British Colonization of America

Unit 1: 7th Grade Social Studies
Reasons for Colonization

- The three “Gs”
  - Gold (rich)
  - God (spread Christianity/religious freedom)
  - Glory (fame)
Roanoke: The Lost Colony
Sir Walter Raleigh

- In **1584** Queen Elizabeth said Sir Walter Raleigh could set up England’s first colony in North America.
- In July of **1585**, the colonists land on an island just off the coast of present-day North Carolina. The island was called Roanoke.
 Trouble from the Start

• In less than one year, the colony failed.
• The colonists did not know how to survive in their new environment.
• In July 1587, Raleigh sent a second group to settle Roanoke Island.
A Second Chance

• Raleigh appointed John White to be the leader of the second group.

• In **August 1587**, after John White helped the colonists get settled, he went back to England for supplies.

• While he was gone, his ship was taken to fight a war with Spain and he was unable to return to Roanoke Island for three years.
Three Years Later

• After England defeated Spain, John White returned to Roanoke – only to find everyone was gone!
• All that remained were some torn books, maps ruined by rain, and weapons covered with rust.
• He found the letters CRO carved on a nearby tree and the word CROATOAN carved on a wooden post.
The Lost Colony

• John White searched for the settlers he had left behind and fired shots into the air.
• They searched but found nothing. They shouted but no one answered.
Likeliest Theory

• Native American Assimilation/Capture?
• https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=93fhkR5lMGA
John White’s Family

• When John White returned to England in 1587, he left his own family including his granddaughter Virginia Dare.
• She was born August 18, 1587. She was the first child born in North America to English parents.
• She vanished along with the other settlers of Roanoke Island.
The Jamestown Colony
Why Did Settlers Came to Jamestown?

- Jamestown was primarily an economic venture.
- The stockholders of the Virginia company of London financed the settlement of Jamestown.
Jamestown became the first permanent English settlement in North America in 1607.
When the settlers first arrived, Jamestown was located on a narrow peninsula bordered on three sides by the James River. Today Jamestown is located on an island in the James River.
Reasons for the Location of Jamestown

1. The location could be easily defended from attack by sea by the Spanish.

2. The water along the shore was deep enough for ships to dock.

3. Believed to be a good supply of fresh water.
Jamestown: The Growth of Government

- In 1619, the governor of Virginia called a meeting of the Virginia Assembly.
- By the 1640s, the burgesses became a separate legislative body, called the Virginia House of Burgesses.
Virginia House of Burgesses

- The Virginia house of burgesses was the first elected legislative body in America giving settlers the opportunity to control their own government.

- It became the General Assembly of Virginia, which continues to this day.
Women Come to Jamestown

- The first women settlers came to Jamestown in 1620.
- The arrival of women made it possible for the settlers to establish families and a more permanent settlement at Jamestown.
Africans Come to Jamestown

- Africans arrived in Jamestown against their will in 1619.
- It is believed that they arrived as baptized Christians and therefore were labeled indentured servants for a period of 5 to 7 years.
- The arrival of Africans made it possible to expand the tobacco economy.
Hardships Faced By Settlers

- The site they chose to live on was marshy and lacked safe drinking water.
- The settlers lacked some skills necessary to provide for themselves.
- Many settlers died of starvation and disease.
Changes That Ensured Survival

- The arrival of two supply ships.
- The forced work program and strong leadership of Captain John Smith
- The emphasis on self-sustaining agriculture ensured survival of the colony.
Captain John Smith

- As leader of the Jamestown Colony he helped to restore order with one simple rule “He that will not work, will not eat.”
- He also initiated trading relationships with the Powhatan Indian tribes lead by Chief Powhatan.
- However, due to an injury he left the colony to return to England in 1609.
Trade With The Powhatan Indians

- The Powhatans traded food, furs and leather with the English.

- The English traded tools, pots, guns and other goods with the Powhatans.
Pocahontas, daughter of Chief Powhatan, believed the English and American Indians could live in harmony.

Pocahontas began a friendship with the colonists that helped them survive.
The Powhatans introduced new crops to the English, including corn and tobacco.
Powhatans & Jamestown: Growing Conflict

- The Colonists began stealing and attempting to intimidate the Indians.
- The Powhatans realized the English settlement would continue to grow and saw the colonists as invaders that would take over their land.
Colonial Life in America
Agriculture was the main economic activity in colonial America.

