines to do work during this period. The Spanish colonists solved this problem by using the natives and African slaves to work their plantations, mines, and businesses.

When a Spaniard received land in the New Country, the natives who lived on this land were considered part of the land. The landowner could use the natives' labor to create wealth for himself. In effect, the natives were like serfs in Europe—they were bound to the land and controlled by the owner. The natives were often mistreated and overworked by the landowners. Except for some Catholic missionaries, who tried to convert the natives to Christianity, Spanish colonists were cruel to Native Americans.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## New Spain Quiz

Shown below are a number of sentences. Some are true and some are false. If the sentence is true, write the word "true" in front of the sentence. If the sentence is false, write a term that could replace the term written in bold type to make the sentence true.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 1. Spain colonized the areas that are **north** of what is now the United States.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2. Spanish colonists were **nice** to Native Americans.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 3. The first permanent colony in North America still in existence is **Miami**, located in Florida.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 4. Most of the Spanish colonists were **fishermen**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 5. St. Augustine was established in **1565**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 6. Spanish colonists used natives and African **farmers** to work their land.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 7. Many Spaniards came searching for **gold**, silver, and other valuables.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 8. Some Spaniards came to convert the natives to **Protestantism**.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 9. When a **Spaniard** received land in the New Country, the natives who lived on this land were considered part of the land.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 10. Spanish explorers found a land that was **rich** in game, natural resources, and fertile soil.

