

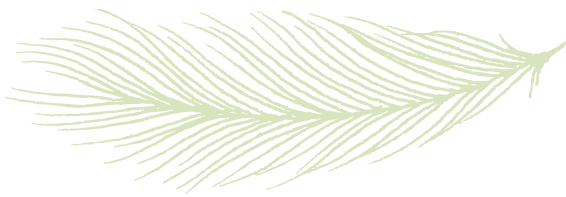
Introduction:

- For well over 100 years after Columbus, Europeans spent more time trying to get around or through North America to reach Asia than they spent paying attention to the lands that would become the United States or Canada.
- For decades, most European contact with North America was limited to filling the enormous European demand for codfish. Fishermen from France, England and the regions of Spain spent summers off the coast of Canada and Maine.
- By the late 1500s, however, some in England and France as well as Spain were developing new interest in North America.
- From the settlements of Jamestown and Quebec, England and France claimed huge tracts of lands that they would eventually come to dominate. The English expanded from tiny Jamestown to control most of the Atlantic coast north of Florida and west toward the Allegheny Mountains.
- In the 1500s, explorers had come and quickly departed from North America. In the 1600s, the Europeans began to stay. Initially some Indian tribes saw Europeans as welcome trading partners or military allies against other tribes. Especially in the later 1600s when settlements grew too quickly, disease spread too rapidly, or the Europeans became too demanding, Indian resistance stiffened.

Part 1: Settlements Old and New

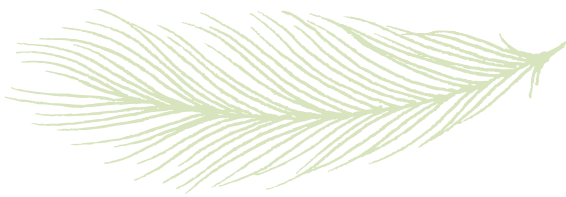
The English Settle in North America

- When James I became king of England in 1603, he was anxious to make peace with Spain. He quickly ended the royal support for legalized piracy (that Queen Elizabeth I had provided).
- Investors seeking financial gain created the Virginia Company, they advised the building of settlements to be at some distance from the coast to avoid a Spanish attack and to gain as much knowledge and food from the natives as possible.
- Within about 30 years, England had settled or claimed large territories and their claims continued to expand into the 1700s.
- Colonizing Virginia: Jamestown
 - In 1607, 105 men from the Virginia Company arrived in North America. They named their new community Jamestown in honor of King James. The company appointed a council of six to govern the colony and left it to the council to elect its own president. But things in Jamestown did not go well.
 - The unhealthy conditions at the site of the colonist selected along the James River probably killed more of them than any other cause. Although they thought they had selected “a very fit place” they had in fact chosen land with a terrible water supply. The water from the river was tidal/brackish (salty and full of filth. As well, the years of 1607 and 1608 were drought years leading to a severe shortage of food and those years winter were very cold. Waterborne disease and starvation weakened bodies and few of the English escaped sickness.
 - The members of the council constantly disagreed (and even ending up executing one council member believed to be a Spanish spy).
 - By 1608 only 38 of 105 colonists were still alive.
 - Other problems arose for the colony. The land they had built their colony on was not their land but that of local natives. The natives were ruled by Powhatan, who John Smith (an experienced soldier) negotiated a deal for food to keep the colony alive.



