



CHAPTER 2 Strangers in a Strange Land: How the English Colonies Began

SS.6.A.2.1 Compare the relationships among the British, French, Spanish, and Dutch in their struggle for colonization of North America.

SS.6.A.2.2 Compare the characteristics of the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies.

SS.6.A.2.3 Differentiate economic systems of New England, Middle and Southern colonies including indentured servants and slaves as labor sources.

SS.6.A.2.4 Identify the impact of key colonial figures on the economic, political, and social development of the colonies.

SS.6.A.2.5 Discuss the impact of colonial settlement on Native American populations.

SS.6.A.2.7 Describe the contributions of key groups (Africans, Native Americans, women, and children) to the society and culture of colonial America.

SS.8.C.1.4 Identify the evolving forms of civic and political participation from the colonial period through Reconstruction.

Alignment to Grade 7 Civics Standards

SS.7.C.1.2 Trace the impact that the Magna Carta, English Bill of Rights, Mayflower Compact and Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* had on colonists' views of government.

Terms and Names You Should Know

House of Burgesses

Separatists

Mayflower

Pilgrims

Mayflower Compact

Puritans

General Court

Religious toleration

Fundamental Orders of Connecticut

William Penn

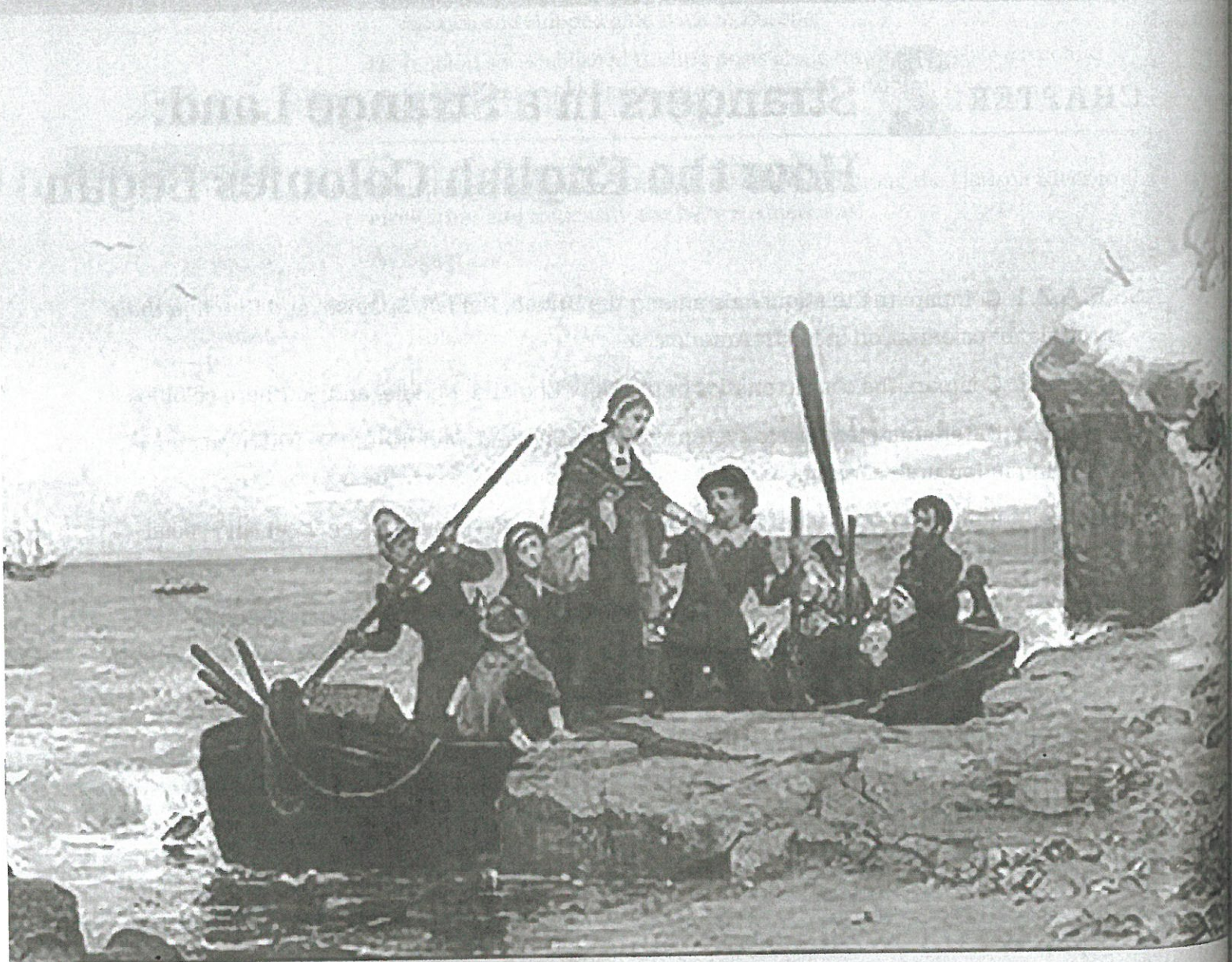
Frame of Government

Lord Baltimore

Debtors

Exclusive ownership

King Philip's War



Florida “Keys” to Learning



1. In the 1580s, the English sent settlers to Roanoke to start their first colony in North America, but it failed.
2. In 1607, the first permanent English colony in North America was started at Jamestown by English investors. The investors hoped to make money.
3. Half the colonists died before a second group arrived in 1608. Captain John Smith saved the colony by establishing friendly relations with the Indians and by insisting all colonists work. John Rolfe began growing tobacco in 1612 and brought success to the colony. In 1619, women from England and Africans arrived, and the colony also established the House of Burgesses.
4. Pilgrims and Puritans came to America for religious reasons. The Pilgrims were Separatists who wanted to separate from the Church of England. The Pilgrims landed in Plymouth. Before they left their ship, the men signed the **Mayflower Compact** in which they pledged to form their own community and obey its laws.
