

Lesson 1: Hard Times in Virginia

Vocabulary

charter a document that permitted colonists to settle on land

stock a share in a company

cash crop a crop grown for profit

indentured servant a person who agreed to work for another person in exchange for the cost of the ocean voyage to North America

House of Burgesses the first law-making body in the English colonies

The Lost Colony of Roanoke

England wanted colonies in the Americas. England did not want Spain to control all of North America. Also, English leaders hoped to find gold and other natural resources. An English colony set up on Roanoke Island in 1585 was not a success. In 1587 John White started another colony on Roanoke Island. White returned to England. When he went back to the island in 1590, the colonists were gone. Roanoke is called “The Lost Colony” because no one knows what happened to the colonists.

The Battle of the Spanish Armada

Spain did not like England moving into North America. English sea captains had also been taking riches from Spanish ships. Spain attacked England in 1588. The Spanish Armada, a huge fleet of warships, sailed to England. The English navy defeated the Spanish Armada using smaller, faster ships with powerful guns.

The Jamestown Colony

In 1606 the Virginia Company was formed to set up a colony in North America. **Stocks**, or shares in the company, were sold to pay for setting up the colony. The company received a **charter**, or land grant, from King James I of England. In 1607 colonists settled in an area on the eastern coast of Virginia and named the area

Jamestown. The area was filled with disease-carrying mosquitoes and unhealthy water. People began to die soon after they arrived.

John Smith and the “Starving Time”

Some colonists in Jamestown spent their time looking for gold instead of setting up their colony. John Smith became leader of Jamestown. He made the colonists build houses, dig wells, plant crops, and fish. Smith left Jamestown in 1609. After he left, many people in Jamestown died. In 1610 new settlers and supplies from England helped save the settlers.

Tobacco Helps Jamestown Grow

Tobacco became Virginia’s first **cash crop**, a crop grown for profit. Farms grew quickly. The farms needed more workers. This brought **indentured servants**, or people who worked to pay off the cost of the trip from England.

Self-Government in Virginia

The Virginia Company set up the **House of Burgesses**. It was the first law-making body in an English colony. The House of Burgesses began the tradition of self-government in the English colonies.

Lesson 2: New European Colonies

Vocabulary

Northwest Passage a waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans

French and Dutch Settlements

In the 1600s explorers searched for a **Northwest Passage**. The Northwest Passage was a waterway connecting the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. The passage would make it easier for trading ships to travel from Europe to Asia. The route was never found because it does not exist. However, explorers looking for the passage founded new colonies. In 1603 Samuel de Champlain looked for the passage while exploring the St. Lawrence River in present-day Canada. In 1608 Champlain founded the French colony of Quebec. The lands around Quebec were filled with beavers. Quebec became a trading center. Beaver furs were sold for a lot of money in Europe. More French colonies grew up in other areas. These colonies became known as New France. Dutch leaders sent Henry Hudson to search for new water routes to Asia. This Englishman searched along the North American coast. He explored 150 miles of what later became known as the Hudson River. He claimed the land for the Dutch. The Dutch colonies in North America were called New Netherland. New Amsterdam was a Dutch town built on Manhattan Island in 1624. The Dutch controlled trade on the Hudson River from New Amsterdam.

New Amsterdam Grows

The Dutch wanted many people to move to New Amsterdam. People from all over Europe moved to the Dutch town. New Amsterdam was later taken over by the British. It was given a new name: New York City.

Lesson 3: The First Colonies

Vocabulary

Pilgrim a person who goes on a journey for religious reasons

Separatist a person who wanted to separate from the Church of England

persecution unfair treatment because of beliefs

Mayflower Compact a plan of government for the town of Plymouth

Puritan a person who wanted to purify, or reform, the Church of England

The Pilgrims

The **Pilgrims** traveled to North America looking for religious freedom. They left England because of **persecution**. They were treated badly because of their religious beliefs. The Pilgrims were **Separatists**. They did not want to be part of the Church of England. The Virginia Company gave the Pilgrims permission to start their settlement in Virginia. William Bradford led the Pilgrims.

The *Mayflower*

In 1620 about 100 Pilgrims left England. They sailed their ship, the *Mayflower*, across the Atlantic Ocean. They landed in New England. They decided to stay there instead of Virginia. The Pilgrims made a plan of government for their future settlement. The plan was called the **Mayflower Compact**. It said that the Pilgrims would make fair and equal laws for their colony. The Pilgrims settled in Plymouth in today's Massachusetts. The Pilgrims met a Native American named Samoset who spoke English. They began a friendship with the Wampanoag people.