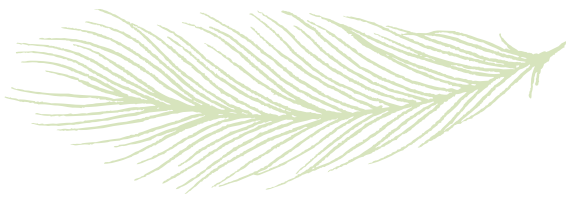
Unit 1: Creating America
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- Smith was wondering the countryside one day when he was taken prisoner by the natives, he was about to be executed when Powhatan's daughter (Pocahontas) suddenly jumped in front of John Smith. Powhatan granted Smith a pardon.
- Years later, when the colony was once again struggling to survive; there was a shift from trading with the natives to tobacco. The new emphasis on agriculture also meant that many from England would settle and farm the land. The shift also changed the lives of thousands of Africans who were brought to the Americas as slave to produce the new crops. Tobacco was a key factor in reshaping who would be a part of this new English-speaking nation and the role they would play in the society that emerged.
- The Massachusetts Colonies: Plymouth and Beyond
 - During the first two decades of the 1600s, many in England were coming to see the country as overpopulated. Changes in agriculture were forcing people out of subsistence farming and into cities. England's economy was stagnating. What better outlet for excess population than the new colonies across the ocean?
 - King James especially wanted to see one group on its way across the ocean – the Protestant extremists who were forever agitating for more change within the Church of England.
 - Protestants who wanted a more complete Reformation than the Church of England represented came to be known as Puritans and the Puritans wanted change – much more change!
 - The latter group, called Separatists, thought that the church was hopelessly corrupt and that they need to form their own separated religious communities. The Separatists were constantly in trouble with the authorities since everyone in England was expected to belong to the Anglican Church and attend its worship every Sunday.
 - Plymouth
 - Separatist, also known as Pilgrims, founded the second permanent English colony in North America at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620.
 - The origins of Plymouth lay in a small community of Separatist who left England for Holland in 1607 but the Separatist still considered themselves English and worried about raising their children in Holland (that they may become more Dutch than English). So, they eventually decided to secure a grant from the Virginia Company and hired a ship (the Mayflower) and set sail from Plymouth England with 102 passengers.
 - Half of the passengers were members of the congregation, the other half strangers along for an adventure or profit.
 - After a stormy 2-month travel across the Atlantic they reach far north of where they mean to (the Virginia colony) this lead them to the realization that they were not in an area with a government, thus they promised to “combine ourselves together into a civil body politic, for our better ordering and preservation”. The Mayflower Compact, as we know it and the beginning of government by the consent of people.
 - The Pilgrim's first landing in November 1620 was on the outer end of Cape Code. But by December, however, they had moved across the cape to a place named Plymouth, where high hills offered protection and a large level area leading down to the harbor, which was good place to build a town.
 - Plymouth was empty when the Pilgrims landed because most of the natives were wiped out by an epidemic in 1616.



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- The Pilgrims had arrived too late to build the kind of shelter they needed for a New England winter, thus during the winter of 1620-1621, about half of the community died from disease, cold and malnutrition. (Some families were wiped out altogether)
- Then in the spring of 1621, their luck changed. An Indian walked “very boldly” into the heart of small Plymouth and said “Welcome Englishmen!”
 - The native had been to England and could describe many locations to the colonist but more important he taught them how to find food and to survive.
- The Pilgrims concluded an agreement with the natives that led to 54 years of peace, an amazing development in the Americans.
- In the fall of 1621, the first successful harvest was accomplished and the first Thanksgiving was actually a weeklong time of feasting on the fruits of the harvest and on turkeys, ducks, geese, deer and stews.
- Massachusetts Bay
 - Another group of religious rebels from England were not far behind the Pilgrims. Puritan reformers who wanted to stay within the Church of England and change it were also having a hard time in the 1620s; they were referred to as the Puritans.
 - Advocating reform within the established church became more difficult and dangerous. The Puritans controlled a corporation, the Massachusetts Bay Company, and they set out to explore and settle North America.
 - The Puritans planted their first colony in Salem, just north of present-day Boston, in 1629 and soon wanted to expand.
 - John Winthrop, an enthusiastic and devote Puritan, was invited to be the governor of the new colony. In spring of 1630, 14 ships left England for Massachusetts Bay with their new governor and their charter on board. By the end of the summer, more than 1,000 people and 200 cattle had landed in Massachusetts.
 - The Puritans also had a clear sense of purpose. As Winthrop said” “...we shall be as a City upon a hill. The eyes of all people are upon Us.”
 - The Puritan commonwealth in New England could be a new model for old England.
 - The Puritans valued literacy. If salvation depended on a personal encounter with the Christian faith, then Puritans need to be able to read the Bible and minister and magistrate who were highly literate. In 1636, only 6 years after Boston was founded, Harvard University. And every township provided for school.
 - The Puritans of Massachusetts had their difference with one another, which resulted in several splits. This resulted in the creation of Connecticut.
 - Two years later with permission from the authorities in Boston, the Hartford colonists established a formal government for their colony known as the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut.
 - The document offered more men the right to vote than did the rules then in forced in Massachusetts.
 - Some have considered it as the first written constitution in the Americas.
 - More trouble for the Puritans was Roger Williams, whose advocacy of freedom of conscience for every individual was almost unique in the 1600s.
 - Williams was a supporter of the Puritan cause in England an arrived in Boston in 1631 only a year after the city’s founding, but he quickly got into trouble with Boston’s