5. In 1630, the Puritans landed in Massachusetts Bay. The Puritans wanted to “purify” the Church of England. John Winthrop and other leaders saw their colony as a “City upon a hill” setting a shining example for the world. The colony was governed by officials elected to the General Court.
6. Other English colonies were also established:
 - Rhode Island.** Roger Williams was forced to leave Massachusetts and established the colony of Rhode Island based on religious

toleration: its colonists could worship freely in their own way. Anne Hutchinson joined Williams.

Connecticut. Thomas Hooker started this colony. The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut served as a written plan for its government.

New Hampshire. A group of investors in England started this colony.

Pennsylvania. The Quakers were Protestants who supported non-violence. William Penn was given land in America to create a land for Quakers.

Maryland. George Calvert, known as Lord Baltimore, started the colony of Maryland as a home for England’s Catholics.

North and South Carolina. King Charles II gave eight nobles land for a new colony. They established Carolina. The colony divided into North and South Carolina in 1712.

New York, Delaware, and New Jersey. In 1664, England took over the Dutch colony of New Netherland and divided it into the colonies of New York, Delaware and New Jersey.

Georgia. James Oglethorpe founded Georgia as a colony for debtors in English prisons.

7. English settlements had harmful effects on Native Americans. English settlers took the land and pushed the Indian tribes westward. The introduction of guns and new weapons made warfare more dangerous. Many Indians died from European diseases.

Imagine spending months crossing the Atlantic Ocean in a small wooden ship. At the end of your voyage, you land in a wilderness without houses, electricity, or plumbing. There are no stores to buy things. Everything you need—water, food, shelter, firewood, and clothes—you must take from nature or make for yourself. And this is not all. Angry people who speak a different language and have different customs may attack you. Finally, you will face extremes of weather and dangerous diseases. Would you make such a journey? In this chapter, you will learn about people who did: the first English colonists in North America.



Events Leading to the First English Colonies

What conditions led the first English colonists to be willing to make such sacrifices? To answer this question, we need to know more about what was going on in the world at the time.