A Thanksgiving Celebration

Later, the Pilgrims met another English-speaking Native American named Squanto. Squanto helped the Pilgrims and the Wampanoag make a peace treaty. He also helped the settlers. He showed them where to hunt and fish and how to grow corn. After their first harvest, the Pilgrims held a celebration of thanksgiving with the Wampanoag.

The Puritans Arrive

The **Puritans** also left England looking for religious freedom. They were persecuted because they wanted to change the Church of England. John Winthrop led the Puritans. He wanted to build a colony in New England. In this colony, the Puritans could worship as they wanted. They would teach others to live good lives by setting an example. In about 1628 the Puritans set up the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Its main town was Boston.

The Puritan Way of Life

Puritan settlements were carefully planned. A meetinghouse was built in the center of town. Religious services and town meetings were held in the meetinghouse. Each family was given land for a house and farm. In 1635 the Puritans built the first public school in the English colonies. They wanted children to be able to read the Bible and understand community laws.

Lesson 4: The 13 English Colonies

Vocabulary

dissenter a person whose views are different from those held by most people

proprietor an owner

debtor a person who owes money

Geography of the 13 Colonies

The 13 English colonies were in the eastern part of what is now the United States. They lay between the Atlantic Ocean and the Appalachian Mountains. The colonies can be separated into three areas. The first area was the New England Colonies. They were difficult to farm, but they had natural resources, such as trees and fish from the ocean. The second area was the Middle Colonies. These colonies grew a lot of wheat. This is why the area was called “the breadbasket of the colonies.” The Middle Colonies had rivers used for transportation. Farming was also very important in the third area, the Southern Colonies. These colonies grew crops such as tobacco. The area had many rivers.

New England Colonies

Many Puritan settlements were built in Massachusetts during the 1630s. Puritan settlers had to follow the laws of the settlement. Yet not everyone agreed with the laws. Roger Williams was a minister in Massachusetts. He believed that the government should not punish people for their beliefs. Williams was a **dissenter**, or a person with unpopular views. In 1636 Williams founded the settlement of Providence in the colony that became Rhode Island. In Providence settlers could practice any religion. Anne Hutchinson was another dissenter. Puritan leaders forced her to leave Massachusetts. Thomas Hooker was a Puritan minister. He founded the colony of Connecticut. He and his followers wanted religious freedom. They also wanted fertile land for farming.

The Middle Colonies

In 1664 England took over New Netherland. It was renamed New York. The colony of New Jersey was created out of part of New York. In 1681 William Penn began the colony of Pennsylvania. Penn was a Quaker. Quakers believed that people could worship God without going to church. In Pennsylvania many types of people lived together. Part of southern Pennsylvania became the colony of Delaware.

The Southern Colonies

The colony of Maryland was a safe place for both Catholics and Protestants. Maryland was a proprietary colony. This means that the land was controlled by an individual or a group of **proprietors**, or owners. In 1663 proprietors set up the colony of Carolina. James Oglethorpe founded the last of the English colonies, Georgia. It was set up to help **debtors**, or people who owed money. Georgia was north of Spanish Florida. Georgia could help protect the other English colonies if the Spanish attacked them.

