

WORDS

- **arise – arose** = to come up
- **century** = a hundred years
- **divide** = separate
- **explorer** = someone who travels to an unknown place and tries to find out more about it
- **found-founded** = start, to make new
- **Great Lakes** = the five big lakes on the border between the USA and Canada
- **hardly** = almost not
- **manage** = to be able to do something
- **mouth** = where a river flows into the sea
- **permanent** = lasting
- **set up** = create
- **settlement** = village, town
- **settler** = someone who goes to live in a place where not many people have lived before
- **situated** = where something is
- **spring up** = come up, start
- **survive** = to live on and not to die

The first colonies in North America were **founded** on the eastern coast. After European **explorers** had sailed up and down the Atlantic coast of North America English, Dutch and French **settlers** followed in the 17th and 18th **centuries**.

The English **founded** the first **permanent settlement** in America in 1607. The first colony was called Jamestown, **situated** in today's Virginia. The colony was named after the English king, James I. The first colonists hoped to find gold in the New World and to get rich quickly. But the settlers had many problems during the first winters and **hardly managed** to **survive**.

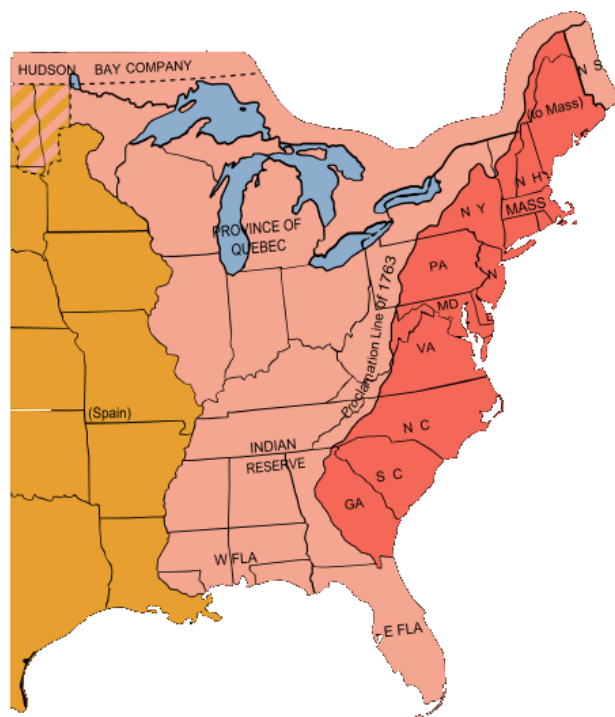
In 1620 a second group of colonists, the Pilgrims, left England on the *Mayflower*. They **set up** a colony at Plymouth, in today's Massachusetts. Other English colonies **sprang up** all along the Atlantic coast, from Maine to Georgia.

In 1624 Dutch settlers **founded** a **settlement** along the **mouth** of the Hudson River. They called it New Amsterdam. About forty years later English settlers drove the Dutch away and renamed the town New York.

In the 18th century more and more colonists arrived in the New World. Conflicts **arose** between the English and the French colonists who founded **settlements** in Canada, in the St. Lawrence Valley, along the Mississippi River and around the **Great Lakes**. This led to a war between England and France in the middle of the 18th century.

By 1750 there were 13 English colonies in North America. They were **divided** into three groups:

- The New England Colonies : Rhode Island, Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire
- The Middle Colonies : Delaware, Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey
- The Southern Colonies: Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia



WORDS

- **appear** = show up, come up
- **basically** = mainly
- **century** = a hundred years
- **corn** = a tall plant with large yellow seeds; you cook it or feed it to animals
- **earn** = to get money by working
- **expand** = to get bigger
- **fed up** = to be angry at someone or because of something
- **force** = to make someone do something
- **found – founded** = start, create
- **freedom** = liberty
- **grammar school** = a school in the American colonies which taught children reading, writing and other subjects
- **grow crops** = to grow plants that you use as food
- **harsh** = cruel, bad, cold
- **iron** = hard metal that is used to make steel
- **little** = not very much
- **plantation** = large area of land on which tobacco or other plants are grown
- **practical** = useful
- **raise cattle** = to feed cows so you can get milk and meat from them
- **run** = control, to be the head of
- **settler** = person who goes to a new place and lives there
- **sew** = to use a needle and thread to repair clothes
- **slave** = someone who is owned by another person and works for them without getting paid
- **survive** = to live on and not to die
- **textiles** = material that you use to make clothes
- **tobacco** = dried brown leaves that you smoke in cigarettes
- **trade** = to give someone something and get something else in return
- **unstable** = things change very often and the situation becomes worse
- **wealthy** = rich
- **westward** = to the west
- **wheat** = plant from which white bread is made

Why the colonists came

Colonists had many reasons for leaving Europe and coming to the New World. Some only had a small area of farming land in Europe and expected to get bigger farms in America. Others were **fed up** with wars and rebellions that went on in Europe and made it **unstable**. They wanted peace and a quiet life. Another group thought it was easy to make money and get rich quickly in America. Farmers in the south saw a chance to **earn** a lot by growing and selling **tobacco**.