**Farming in New England**
- Soil was thin and rocky; winters were long, growing season short.
- Subsistence farming, growing just enough food for their own family. Some raised extra corn or apples or cattle to trade with their neighbors. Rarely enough to produce an export crop.

**Farming in the South**
- Better land and milder climate. Grew enough wheat to sell grain and flour to other colonies and to send abroad.
- Raised cattle and hogs for export.

**Most productive farmers**
- German colonists also known as Pennsylvania Dutch. Used fertilizer and crop rotation. Women worked in the fields with the men.
Northern Colonial Economies

Natural resources
• When the number of fur-bearing animals declined, the colonists turned to timber (planks, shingles, and siding for ships and houses) and fish.

Fish
• In early 1700s whaling industry began in New England.
• Whale products: lamp oil and materials used in perfumes, candles, and women’s corsets
Colonial industries
English goods were expensive, so colonists made things at home. Small industries developed:

- Mills run by waterpower ground grain into flour.
- Distilleries for rum and other alcoholic beverage were major businesses.
- Ironworks developed when there were local supplies of iron ore.
- Bricks, leather goods, and glass were made by small companies.
- Cloth was woven (wool and linen) for personal use and for sale to merchants.
Trade and commerce

• Good harbors, inexpensive ships, and a tradition of seafaring encouraged the development of commerce.
• Port cities of Boston, New York, and Philadelphia were thriving centers of trade.

• Trade routes that linked the Americas, Europe, Africa, and the West Indies are often described as the triangular trade.

• The Middle Passage is the name used by historians to describe the journey that enslaved Africans made from West Africa across the Atlantic Ocean to the West Indies.
South Colonial Economies

- Southern colonies produced valuable **cash crops** (agricultural products grown to be sold).
  - tobacco, the most valuable export
  - indigo (used to make blue dye) and rice
  - naval stores were also produced: rope, tar, and turpentine which were used to maintain wooden ships. These products were in great demand in England and produced a great profit.

**Plantation system**
- Plantation system developed in Virginia and Maryland as the tobacco crop increased in importance.
- Planters were wealthy and influential, dominating southern society and politics.
- Plantations needed workers: a few huge plantations had hundreds of workers, either indentured servants or slaves.
- Most farms were smaller and had less than 30 workers.
- Most worked in the fields, though on larger plantations, men and women performed other tasks, such as shoemaking, weaving, and carpentry.
South Colonial Economies

Rice and Indigo

- Biggest crops in South Carolina
- Low coastal areas were ideal for growing rice.
- Slaves were used; many knew how to grow rice and many had more resistance to malaria.
- Indigo first successful crop grown by Eliza Lucas in South Carolina. She was only 18 years old.

Small Farms

- Some farmers had a few enslaved Africans who worked in the fields alongside them.
- Independent yeoman farmers
  - raised livestock and exported beef and port
  - grew corn, wheat, fruit, and vegetables for the home market
  - grew tobacco, sold it through large planters
The Impact of Slavery

- By the 1600s Portugal, Spain, France, Holland, and England were involved in the trans-Atlantic slave trade.
- Most captured Africans were taken to colonies in the Caribbean and South America, then to North America. Only a small percentage came directly to the North American colonies.
- The Middle Passage (the voyage across the Atlantic) was a horrifying experience where men, women, and children were packed in the ships’ below-deck quarters.
**African Population in the Colonies, 1700–1760**

Source: *Historical Statistics of the United States*

**Skills Focus**

**INTERPRETING GRAPHS**

Summarize the growth in African population in the northern and southern colonies as described by this chart. What was the difference in African population by 1760?

See *Skills Handbook*, p. H17
South Carolina Rice Plantation, 1730–1750

On early rice plantations like this one, nearly all tasks were done by hand. Enslaved Africans performed the arduous work of planting, harvesting, and cultivating the rice.

Tasks on a Rice Plantation

1. **Planting**  Slaves planted rice by hand in the spring.
2. **Watering**  Rice is grown in flooded fields, so rice plantations were built near natural water sources.
3. **Canal Building**  Plantation owners had slaves construct canals to direct the water to the fields. Canals and floodgates controlled the flow of water to the rice fields.
4. **Harvesting**  Slaves harvested rice in the fall.
5. **Pounding**  Getting the rice ready to sell was hard work. First, slaves pounded the rice.
6. **Winnowing**  Then they brought it to the winnowing house, where they brushed it through a grating in the floor. The rice grains fell to the ground below and were collected. Later, rice mills did this task.
7. **Shipping**  The river also provided a way to transport rice to buyers.