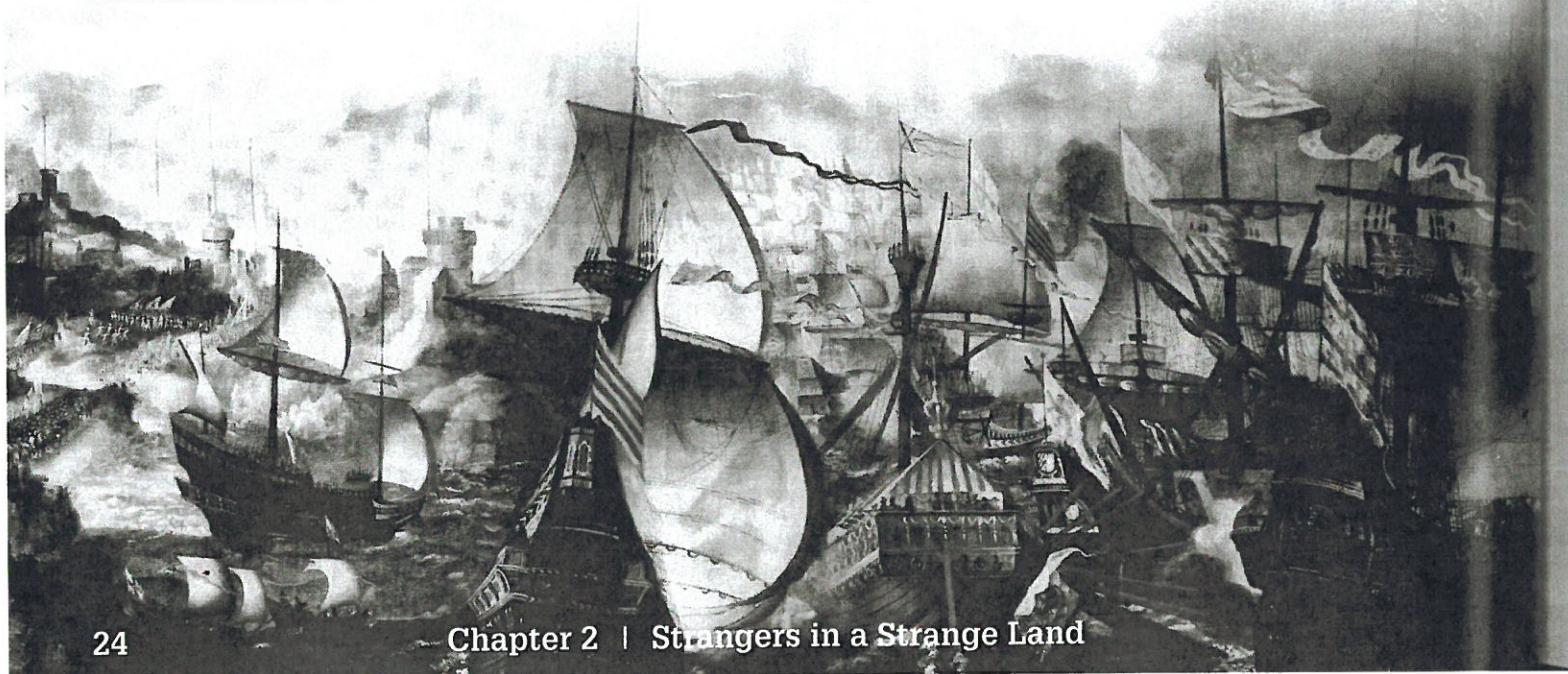
England becomes Protestant

Like the rest of Western Europe, England was once a Catholic country. However, in the 1530s, King Henry VIII of England suddenly became Protestant. He declared himself to be the head of England's Protestant Church, which he called the Church of England. Then he grabbed the rich lands of the Catholic Church for himself.

After Henry's death, England turned from Protestant to Catholic and back again. In 1588, the King of Spain, a Catholic, tried to overthrow England's Protestant ruler, Queen Elizabeth. He sent a great naval fleet of 130 ships. Spanish ships covered the sea as far as the eye could see. But the commanders of the English navy and stormy weather destroyed this fleet, saving England from invasion.

The threat from Catholic Spain led England's rulers to seek colonies of their own.

The Spanish fleet



The Lost Colony

Only three years before Spain's attempted invasion, **Sir Walter Raleigh** had established the first English colony in North America. In 1585, Raleigh had sent a hundred colonists to its shores. They landed on **Roanoke**, a small island in the Outer Banks of North Carolina. The colonists remained a year and then returned to England. A second expedition of colonists was sent to Roanoke in 1587. John White, the leader of the colony, sailed back to England to get more supplies. White's mission was delayed by the Spanish attempt to invade England. It took three years before White could return to Roanoke. When he finally returned, the settlement had mysteriously disappeared. No one was there. Now known as the "Lost Colony," the English settlement at Roanoke did not survive.

1585 map by John White of the coastline of North America from Chesapeake Bay to Cape Lookout

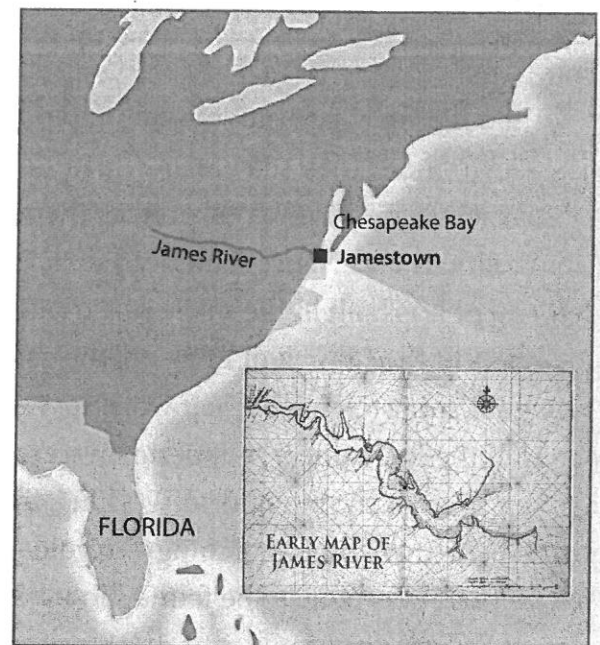
The Historian's Apprentice

What do you think happened to the members of the Lost Colony?

Jamestown, the First Permanent British Colony

The first permanent English colony in North America was established twenty years later at **Jamestown**. The **London Company** was formed by English investors who wanted to start a colony. The goal of these investors was to make money. King James approved their plan because he wanted England to have its own colonies.