But most people came for religious reasons. Many European kings and queens **forced** their people to have the same religion that they had. Most **settlers** came to America because they wanted religious **freedom**.

Colonists and the Native Americans

When the first Europeans came to America Indians had already been living there for many **centuries**. At first the Indians were friendly. They taught the colonists how to **grow crops** and **survive** the **harsh** winters. The colonists **traded** with the Indians and gave them things that they hadn't known before. As time went on, the Indians saw that the growing number of colonists needed more land and wanted to **expand** to the west. They pushed them **westward** and took away more and more of their land.

Economy

The American colonies were farming land. Colonists grew their own food, **basically corn** and wheat. They **raised cattle** that gave them meat, milk and butter and kept chicken and sheep. They also went hunting and fishing.

In New England farms had **little** land but in the southern colonies farms were much bigger. On these **plantations** colonists grew **tobacco** and other products which they sold to England and other colonies. As time went on more and more **slaves** came to Virginia and other southern colonies to work on tobacco farms.

The first factories **appeared** in the Middle Colonies. They produced **iron** and **textiles**.

Education

People were very religious in the American colonies. Parents taught their children to read the Bible because it was often the only book they had. Colonial families often paid a teacher to **run** a private **grammar school** which taught them maths, Latin and other subjects. In the richer colonies of the South most children were taught at home by private teachers.

Wealthy families sent older children back to Europe to study at colleges and universities. In 1636, the first university, Harvard, was **founded** in America.

Children in the colonies learned many **practical** things from their parents. Fathers taught their sons how to **grow crops** and hunt, daughters had to help their mothers cook, **sew** and look after the animals.

WORDS

- **apart from** = except for
- **assembly** = meeting , a group of people who get together to make laws
- **at times** = sometimes, not always
- **Baptists** = a group of people who believe that baptism should only be for people who understand it
- **belief** = faith, religion
- **century** = a hundred years
- **decide** = to make a choice
- **defeat** = to win over someone
- **equal** = the same
- **erupt** = break out
- **faith** = believing in your god
- **gain control of** =to be in power of and govern an area
- **government** = the people who rule a country
- **immigrant** = a person who leaves his home country and goes to another country to live and work there
- **law** = a rule that you must follow or obey
- **local** = here: only in America
- **needs** = what they need for everyday life
- **own** = have
- **parliament** = a group of people who are elected to make laws in a country
- **pray** = to say words to God
- **refuse** = if you do not want to do something that someone tells you to do
- **restore order** = to keep peace
- **right** = something that you are officially allowed to do
- **separate** = break free from
- **sign** = to put your name on a document
- **solve** = work out
- **spread** = expand
- **strict** = to have many rules that you must follow
- **tax** = money that you must pay to the government
- **towards** = near
- **trade** = to give someone something and get something else in return
- **vote** = to elect someone

Religion

American colonists were very religious people. Many of them left Europe because they could not believe in their **faith** freely. As there were no churches people went to meeting houses to **pray** together.

Many different religious groups came up all along the eastern coast. In New England, people were Puritans who led very **strict** lives. Pennsylvania became the home of the Quakers. They believed that all people were **equal** in front of God. Southern colonists were mostly **Baptists** and Anglicans.

As time went on **immigrants** from other countries brought their religion with them and **spread** their **beliefs** across the colonies. **Towards** the end of the 18th **century** Catholics, Jews and other groups lived in America.

Government and law

All colonies had a governor who was chosen by the English king. Most of them had **assemblies**, like the parliament in England. They passed **laws** and collected **taxes**. Only people who paid **taxes** and owned land had the right to **vote** in an assembly. **Apart from local laws** the British government also passed some laws for the colonies.

Not all people had the same **rights**. Women were not allowed to vote and married women were not allowed to **own** land. In some colonies people had to be a member of a religion in order to have the right to vote.

Revolution

Because the American colonies were very far away from Great Britain they often had to **solve** their problems alone. It took months for news and **laws** to get there. **At times** Britain did not pay very much attention to the colonists and their **needs**.

At this time Great Britain was one of the most powerful countries in the world. They led many wars, which cost a lot of money. When the British **defeated** the French they **gained control** of Canada and the land east of the Mississippi. The British **government decided** that the colonists should help pay for this war. They collected new **taxes** from the colonists and made them **trade** with Great Britain alone.

American colonists were not **represented** in British **parliament**. When they **refused** to pay **taxes** Britain sent soldiers to America to **restore order** in the colonies. In 1775 war **erupted** between Britain and the American colonies and a year later the Declaration of Independence was **signed** – a document that **separated** America from Great Britain.