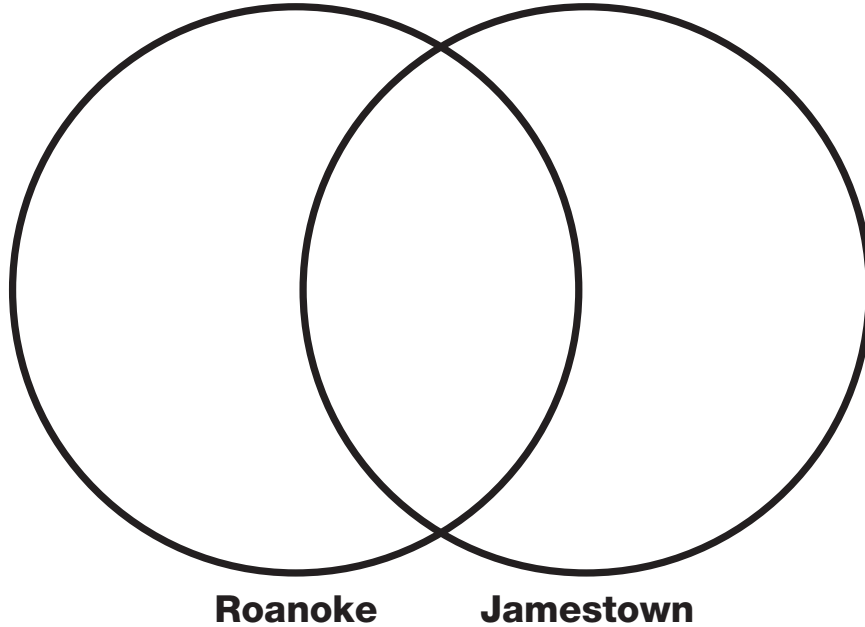
Growing Colonies

The English colonies grew quickly. The largest cities were Boston, Philadelphia, and New York.

Lesson 1: Review

1. **Compare and Contrast** Fill in the diagram below comparing and contrasting these details about Roanoke and Jamestown:

- Why did some English leaders want to build colonies in North America?
- How did John Smith help the Jamestown colony?
- How did tobacco help Jamestown grow?



2. Why did England want to begin a colony on North America’s eastern shore?

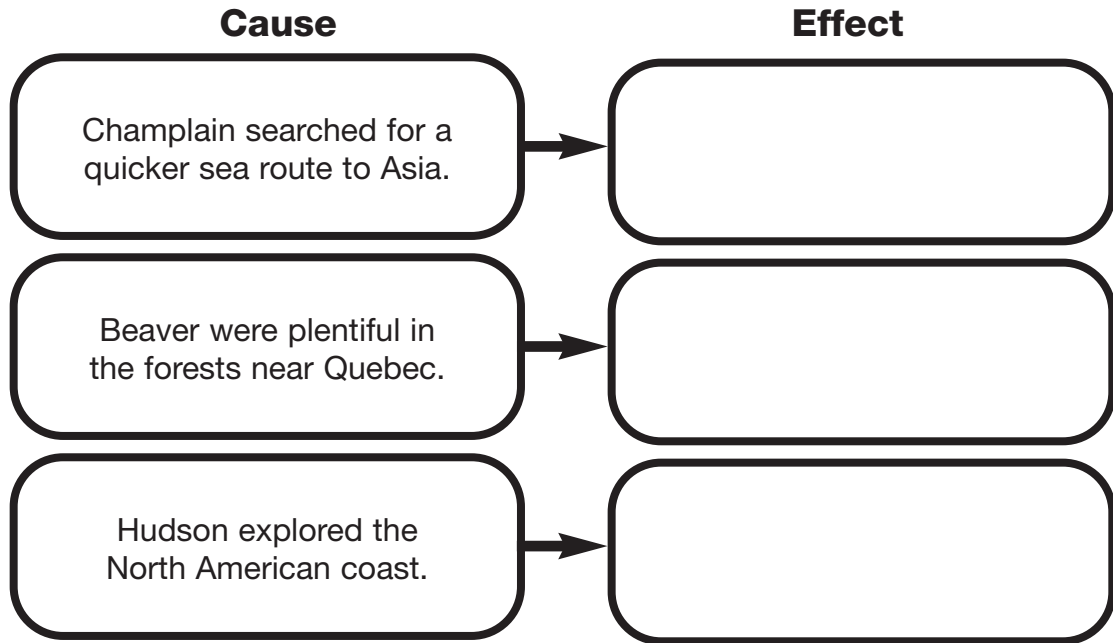
3. How did England defeat the Spanish Armada in 1588?

4. Why did Jamestown almost fail? How was it able to survive?

5. **Critical Thinking: Make Decisions** Do you think the House of Burgesses was the best type of government for the Jamestown colony? Why or why not?

Lesson 2: Review

1. **Cause and Effect** Fill in the chart below by listing one important effect of each cause.