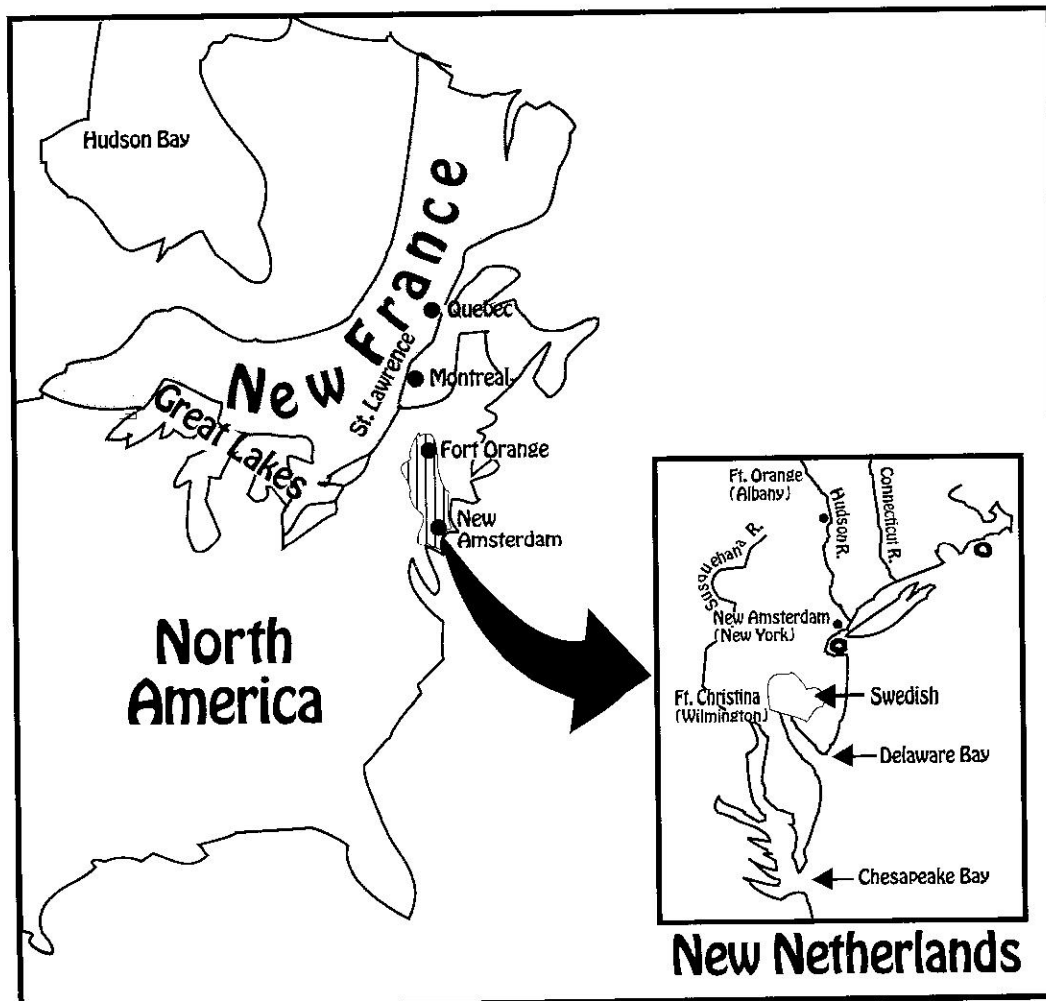


## New France and New Netherlands

While the Spanish settled mainly in the south of the New World, the French settled in the north. The French originally came to the New World to find the northwest passage to the East. Later, they came to develop the fur trade. Furs were a thriving business in Europe. Coats, hats, and other clothing were made of animal furs. The abundance of wild animals in North America made fur trading a profitable business.

Samuel de Champlain was the founder of New France. In 1608, Champlain came to New France and established a fort and built a settlement called Quebec. He explored the Great Lakes and discovered Lake Champlain as he was searching for a route to China. Champlain lived with the Indians, traded with them, and became their friend. In contrast to the Spanish, France's contact with Indians was generally friendly. They traded with them and trapped animals together. Rather than forcing the natives to accept their way of life, the French learned to speak native languages and learned how the natives were able to survive in the wilderness.

As the French explored North America, they were not as interested in colonizing immediately as the Spanish were. They claimed great tracts of land in the name of France for future use by Frenchmen. They built forts along the St. Lawrence, the Great Lakes, the Mississippi, and the Ohio. These forts were busy places where trade was carried on and where the priests held Mass. France claimed Nova Scotia, Canada, and the area of the Mississippi River from Canada to Louisiana.



In 1609, Henry Hudson, representing Holland, arrived at what later came to be known as the Hudson River. While Dutch explorers came to the New World to find the northwest passage, settlers from the Netherlands came to develop a fur trade with the Iroquois Indians. The Dutch were not interested in developing real colonies. Their interest was in trade, so they built forts and trading stations. Dutch traders built a settlement called Fort Orange in a place that we now know as Albany, New York. Fort Orange was a thriving fur-trading center and firmly established the Dutch in the New World. In 1623, a settlement was established at the mouth of the Hudson River. This is the spot where New York City is today.

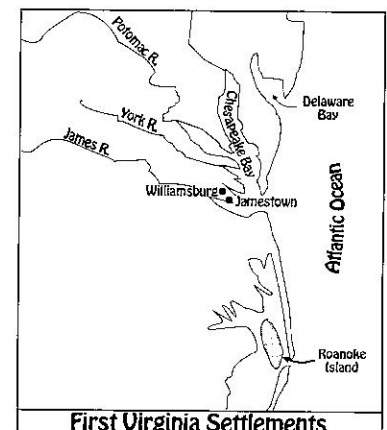
The Dutch colony was called New Netherland. It included not only Fort Orange, but many other settlements along the Hudson, Delaware, and Connecticut Rivers. The colony was expanded in 1626 when the Dutch governor purchased the island of Manhattan from the Indians for trinkets that were said to be worth about \$24. The center of New Netherland was called New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island. In 1655, the Dutch took over Swedish settlements along the Delaware River.

## New England

The New England colonies in the New World grew more rapidly than those of Spain, France, or the Dutch. While there were many reasons to come to the New World, some of the more common reasons are listed below.