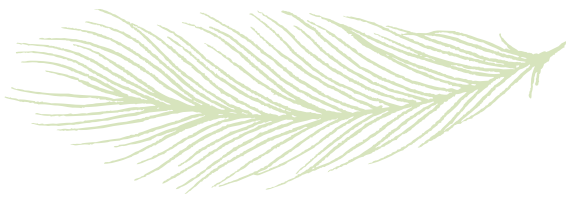
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- magistrates because he asserted that civil authority could not enforce religious laws, including a law against blasphemy.
- In 1635, he was convicted of “erroneous” opinions and in 1636 established a new colony called Providence, where he invited all those “distressed of conscience” to the first colony that would separate church and state and grant full liberty to people of any religious opinion and Rhode Island became a haven for religious dissenters.
 - In addition, Anne Hutchinson caused a stir with her charismatic preaching and her belief that God’s inspiration could be more immediate than most Puritans believed.
 - The Puritans believed that everyone should read the Bible everyday but they also expected all interpretation of the Bible to follow a certain path.
 - Also, only men were supposed to preach.
 - Hutchinson said that she herself had received a direct revelation from God to preach and so the Puritans banished her from the colony. She and her followers made their way first to Roger William’s colony and then to Dutch New Amsterdam.

Part II: Additional Colonies

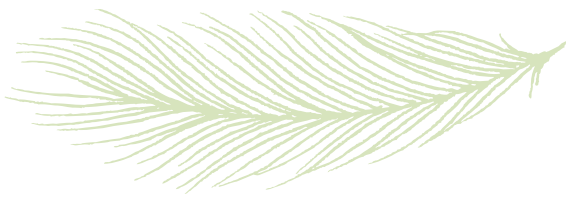
Additional Colonies

- Maryland
 - Maryland represented something new, it was a proprietary colony; a proprietary colony, was essentially owned by one person and their heirs.
 - The proprietor might allow others to own land and might take advice from local officials but the whole colony was private property and as such could be passed from generation to generation within the proprietor’s family.
 - King Charles I, established this model when he offered to give Maryland to George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore.
 - Lord Baltimore was a devout Catholic and Catholics were persecuted in England, but King Charles was sympathetic despite popular opposition.
 - Lord Baltimore, with the king’s support, was determined to establish Maryland as a haven for English Catholics. So, in 1649, Maryland granted freedom of worship to all Christians, including Protestants of any persuasion.
 - In 1635, they agreed to call a representative assembly. They agreed to give every European settler 100 acres of land, another 100 for each additional adult member of the family and 50 acres for each child. This headright system, made moving to Maryland very popular.
 - With tobacco came the need for more workers. Thus, African slavery came early to Maryland. In 1661, Maryland was the first colony to formalize laws governing slavery. The laws included the stipulations that slaves inherited their status from their mother and that slavery for those born in to it was for life.
- Connecticut and New Hampshire
 - Connecticut united with New Haven (another New England colony) in 1662.
 - The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut were adopted by the colony council which described the government set up and powers. The orders have features of a written constitution and are considered by some as the first written constitution in the western world.
 - New Hampshire became a separate colony under a royal governor in 1691. Vermont and Main were not created until later.



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- New York and New Jersey
 - New York was settled before Maryland, but not by the English. It became English only after the English Civil War (1642-1649).
 - What is now New York was settled by the Netherlands, or Holland, a new Protestant country carved out of what had been Spanish possessions in the late 1500s.
 - In 1626, the Dutch built a settlement and commercial center called New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island, which according to legend was purchased from local Indians for 60 Dutch guilders.
 - Religion was hoped to be enforced and create uniformity, which meant banning Jews, but New Amsterdam soon became a haven for religious dissenters including Jews, Catholics, Quakers and Muslims. It was also home to Dutch, German, French, Swedish, Portuguese and English settlers.
 - The Dutch too were active in the slave trade and had the largest number of African slaves in North America in the 1600s.
 - In 1664, King Charles II gave New Amsterdam to his younger brother even though the Dutch had already settled the land (this did not bother the King or his brother). Having been given the colony the king's brother sent a fleet to New Amsterdam to take it!
 - There was little resistance to the English take over.
 - The king's brother divided the colony, keeping New York for himself and giving New Jersey to two political allies. For the rest of the 1600s, New Jersey remained a colony of small farms of limited profit to its proprietors, although it attracted a diverse group of European settlers because its proprietors offered land at low prices and gave settlers significant religious and political freedoms.
- Pennsylvania and Delaware
 - Pennsylvania was established as a proprietary colony and a haven for a persecuted religious group while being open to all.
 - Pennsylvania's proprietor was William Penn, who was a member of an insurgent religious community known as the Quakers because they supposedly trembled (quaked) at the name of God. Quakers broke with much of traditional theology and religious practice of the day.
 - When the Quakers gathered to worship, they sat in silence until someone was moved by the Spirit to speak. They did not have formal clergy and gave women equal standing with men in their community.
 - As well, the Quakers were absolute pacifists who would not serve in the military, thus Penn insisted on peaceful trade with the Indians.
 - Despite all of his commitment to peace with the Indians, Penn did not outlaw slavery in his colony. As early as 1684, 2 years after the founding of the colony, 150 African slaves arrived. Slaves quickly came to have a key role as household servants and by 1700s made up 1/6 of the Philadelphia's population.
 - The charter in 1701 also allowed the three most southern counties to create their own assembly, which became its own colony Delaware
 - Delaware
 - The first Europeans to settle in Delaware were from Sweden and Finland.