Skills Focus: Interpreting Infographics

Early South Carolina rice plantations like this one were often built near natural water sources.

Making Inferences: How did the location near the river help with growing rice?

See Skills Handbook, p. H18
The Impact of Slavery

Why slavery continued
- At first many African workers were treated as indentured servants, but the terms of indenture grew longer until they lasted a lifetime.
- White indentured servants were freed while black servants were not. In some colonies, black servants lost other rights.
- The English settlers considered themselves superior to the Africans.
- Historians disagree about why slavery continued:
  - For planters, holding slaves cost less than indentured servants.
  - Slaves’ children supplied the next generation of workers.
  - The number of people wanting to serve as indentured servants dropped.

Resisting slavery
- Many slaves used physical resistance, sabotage, or ran away.
- Stono Rebellion: In 1739, 100 enslaved Africans in South Carolina took weapons from a firearms shop and killed several people.
- Some skilled artisans bought their freedom by hiring out their labor.
Main Idea

Enlightenment ideas and the Great Awakening brought new ways of thinking to the colonists, and a unique American culture developed.

Reading Focus

• What impact did the Enlightenment have in the colonies?
• How was the Great Awakening significant?
• How did the colonies become more diverse in the 1700s?
• What was life like in colonial America?
The Enlightenment and the American Colonies

**Enlightenment**: European movement that emphasized a search for knowledge. Also called the Age of Reason.

**The Scientific Revolution**
- Scientists began using observation and experiments to look for natural laws that governed the universe.
- Some scientists studied physical laws, while others looked for order and method in nature.
The Enlightenment and the American Colonies

The Enlightenment in Europe

- Thinkers in Europe admired the new approach to science. They thought that logic and reason could also be used to improve society, law, and government.
- English philosopher John Locke said it was the duty of government to protect the citizens’ natural rights: life, liberty, and property.
- French Baron de Montesquieu suggested that the powers of government be divided.
- French writer Voltaire criticized intolerance and prejudice.
- Other thinkers wanted to use new ideas to reform education, which in turn would improve society, criminal justice, and conditions for the poor.
The Enlightenment and the American Colonies

The Enlightenment in America

John Locke’s writings were widely read in America. They influenced Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin, among others.

- Jefferson used Locke’s theories when he wrote the Declaration of Independence.
- Other American leaders used Enlightenment ideas when they drafted the United States Constitution.
- Franklin and Jefferson were also interested in science and invention, applying reason to ask questions and find answers.
- Enlightenment thinkers questioned common beliefs and deep-rooted superstitions.
Life in Colonial America

Colonial cities

- Some cities had cobblestone streets lit by oil lamps. Ships from foreign ports were in the harbors. People enjoyed reading mail from relatives and English newspapers and magazines.
- Many cities had libraries, bookshops, and impressive public buildings.
- Places where colonists could see plays and hear concerts.
- Markets to shop for produce or European luxury goods.
- Schools that taught music, dancing, drawing, and painting in addition to traditional classes.
- City life for women: no hard farm work, but still had household tasks to perform. Prosperous women had more time for reading and writing.
- Men and women spent many hours writing letters to friends and family.
Life in Colonial Economies

**Popular culture**
- Quilting bees and barn raisings were examples of work in sociable ways.
- Northern colonists went ice-skating and sledding in winter.
- Horse racing and hunting
- Visiting neighbors was favorite pastime
- Social events: dancing, listening to music

**Communications**
- First American printer was in Cambridge, Massachusetts.
- John Peter Zinger, New York printer, published articles that criticized the royal governor.
- Zinger was arrested, and his newspapers were burned.
- He was tried in court and won the first important victory for freedom of the press in the America colonies.
Life in Colonial America

- Strong family structure despite the fact that real families were split apart. Kinship networks were essential.
- Religion was another strength of the community. Many were Christian, but also kept older African beliefs.
- The slave community preserved music and dance traditions.
- African music, foods, and other traditions gradually became a part of American culture.
The Pilgrims
The Pilgrims

- A *pilgrim* is a person who makes a journey for a religious reason.
- In 1608 a group of religious farmers tried to start their own church in England.
- The Church of England would not allow this to happen.
- The Pilgrims moved to Holland to find religious freedom.
The Pilgrims became homesick and were missing their way of life in England.