- **Religious freedom.** The Anglican Church was the official church of England. Those who refused to join the church or differed with its beliefs were persecuted. The colonies were opened up to all religions.
- **Opportunities to make a living.** During the greatest period of colonization, times were hard in England. There were not many jobs, and those who had jobs barely survived. At the same time, there were Englishmen who had grown rich in industry and commerce and had money to invest in the colonies. They thought that by establishing colonies, they could grow even richer. They could obtain furs, lumber, fish, and other raw materials that could be sold in Europe. Colonists would also need to purchase goods from England. While the ordinary colonist would not prosper as much as the wealthy from this arrangement, many thought there would be more opportunities in the New World than they would ever have in England.
- **To avoid tyranny.** There was a great deal of political unrest in England during the seventeenth century. English colonists governed themselves for the most part.
- **The climate was favorable to Englishmen.**

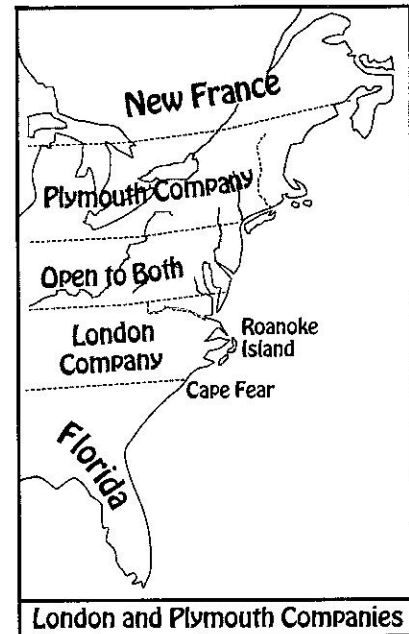
The earliest English colony was established in 1585 by Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh on Roanoke Island, just off the coast of North Carolina. The Roanoke colonists did not plant crops, but spent all of their time looking for gold. When they ran out of food and supplies, they were forced to return to England. Two years later, another Roanoke colony was established. This time, the colonists did try to plant crops, but the soil was not fertile. In order to get more food and supplies, the governor of the colony returned to England. When he returned to Roanoke three years later, he could find no trace of the colonists. The only clue to their disappearance was the word "Croatoan," which was carved into a tree. The Croatoans were a tribe of Indians who lived nearby. What happened to the colonists remains a mystery today. The colony at Roanoke has been named The Lost Colony.



## Later English Colonies

While the early attempts by the English to colonize the New Country failed, they did not give up. In the early part of the seventeenth century, many English merchants thought that colonies could provide them with additional markets for their goods. Not only would the colonists need to purchase goods from English merchants, the colonies could produce goods for the merchants that could be sold throughout the world. There was an additional benefit. The New World was rich in furs and natural resources that the rest of the world was willing to pay for. So merchants banded together to form **stock companies** to establish colonies in the New World.

Merchants decided that stock companies were a safer way to invest in the colonies, since the earlier English colonies had failed. They reasoned that if many people invested a little money, no one would be risking their entire fortune if the venture failed. Two of the companies that were formed were the London Company and the Plymouth Company. These companies sold shares of their com-



London and Plymouth Companies



Early American Settlements

pany. Anyone who bought a share would receive a share of any profits made by the company.

Each company received a charter from the king. The London Company was given a strip one hundred miles wide along the seacoast between the mouth of the Potomac and the southern boundary of the present North Carolina. The Plymouth Company was given a similar strip between Halifax in Nova Scotia and Manhattan Island. The middle strip between these two was open to both companies to settle. Part of the area granted in the charter was actually claimed by France. The king, however, believed that Cabot's discovery gave England the right to the entire North American continent.

The charters issued to these two English colonies established certain rules for the government of the colonies. Each company had a council of settlers who regulated trade with the Indians and enforced the laws. The only religion that was permitted was the Church of England. Probably the most important feature of the English colonies was that the settlers were given all of the rights and privileges of English citizens.

This was unusual because colonies established by other countries did not give colonists the same rights as those living in the mother country. Consequently, settlers from all over Europe chose to settle in the English Colonies.