2. How did the search for a Northwest Passage lead to the founding of New France and New Netherland?

3. What kind of benefits did France gain from its colony of New France?

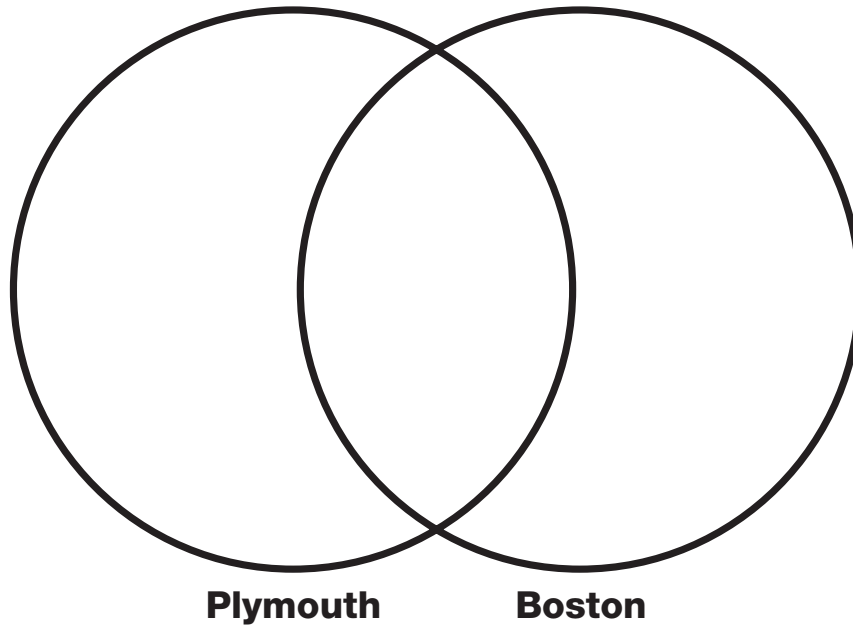
4. Why was New Amsterdam a good location for a city?

5. **Critical Thinking: Drawing Conclusions** Do you think Native Americans played an important role in the growth of French and Dutch settlements? Explain.

Lesson 3: Review

1. **Compare and Contrast** Fill in the chart comparing and contrasting these details:

- Name of group and year founded
- Group’s leader
- Reason people came to colony



2. What was the main reason that the Pilgrims came to New England?

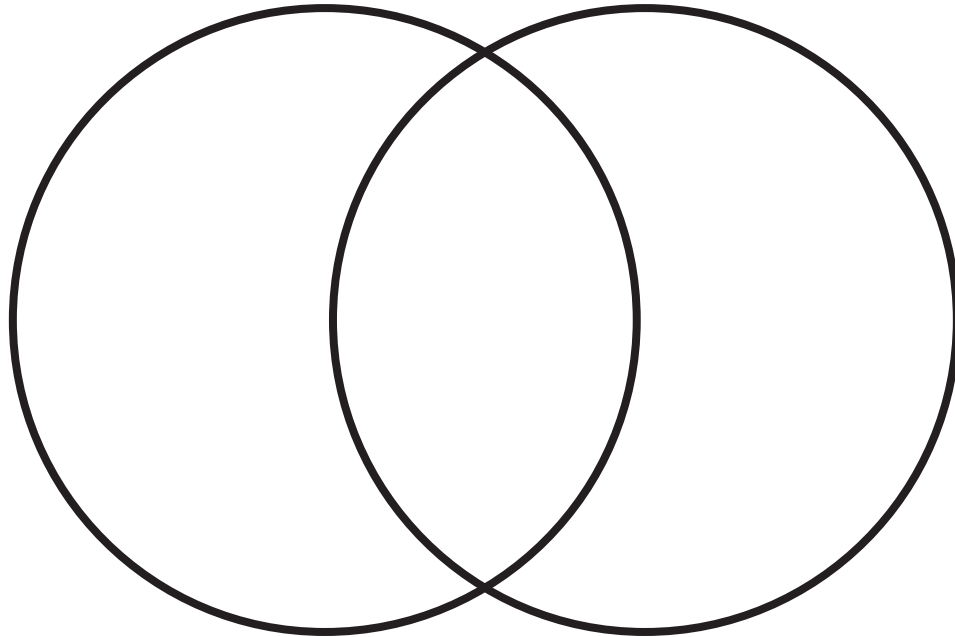
3. What was the purpose of the Mayflower Compact?

4. How did the Native Americans help the Pilgrims?

5. **Critical Thinking: Point of View** John Winthrop wrote that the Puritan colony would be like “a City upon a hill, the eyes of all people are on us.” Explain how this statement reflects the Puritan view about the colony.

Lesson 4: Review

1. **Compare and Contrast** Fill in the chart below for two of the three regions—New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies. Compare and contrast based on such topics as geography and reason for founding.



2. Why were the Middle Colonies known as “the breadbasket of the colonies”?

3. Explain how one New England colony was founded by a dissenter.

4. What attracted settlers to Georgia?

5. **Critical Thinking: Decision Making** In which of the Middle Colonies would you have most liked to live? Explain your thinking. Use the decision-making steps on page H3 of your textbook.