The London Company sent three ships across the Atlantic in 1607. They carried just over a hundred colonists. The expedition landed in present-day Virginia (named after Queen Elizabeth). The colonists chose to settle on a marshy place on the James River (named after King James). The river was narrow enough there to defend against any future attack by Spanish ships. The area was also full of mosquitoes that sometimes carried diseases like malaria.



The Historian's Apprentice

If you had been in charge of this expedition in 1607, would you have picked the same location? Or do you think you might have chosen a different one? Which factors would you have considered in selecting your location?

Check all of the following that you think would apply. Then rank them in order of importance. Put the number "1" in front of the factor you think is the most important. Compare your rankings with a partner and discuss where you agree and disagree.

- Good natural harbor for landing the ship
- Plenty of fresh water from rivers, streams, or lakes
- Possible gold and other precious minerals
- Trees for building cabins and fences
- Good weather in summer and winter
- Good soil for farming
- Plenty of wild animals for hunting
- Ability to sail back and forth to England
- Ability to defend against hostile Indians
- Ability to defend against Spanish or French attacks



Now look back at the map showing the location of Jamestown. See if you and your partner can pick any better location for England's first permanent settlement in North America.

The colonists at Jamestown built simple cabins. They surrounded their settlement with a stockade of sharpened tree trunks to protect themselves from animals and Native American attacks. The settlement was built in the shape of a triangle. As members of the Church of England, the colonists brought a minister to lead their worship.

Half the newcomers at Jamestown were "gentlemen" who had no intention of working. Instead, they spent their time searching for gold—even where there was none to be found. Soon the settlers started running out of food. Others became sick. More than half of the colonists died before a second group of settlers arrived in 1608.



Courtesy of National Park Service, Colonial National Historical Park

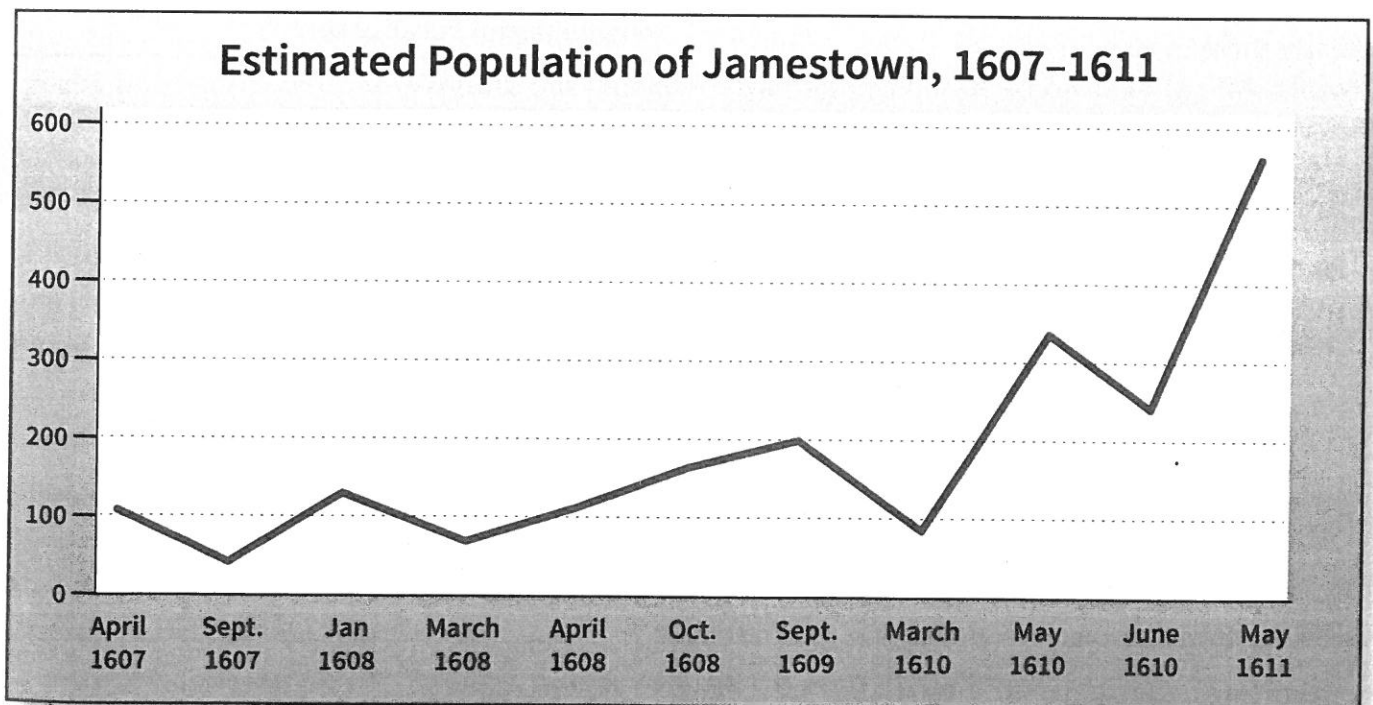


Captain John Smith (1580–1631) was only twenty-seven years old when he was placed in charge of the colony at Jamestown. He had previously fought against the Turks in Europe, where he had been captured and enslaved. He escaped and returned to England in 1604. The Virginia Company named Smith as one of seven leaders of the new colony. Smith saved the settlers by enforcing a simple slogan: “He that will not work, shall not eat.” In December 1607, Smith was captured by the Powhatan Indians. Smith wrote that he was saved from execution by the chief’s daughter, Pocahontas. Some historians question Smith’s account.

