**How did the British Colonies begin to develop their own culture and identity?**

After the discovery of the New World, Europe began to see the large fortunes that could be made from the new continent’s abundant natural resources. European countries began establishing colonies to access this wealth. They could not know, however, that these colonies would change world history forever by destroying native cultures and creating entirely new ones. The British Colonies in America began to develop their own sense of culture and identity because of social changes, economic reasons, political reasons, and geographic reasons.

First, the colonies in America began to develop a sense of culture and identity because of social changes. One social change was the Enlightenment. The Enlightenment was a movement to find answers in science and reason, and not in religion. This encouraged a new identity because it challenged the ideas that a government’s power came from god. Another social change was the First Great Awakening. This was a religious revival that spread similar ideas from New England to Georgia. This helped them create their own culture by giving all colonists common beliefs and a shared experience. While the Enlightenment was a movement away from religion and the Great Awakening was a movement towards religion, followers of both came to similar conclusions: that all men are created equal. This shows that the colonies were developing their own sense of culture and identity because it was an idea that went against the King’s divine right to rule. Social changes played an important role in defining the American Colonies’ culture and identity.

Second, the colonies were forced to develop a culture and identity because of economic reasons. One such economic policy was Mercantilism. This used the colonies for raw goods and as a market for finished goods. Many colonists thought this was unfair and united them in anger. A second economic reason was the Navigation Acts. This law forced the colonies to trade only with Great Britain. This is shows that the colonies were growing a different identity and culture because the policies made it more difficult for the colonies to succeed and angered many colonists. American Culture and Identity grew because of economic reasons.

Third, the colonies were developing their own identity and culture because of political reasons. Early in American History, the Pilgrims created the Mayflower Compact. They were forced to make their own rules of government because they were outside of the rules of their charter. This shows a new identity because they their first experiences in America was one without the King telling them what to do. Next, for many years, the King practiced a policy of Salutary Neglect. This means that the king failed to enforce its laws in the colonies and allowed the colonies to make decisions and problem solve on their own. This shows that the colonists wer able to problem solve in new and independent ways. Finally, the King allowed a House of Burgesses in Jamestown. He allowed the colonists to make decisions and pass laws without direct oversight. This shows how the colonies were developing their own sense of culture and identity because all three are examples of colonists making decisions on their own. This would be hard for the colonists to give up, making political reasons a point that helped American identity and culture become more solid.

Fourth, the colonies developed their own culture and identity because of geographic reasons. The Appalachian Mountains were a natural wall that divided the British farmers on the coast from the fur-trapping French in the interior. This helps the colonists create a new culture and identity because the French and Indian war resulted with both countries met at Fort Duquesne and united the British colonists against a common enemy. Geographic factors led to a war which tested American culture and identity

In conclusion, the American colonists began as British but ended up as something completely different. Over time a new culture and identity, a new nation of people were created, because of many reasons. The most important of these reasons were social changes that affected how people viewed the rights of all, economic reasons that forced the colonies to become angry at the king, political reasons that allowed the colonists to make decisions on their own, and geographic reasons that resulted in a war and a common enemy.

1. **Thesis Statement** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
   1. **Bucket 1** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      1. **Claim 1** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Paragraph 2

* + - 1. **Evidence 1** *a movement to find answers in science and reason*
      2. **Explanation \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
    1. **Claim 2** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
       1. **Evidence 2:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
       2. **Explanation 2:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
  1. **Bucket 2** \_\_\_*Economic Reasons*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
     1. **Claim 1** \_\_\_\_\_\_*Mercantilism*\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Paragraph 3

* + - 1. **Ev:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      2. **Ex:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    1. **Claim 2** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
       1. **Ev:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
       2. **Ex:** *made success difficult and angered colonists*
  1. **Bucket 3** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
     1. **Claim 1** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
        1. **Ev 1:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
        2. **Ex 1:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Paragraph 4

* + 1. **Claim 2** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
       1. **Ev 2:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
       2. **Ex 2:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    2. **Claim 3:** *King allows a House of Burgesses\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*
       1. **Ev 3:** *allowed colonists to elect Representatives*
       2. **Ex 3:** *would be hard for colonists to give up \_\_\_\_\_\_*
  1. **Bucket 4** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
     1. **Claim 1:**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Paragraph 5

* + - 1. **Ev 1:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
      2. **Ex 1:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
    1. **Claim 2:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
       1. **What:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
       2. **Why:** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_