In 1616 they sent men to England to ask the **Virginia Company** for a charter to start a colony in North America.

The Virginia Company agreed and the Pilgrims returned to England on the **Mayflower** and the **Speedwell**.
Mayflower Journey

- Each time they sailed on the Speedwell it began to leak and they had to turn back.
- Finally, the Mayflower left alone on September 16, 1620.
- The ship had 30 sailors, 100 passengers and 2 dogs.
- The journey was long and difficult. They did not have fresh water or enough food.
- Terrible storms came and blew the Mayflower north.
- After 66 days at sea they saw land. But it was not the Virginia Colony. They were too far north in the area that is now Massachusetts.
A Cold Day in Late 1620

- Crowded on the Mayflower, 101 men, women, and children headed to the lands governed by the Virginia Company.
- The Pilgrims were given free passage to America.
- They agreed to work for the Virginia Company. The Pilgrims would send them furs, fish, and lumber.
Lost at Sea

- The Mayflower was blown off course by storms and reached the coast of what today is Massachusetts in December 1620.
- The Pilgrims were not sure where they were, but they knew they were not where they were suppose to be.
- They called their new colony Plymouth.
Mayflower Compact

- To keep order in the new colony, the 41 men aboard the Mayflower, signed an agreement.
- They agreed to make laws for the good of the colony and to obey those laws.
- Women were expected to follow the laws even though they were not asked to sign the Mayflower Compact.
- What laws would you put in the Mayflower Compact? Discuss with a partner.
Mayflower Compact

IN THE NAME OF GOD, AMEN.

We, whose names are underwritten, the Loyal Subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord King James, by the Grace of God, of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, King, Defender of the Faith, etc.

Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the northern Parts of Virginia, Do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually, in the Presence of God and one another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil Body Politick, for our better Ordering and Preservation, and Furtherance of the Ends aforesaid: And by Virtue hereof do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Officers, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general Good of the Colony, unto which we promise all due Submission and Obedience.

IN WITNESS whereof we have hereunto subscribed our names at Cape-Cod the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth, Anno Domini, 1620.

Mr. John Carver,
Mr. William Bradford,
Mr. Edward Winslow,
Mr. William Brewster,
Josiah Allerton,
Myles Standish,
Mr. Alden,
John Alden,
John Turner,
Frances Eaton,
James Chilton,
John Colowitt,
Mr. John Davenport,
Mr. Thomas Jenks,
Mr. John Goodman,
Mr. Samuel Fuller,
Mr. Christopher Martin,
Mr. William Mullens,
Mr. William White,
Mr. Richard Warren,
John Howland,
Mr. Steven Hopkins,
Stephen Priest,
Thomas Williams,
Gilbert Winslow,
Edmund English,
Peter Brown,
Richard Britteridge,
George Soule,
Edward Tilly,
John Tilly,
Francis Cooke,
Thomas Rogers,
Thomas Tinker,
John Rudyarde,
Edward Fuller,
Richard Clark,
Richard Gardiner,
Mr. John Allerton,
Thomas English,
Edward Doven,
Edward Leister.
The Winter of 1620-1621

- The first winter was hard.
- The weather was cold, there was not enough food, and many settlers became ill.
- About half of the Pilgrims died.
Help from the Indians

- Two Indians from the **Wampanoag** tribe arrived in the spring to help the Pilgrims.
- Squanto and Samoset came to Plymouth Colony to help the Pilgrims.
- They showed them how to plant squash, pumpkins and corn.
- They helped the Pilgrims to survive.
Peace vs. War

- For a time the Pilgrims lived in peace with the Wampanoags.
- As more English colonists came to settle in Massachusetts, the new people were not friendly toward the Indians.
- They settled on more and more of their lands.
- The new settlers eventually forced the Indians off their lands.
Discuss

- How do you think so many deaths affected the colony?
- How were these events similar to those of Jamestown?
- How were they different?
- Why do you think Tisquantum (Squanto) decided to help the people even though he had been taken and sold as a slave by Europeans before?