Captain John Smith saved the colony by establishing friendly relations with the local Indians and insisting that all the colonists help in growing crops. Only those who worked would receive food. However, Smith was injured and had to return to England. In the terrible winter of 1609–1610, many of the colonists at Jamestown died from hunger. In their desperation, they

even ate the bodies of those who had already died. Only 60 of the 214 settlers survived this “Starving Time.”

Despite these losses, the colony survived. New colonists from England kept coming. One colonist, **John Rolfe**, planted tobacco seeds in 1612 and began growing tobacco. Conditions in Virginia were perfect for this crop, which was





1585
Sir Walter Raleigh promotes establishment of an English colony at Roanoke

1588
Spanish Armada threatens England



1607
Jamestown founded



1585

1600

1610



1586–1587
Colony started at Roanoke but mysteriously disappears



1603
Death of Queen Elizabeth I; James I becomes King

1609–1610 (Winter)
"Starving Time" in Jamestown

already in great demand in Europe. By growing and selling tobacco, the colonists at Jamestown soon prospered.

In 1614, Rolfe married Pocahontas, the daughter of the local Indian chief. This began a period of friendly relations between the colonists and Indians. In 1619, women from England and the first Africans arrived in Jamestown. That same year, the colony established its own representative assembly, the **House of Burgesses**. Each district of the colony sent two representatives. The colony at Jamestown was clearly there to stay.



John Rolfe and Pocahontas

Pilgrims and Puritans

The colony at Jamestown was established by private investors who hoped to make money. Its colonists were also seeking wealth. The next two groups of English colonists to arrive in North America came for a very different reason: to worship God in their own way.

The Pilgrims at Plymouth

The **Separatists** were Protestants who lived in northern England. They disagreed with the

teachings of the Church of England—the official Protestant church. The Separatists believed that the Church of England could not be reformed, so they wished to **separate** from it.

To worship God in their own way, the Separatists moved to Holland. They became unhappy when their children began learning Dutch and losing touch with English ways. Their church leaders decided to leave Holland and start their own colony in North America.



1612
John Rolfe
plants
tobacco

1619
English women and Africans
arrive in Jamestown; House
of Burgesses founded

1630
Puritans start
Massachusetts
Bay Colony

1615

1630



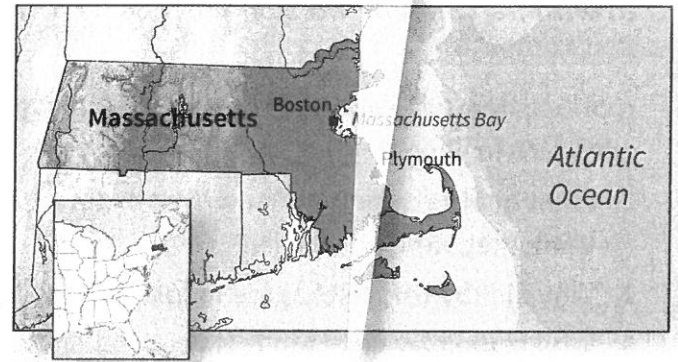
1614
John Rolfe
marries
Pocahontas

1620
Pilgrims land
at Plymouth;
Mayflower
Compact

This was the birth of
self-government and
an example of a direct
democracy.

A company in England obtained a charter for them from King James. About fifty Separatists then sailed from Holland to England. There they boarded the ship known as the **Mayflower**. The Separatists were joined by an equal number of other colonists eager to move to the New World. **William Bradford**, one of the leaders of the group, called the colonists “**Pilgrims**.” A pilgrim is a person who makes a journey for religious reasons.

Unlike the colonists who first went to Jamestown, the passengers on the Mayflower included men, women, and children. It took them two months to cross the Atlantic. The Pilgrims planned to settle in Virginia but landed hundreds of miles to the north at **Plymouth** (in



present-day Massachusetts). They arrived in late November during chilly weather.

Before leaving their ship, all of the colonists signed a document in which they pledged to form their own community and to obey its laws. This agreement is known as the **Mayflower Compact**.

Signing the Mayflower Compact



The Historian's Apprentice

The Mayflower Compact

In the name of God.

We who are underwritten, the loyal subjects of King James of Great Britain, France, and Ireland, having undertaken for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honor of our country, a voyage to plant the first colony in Virginia, do [agree] and combine ourselves together into a body politic [a community with its own form of government], for our better order and preservation and . . . to enact . . . just and equal laws . . . from time to time, as shall be thought most convenient for the general good of the colony, unto which we promise all due submission and obedience.