The London Company established the first permanent English settlement in 1607. The name of the new settlement was Jamestown in what is now Virginia. Jamestown was settled on a peninsula on the James River. This location was chosen so the settlers could protect themselves from attacks from Indians and the Spanish. However, the location turned out to not be as safe as the settlers thought. It was close to marshes that had mosquitoes that carried malaria.

From a business point of view, the London Company never did well. The colonists had little food, some were sick from malaria, and many spent their time looking for gold. At one time, the colony had only seven laborers and 52 colonists who were described as "gentlemen." The gentlemen would do no work but would instead look for gold. If it were not for Captain John Smith, the colony might have failed. But Jamestown did not fail. It grew, and other Englishmen were encouraged to face the risks of the New World.

One of the groups of colonists that came after Jamestown were the Pilgrims, who landed in Massachusetts in 1620. The Pilgrims were Protestants who refused to join the Anglican Church, which was recognized as England's church. They originally went to Holland, where they could worship as they wished, but they wanted their children to grow up English. So they set sail on the *Mayflower* and landed at Plymouth Rock.

Other English settlements were established along the coast during this period. At the same time England was establishing colonies, so were other countries.

## The Massachusetts Bay Colony

The most successful of the colonies was the Massachusetts Bay Colony. In 1620, a group received a land grant from the English king to establish the colony. The grant stated that the boundaries of their land were between 48° and 40° north latitude and extended westward indefinitely. The people who settled this colony were called Puritans. They left England because they were not permitted to worship as they wanted to in England. Puritans wanted to remain in the Church of England, but they wanted to purify it. That is why they were called Puritans. Strangely enough, while the Puritans came to America for religious freedom, they did not want that same freedom for others. Quakers and those of faiths other than the one the Puritan's practiced were not allowed to stay in the colony. Some were put in prison, while others were driven out, and a few were even hanged. Sometimes those who did not belong to the Puritan's church could live in the colony, but they were not allowed to participate in the government. The right to vote was only given to church members. The Massachusetts Bay Colony became so successful, that over a 10-year period, over 20,000 settlers left England to live there.



## The English Colonies Grow

The small English settlements that began along the coast thrived and eventually grew into 13 colonies. These colonies are generally divided into sections. They are the English colonies, the Middle Colonies, and the Southern Colonies. The English Colonies consisted of Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Rhode Island. The Middle Colonies consisted of New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. The Southern Colonies consisted of Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

The way of life was different in each of these groups of colonies. This happened for two reasons. First, the people who settled in each area were different. Those that settled in the New England Colonies were Puritans. They came in the seventeenth century for religious freedom. New England colonists were very religious. On the other hand, the middle colonies were settled by people from many European countries. There were German, French, Irish, Scots, Dutch, and Swedes. They were interested in making money and farming. The first people who came to the Southern Colonies were not primarily interested in religion. They were looking for gold and wanted to get rich quickly by trading with the Indians.

