

## Information on the Colony of New York

**Directions:** Use this information as well as your textbook to create a brochure to entice people to come to your colony. The Chamber of Commerce Representative should read this handout aloud. Then, as a group, create a brochure that includes all of this information—as well as visuals, graphics, and illustrations.

### Founder

A French explorer and mapper, Samuel de Champlain, described his explorations through New York in 1608. A year later Henry Hudson, an Englishman working for the Dutch, claimed the area in the name of the Netherlands. It was to be called New Netherlands.

### Reasons for Being Founded

The Dutch granted the charter for the colony to the Dutch East India Company, which set up trading posts and exploited the area's rich natural resources. In 1664 the colony was surrendered to the British and its name was changed to New York. The Netherlands and England had been at war in Europe, and European wars often spread to the "New World" in this manner.

### People in the Colony

The first white settlers represented the Dutch West India Company. Dutch patrons (called "Patroons") also set up "patroonships," in which 50 people could receive a large grant of land if they promised to farm it and share the profits with the patron. Some English Puritans, who had fled to Holland to escape religious persecution in their homeland, received permission to move to the colony to find religious and political freedom.

Other settlers came as indentured servants. About one out of five people in the colony were African slaves, who were allowed to buy their freedom if they could ever come up with the money. There were also many Native American tribes in the area who were driven further north by the arrival of the Europeans.

### Climate and Geography

New York had hot, humid summers and bitterly cold, windy winters with much snow.

The terrain was swampy near the coast and the Hudson River. Further north were mountains covered with forests. The ground was rocky, but the soil was good for farming once it was cleared of rocks and trees.

### **Economy**

Colonists made their living in a variety of ways: fur trapping, lumber trading, shipping, the slave trade, and as merchants and tradesmen in the colony's towns.

Most colonists were farmers, who cleared large acres of land by hand to grow crops. Corn was the most popular, since it could be eaten by people and animals. Also grown were flax (to make fabric), wheat, vegetables, and tobacco. Some colonists mined for iron to send to England for manufacturing into finished goods.

### **Religion**

New York was situated between the Puritan colonies of New England and the Catholic Colony of Maryland, so the settlers were of many faiths. They had considerable religious freedom.

### **Politics and Government**

The colony was run by a Governor appointed by the King of England. He made all the laws, and there was little self-government. Sometimes, the colonists were able to gain more freedom (the right to elect the mayor of New York City, the chance to set up an Assembly), but these freedoms did not last long.

## Delaware

The Dutch first settled Delaware in 1631, although all of the original settlers were killed in a disagreement with local Indians. Seven years later, the Swedes set up a colony and trading post at Fort Christina in the northern part of Delaware. Today, Fort Christina is called Wilmington. In 1651, the Dutch reclaimed the area and built a fort near present day New Castle. By 1655, the Dutch had forcibly removed the Swedes from the area and reincorporated Delaware into their empire. In 1664, however, the British removed the Dutch from the east coast.

After William Penn was granted the land that became Pennsylvania in 1682, he persuaded the Duke of York to lease him the western shore of Delaware Bay so that his colony could have an outlet to the sea. The Duke agreed and henceforth, Penn's original charter included the northern sections of present-day Delaware, which became known as "The Lower Counties on the Delaware".

The decision by the Duke angered Lord Baltimore, the first proprietary governor of Maryland, who believed he had the rights to it. A lengthy and occasionally violent 100-year conflict between Penn's heirs and Baltimore's heirs was finally settled when Delaware's border was defined in 1750 and when the Maryland/Pennsylvania and Maryland/Delaware borders were defined as part of the Mason-Dixon Line in 1768.

Shortly after the incorporation of the "Lower Counties" into Pennsylvania, the sparsely populated region grew isolated from the bustling city of Philadelphia, and began holding their own legislative assemblies, though they remained subjects of the Pennsylvania governor. It wasn't until 1776, however, that Delaware had a government completely independent from Pennsylvania. In 1787, Delaware became the first colony to ratify the U.S. Constitution, and hence became America's first state.

<http://mnrussbaum.com/history-2-2/delcolony/>



## Information on the Colony of Pennsylvania

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### Founder

Many European countries had claims on the land called Pennsylvania. Samuel de Champlain, a French explorer, had been in the area in 1608. Sweden and the Netherlands also made claims on the colony. But England won the dispute, saying the land had been claimed for them by John Cabot in 1497.

In 1681 the English king gave the land grant of Pennsylvania to William Penn, to whom he owed \$100,000. He did not have the money to pay the debt, so he gave him the land. Penn was a Quaker and had been imprisoned for his different religious beliefs. The king probably thought that this would be a good way to get Penn out of England.

### Reasons for Being Founded

William Penn was glad to receive the land grant. He wanted to set up a colony where all people would be allowed to worship in any way they chose. He made Pennsylvania a haven for people suffering from religious persecution.

### People in the Colony

English Quakers followed Penn to the colony. Other Protestants being persecuted by Catholics in Europe soon followed: Lutherans, Mennonites, Amish, and Moravians from Germany; Presbyterians from Scotland and Ireland; Huguenots from France; and Jews from all over Europe.

Even though the Quaker religion looked down on the ownership of slaves, many of the colonists did own slaves, including William Penn himself. Slaves made up about 20 percent of the population.

### Climate and Geography

The colony was covered with rolling hills, trees, and fertile soil. The weather was hot and humid in the summer and cold, with snow, in the winter.

### Economy

Most colonists were farmers who raised vegetables, corn, and wheat and grazed dairy cattle. There were also some merchants and tradesmen (cobblers, silversmiths, blacksmiths, etc.) in the towns. Some colonists were in the lumber business, clearing trees for farmland and selling the timber for shipbuilding and export to England.

### Religion

Pennsylvania had a strong tradition of religious tolerance and welcomed settlers seeking religious freedom. Penn even named the capital, Philadelphia, the “City of Brotherly Love.”

### Politics and Government

Pennsylvania also offered political freedom and self-government. Free men in the colony elected 200 representatives to the Pennsylvania General Assembly each year. These men voted on laws that were proposed by the Provincial Council, 72 men also elected annually. A Governor oversaw the legislature.

## New Jersey

New Jersey's early colonial history is similar to New York's. Like New York, the area was first colonized by Dutch settlers around 1613. The colony was called New Netherland, and included parts of modern-day New York and New Jersey. In 1660, the town of Bergen became the first established town in the New Jersey portion of New Netherland. Today, it is a large city named Jersey City.

By 1664, the British had claimed the entire region and had driven the Dutch out. New Netherland was renamed New Jersey and New Amsterdam was renamed New York. Although King Charles originally gave the region to his brother, the Duke of York, eventually, he decided to divide the region and gave the land between the Hudson and Delaware River (New Jersey) to two of his friends, Sir George Carteret and Lord Berkeley of Stratton.

Carteret and Berkeley began attracting people to the area by offering land and guaranteeing religious freedom. In return for the land, the settlers were supposed to pay a yearly tax called a quitrent. The quitrents proved hard to collect, which prompted the sale of the land to the Quakers in 1673. Upon the sale, New Jersey was divided in West Jersey and East Jersey. However, by 1702, the two divisions were united as the royal colony of New Jersey.

<http://mrnussbaum.com/readingcomp/njcolony/>