In witness whereof we sign our names at Cape-Cod, 11th of November [1620]

Your teacher will divide your class into small groups. Discuss the answers to the following questions in your group.

1. What did the colonists mean by “advancement of the the Christian faith”? How did they think they were doing this?
2. Why did the colonists agree to form a “body politic”?
3. Who could participate in this “body politic”?
4. What did the colonists mean by the “general good”?
5. Would you have signed the Mayflower Compact?
6. What was its significance?

At Plymouth, the Pilgrim colonists faced hardships just as difficult as those at Jamestown. Half of them died from illness in just the first few months. William Bradford was elected as governor and worked closely with Myles Standish, an experienced soldier in charge of the colony's defense.

The Pilgrims were also helped by friendly Indians. According to Bradford's journal, *Of Plymouth Plantation*, local Indians showed them how to plant corn and fertilize the soil with fish.

The Puritans at Massachusetts Bay

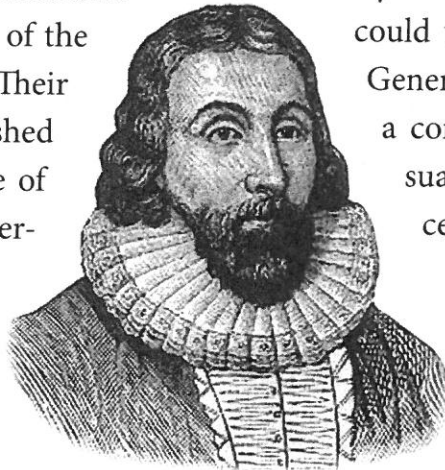
Ten years after the Pilgrims landed, a second group of English Protestants arrived. These colonists were known as the **Puritans**. They wanted to “purify” the Church of England. Unlike the Separatists, the Puritans were a very large group—perhaps even a majority of the people in England at the time. But England's new ruler, King Charles I, wanted to take the Church of England in a different direction. He was impressed by the power of Catholic rulers, such as the King of France. Charles disliked the Puritans, who did not respect his authority.



King Charles I

In 1629, Charles dismissed Parliament and tried to rule the country without it. Fearing persecution, some Puritans decided to move overseas. In North America, they could establish a community based on their own beliefs without royal interference.

An expedition of 700 Puritan colonists set sail in 1630. They landed in **Massachusetts Bay**, just north of the Pilgrim settlement at Plymouth. Their main settlement was established in Boston. **John Winthrop**, one of their leaders, gave a famous sermon in which he told the colonists that God was watching



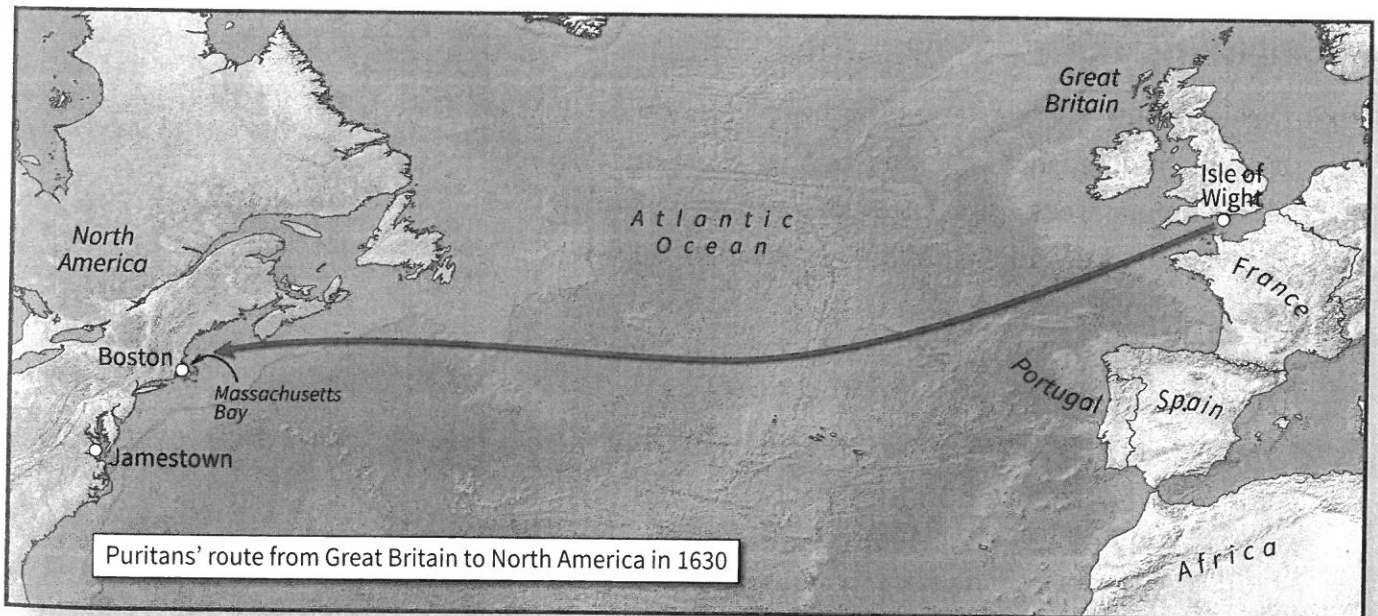
John Winthrop

over them. Using a phrase from the Bible, Winthrop said their colony would be “as a City upon a Hill.” Winthrop meant that the Puritan colony would provide a shining example for the entire world.