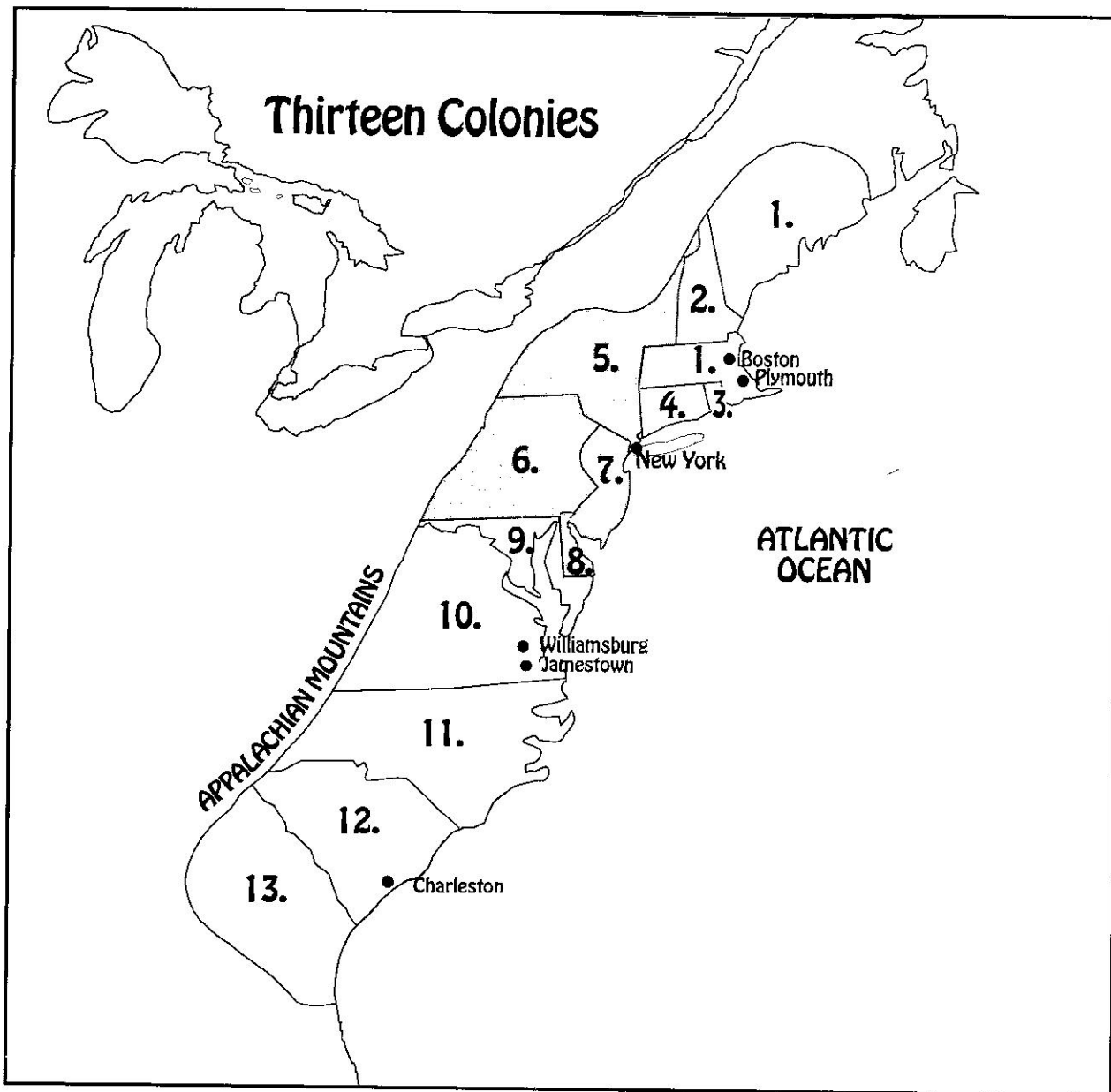
The second difference among the three sections of the 13 colonies deals with geographical conditions. New England has less level land than the other sections. The winters are long and harsh. The ground is rocky. So while the people in New England were able to grow most of their own food, they were unable to grow crops to sell. Consequently, New Englanders earned money by fishing, selling lumber, and trading. The Middle Colonies were able to grow vegetables, fruits, and grain. They grew a lot of corn and wheat and built mills to grind the grain into flour. Because the middle colonies grew so many grains, they were called the "Bread Colonies." They shipped some of their goods overseas. Southern Colonists planted tobacco and rice. The climate and soil made the land good for farms. While there were many small farms, the Southern Colonies were known for their large plantations where a few rich people owned most of the land and used slaves for work. Plantations grew almost all of their food. The typical plantation had 50–100 slaves, although some of the larger plantations had many more.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Knowing the Original Colonies

How well do you know the original 13 colonies? Look at the map below. Identify each colony and write its name in the appropriate space below the map.



**NEW ENGLAND**

- 1. \_\_\_\_\_
- 2. \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. \_\_\_\_\_

**MIDDLE COLONIES**

- 5. \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. \_\_\_\_\_

**SOUTHERN COLONIES**

- 9. \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. \_\_\_\_\_