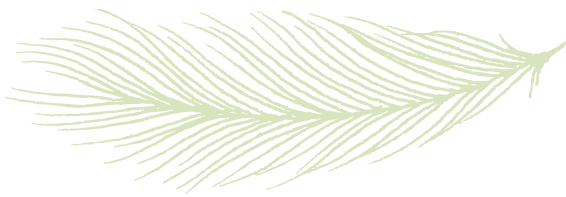


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- The Carolinas
 - Charles II rewarded eight of his supporters and sought to secure England's land claims by creating a colony named Carolina
 - The proprietors developed an elaborate system of government that prescribed a hierarchical society with themselves at the top followed by the local gentry, then poor white servants, with African slaves at the bottom.
 - Carolina was a divided colony. The north, most of the settlers were relatively poor white farmers from Virginia whereas the south was large-scale rice growing community which created a rich colony.
 - Much of the colony's commercial success focused on the city – and harbor—at Charleston and on trade with the British Caribbean colonies.
 - The split between the north and the south was formalized when King George II officially divided the colony into North and South Carolina in 1729.
- Georgia
 - Georgia was founded in 1733 for idealistic reasons.
 - James Oglethorpe, a war hero in England, wanted to create a place where the poorest of England's poor, those in debtor's prisons because they could not repay what they owed, could find new lives.
 - Oglethorpe also believed that England needed a strong frontier colony on the border with Spanish Florida.
 - These settlers, people whose alternative might well be prison would be inspired to be not only farmers but also soldiers within this frontier border.
 - Oglethorpe excluded Catholics, who might be secretly loyal to Catholic Spain, and Africans, free or slave (since they might be tempted to run away).

Slavery in the Colonies

- Africans and Indentured Servants in England's Colonies
 - In 1619, a Dutch ship arrived at Jamestown, John Rolfe, anxious to expand the workforce for his tobacco farm, traded food supplies to the Dutch in return for 20 African slaves, this marked the beginning of African slaves in the colonies.
 - Many think of slavery as a static institution, but the nature of slavery changed often. For many Americans, the image of slavery is that of the large plantations that existed in the South between 1800 and 1860, but understanding the development of slavery in the US requires more careful observation.
 - In the earliest years, slavery, though very difficult, was less harsh and hopeless than it became after about 1680. The first generation of African slaves in Virginia often worked side by side not only with English and Irish servants but many of whom also had little choice about coming to America. Race was always a factor but racial lines were blurred. Servants and slaves lived together, created new families together and resisted together when they felt ill-treated.
 - In small farms of the Chesapeake, in the Middle Colonies, slaves also worked side by side with those who owned the land and with indentured servants who were working for a specified number of years to pay off the cost of their travel to America.
 - Some of these indentured servants came seeking a better life; often came as an alternative to prison in England.
 - During a term of indenture, a servant was treated much like a slave. Indentured servants could be bought and sold and were often whipped.



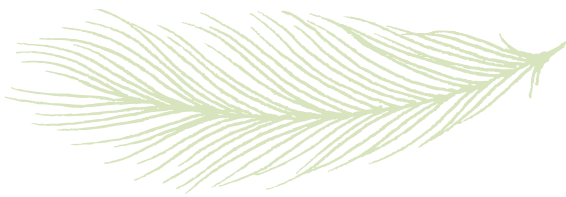
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- The difference between indentured servitude and slavery was that at the end of their term (ranging from 4 to 7 years) the servants were set free.
- Until the late 1640s, the majority died before completing their term and even after earning their freedom, most of the newly freed were not able to do much, although a few did prosper and join the elite.
- Since an English indentured servant cost about half as much as an African slave (since neither tended to live long, Virginians initially preferred indentured servants.
- Servants and slaves often intermarried and saw themselves as a united group.
- African slaves dreamed of a day when they might be free to own their own land. That dream was not an impossible one in the early 1600s.
- Slavery developed in the north colonies as it did in those further south, coming to Massachusetts fairly soon after it came to Virginia.
 - Northern slaves, like many southern slaves of the 1600s, were much more fully integrated into European-American society, had less contact with fellow Africans and African traditions, and had much more freedom than later generations of slaves.