Like the Pilgrims, the Puritans were very strict. They required attendance in church. They banned many common pastimes such as dancing and watching plays. Life in Puritan Massachusetts centered on avoiding sin and obeying God’s commands.

The new colony was governed by a group of elected officials known as the **General Court**.

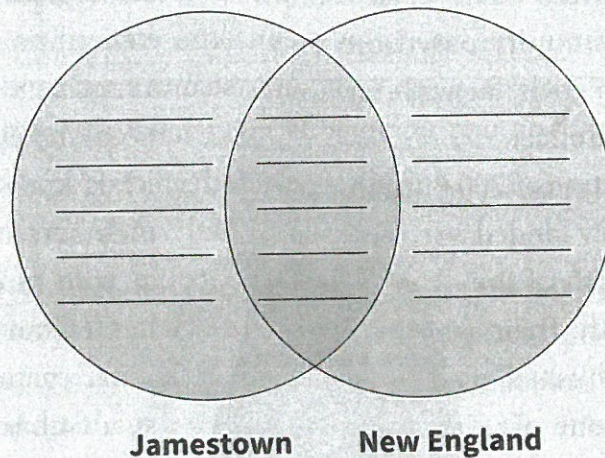
Only members of a Puritan congregation could vote in elections or serve on the General Court. To become members of a congregation, colonists had to persuade church leaders that they sincerely held Puritan beliefs.



The Historian's Apprentice

Write your answers to the following questions in your journal or on a separate sheet of paper and then share your answers with a partner.

1. How did religious disagreements in Europe encourage the English settlement of North America?
2. How did the colonists who went to New England compare to those who went to Jamestown? Complete the Venn diagram below showing their similarities and differences.

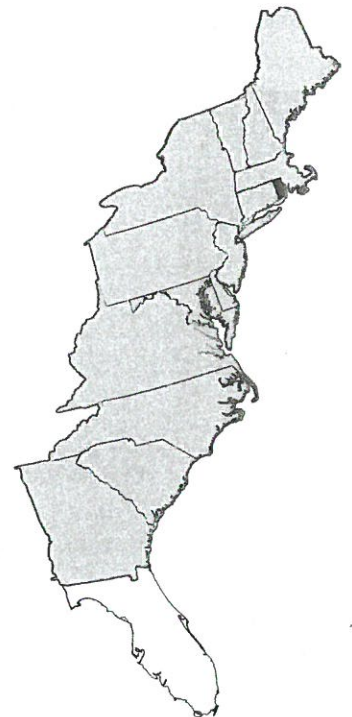


How the Other English Colonies Began

The successful colonies at Jamestown, Plymouth, and Massachusetts Bay encouraged others to start colonies.

Rhode Island

Roger Williams was a Protestant minister in Massachusetts. At first, Williams had believed that neither the Puritans nor the Separatists were “pure” enough in their beliefs. But after visiting the Indians, Williams decided that each person should be allowed to worship God in his or her own way. This challenged the beliefs of the Puritan ministers who governed Massachusetts Bay Colony. Williams was forced to leave Massachusetts. He established a new colony nearby in **Rhode Island**. His colony was the first to declare the principle of **religious toleration**—that people of all faiths should be able to worship freely in their own way without fear of government interference.

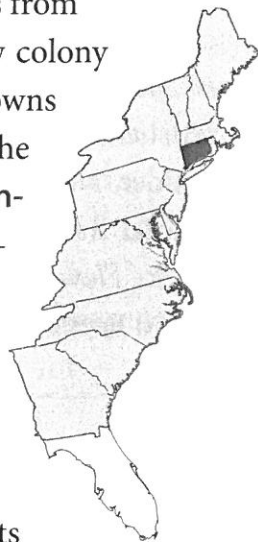




Back in Massachusetts, **Anne Hutchinson** was put on trial for expressing the view that ordinary believers, not just Puritan ministers, could understand God's message. She was also banished (*forced to leave*) from Massachusetts. Hutchinson joined Williams in Rhode Island.