Part III: Colonial Wars

The English Colonies Wars

- Rebellion in New England (King Philip's War)
 - The tensions that led the Pilgrims and the Puritans to flee England erupted into a full-scale civil war in the 1640s.
 - When the civil wars ended a new king, King Charles II, ruled in England until 1660 and the tensions began to spill over into the colonies.
 - As England's American colonies were founded and began to grow, they were often violent places that reflected old and new tensions.
 - King Philip's War in Massachusetts was one of the most vicious wars ever fought in North America.
 - Thus, far the Pilgrims and the natives had experienced an unusual peace and harmony between the two cultures. The Puritans did not maintain peace for as long.
 - When a captain was killed in 1637, the Puritans responded harshly. They allied with other native tribes and attacked the Pequot fortress burning the houses and attacking everyone, selling who was left into slavery.
 - Then the New Englanders pushed for converting the natives to their religion. This along with the constant growth of Europeans in the New England area created tensions.
 - Soon rumors began of war preparations and conflict in New England between several native tribes and the English broke out for one year, with thousands dying and some native tribes being completely wiped out.
- Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia
 - Virginia was also engulfed in violence. Bacon's Rebellion illustrated the instability of early colonial life and alliances that were constantly shifting.
 - By 1660, Virginia had 40,000 colonists, including a small elite and many poor workers –Africans and Indians, some slave, some free and current or former English indentured servants.
 - Sir William Berkeley was the royal governor of Virginia from 1642 to the 1670s. He brought order to the colony, but it was an aristocratic order. He had an inner circle government and retained most of the profits from the tobacco trade no matter who actually grew it.



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- The corruption generated increasing tensions among others as the social divide increased between rich white and poor whites.
- So, in 1675, resentment came to a head. The economy was in the doldrums. Neither the corn crop nor the tobacco crop was doing well.
- At that point, Nathaniel Bacon, who had recently arrived in Virginia from a prosperous English family and already one of the largest landowners in the western part of the colony, organized a militia to attack the Indians. Bacon and his followers had heard of news of King Philip's War where many tribes had united. They feared unity among Virginia's tribes and had no intention of discriminating between friendly and unfriendly Indians. Bacon and his militia began attacking Indians indiscriminately, seeing every Indian as an enemy.
- Governor Berkeley, however, believed that Virginia needed friendly tribes on its frontier to protect it from hostile tribes who lived further west. He refused to support Bacon's militia and Bacon refused to have his militia disperse.
- Berkeley had Bacon arrested and then released him. Bacon marched his ragtag army of free Africans, slaves and poor whites into Jamestown and set it on fire.
- In the face of the militia, Governor Berkeley fled, calling for help from England. The crown sent 1,000 English troops, it had no patience with rebels. Most rebels surrendered and were pardoned. In 1676, Bacon died at age 29 from dysentery. Twenty-three leaders of the short-lived rebellion were hanged and Virginia's poor had been crushed.
- Bacon's Rebellion illustrated the complexity of American History and was a major turning point in the history of slavery in Virginia. In 1677, the Indians of western Virginia ceded their remaining lands in the colony and moved west, continuing a process of "Indian Removal" that would eventually span a continent.

Conclusion

- The nations of Europe should little interest in establishing settlements North of Mexico until the early 1600s. the coast of what is now the United States served as a little more than a way station for cod fisherman throughout all of the 1500s.
- But in 1585, some English investors began to take a second look and see the merit of establishing colonies in North America not only to trade with the Indians but also to Christianize them and enlist them as an ally against England's rival Spain.
- The first successful English colony was established in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. The colony would not have been able to last without the leadership of the English adventurer John Smith or the assistance of the Powhatan native American tribe.
- Unlike Jamestown, which it been established as a commercial enterprise by the Virginia Company, the colonies in the areas of present-day New England were established as a refuge for Englanders persecuted due to their conformance religious ideas.
- After the establishment of Virginia and the New England colonies, other English colonies became established in quick succession. All of the English colonies permitted slavery of African Americans and American Indians. However, during most of the 1600s, slaves worked and lived alongside white indentured servants.