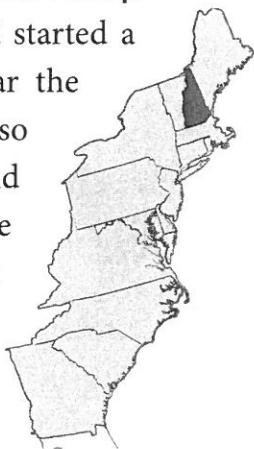
Connecticut

Thomas Hooker took settlers from Massachusetts to start a new colony in **Connecticut**. The three towns of the new colony agreed to the **Fundamental Orders of Connecticut** in 1639. This document served as a blueprint for the new colony's government. It established a General Court, like the one in Massachusetts Bay. It also gave all adult male residents the right to vote. Some historians see it as the first modern written constitution.



New Hampshire

A group of investors in England started another colony in New England in **New Hampshire**. Settlers from England started a number of small towns near the coast. The territory was also claimed by Massachusetts, and the settlers in New Hampshire agreed to be governed as part of that larger colony. In 1679, King Charles II gave New Hampshire its own

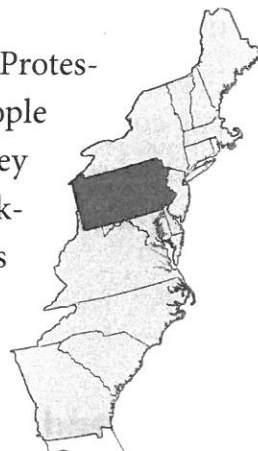


charter. Until the 1740s, the same official served as governor of both colonies.

Pennsylvania

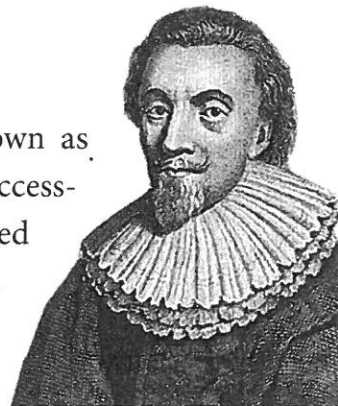
The **Quakers** were a group of Protestants who believed that all people were equal in God's eyes. They were against violence. Quakers had no priests or ministers because they believed that each individual should look to his or her own thoughts to discover God.

William Penn was the son of a wealthy admiral in the British navy. He became a Quaker at the age of twenty-two. Penn was later given land in America by King Charles II to create a home for Quakers. He went to America and established the colony of **Pennsylvania** ("Penn's Woods"). Penn paid the Indians for their land and granted his colonists a written constitution, which he called the **Frame of Government**. Penn's "Frame" included many rights, including freedom of religion and the right to a trial by jury. Penn's colony welcomed not only Quakers but all persecuted minorities, including French Protestants (Huguenots), Jews, Catholics, Mennonites, and Amish.

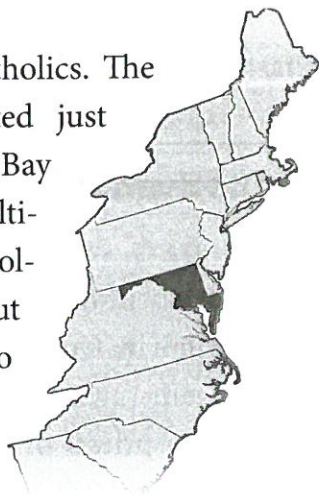


Maryland

George Calvert, also known as **Lord Baltimore**, was a successful politician. He had served King James I. He obtained a charter to start the colony of **Maryland** as a



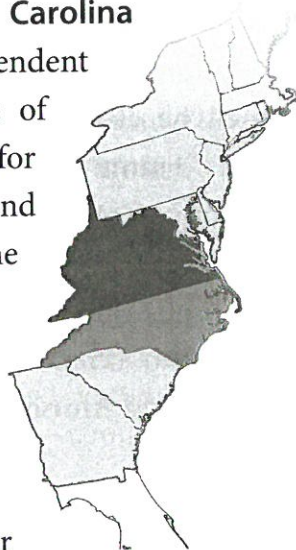
home for England's Catholics. The new colony was located just across the Chesapeake Bay from Virginia. Lord Baltimore died before the colony could be started, but his two sons went on to establish and govern it.



North and South Carolina

King Charles II gave the right to found a new colony to eight of his nobles, known as **Lords Proprietor**. The proprietors established a colony just south of Virginia and named it **Carolina** after their king. (Carolus was the Latin word for Charles.)

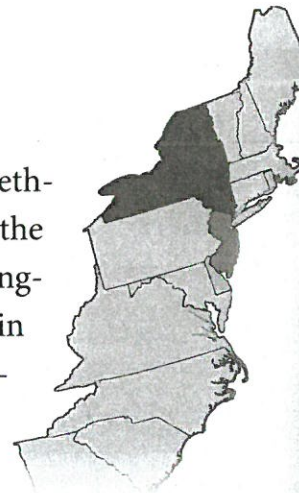
Conditions in the northern and southern parts of Carolina were so different that the colony split into North and South Carolina in 1712. **North Carolina** was a colony of independent farmers with small plots of land. It became known for its forest products (tar and other materials from pine trees used for ships).



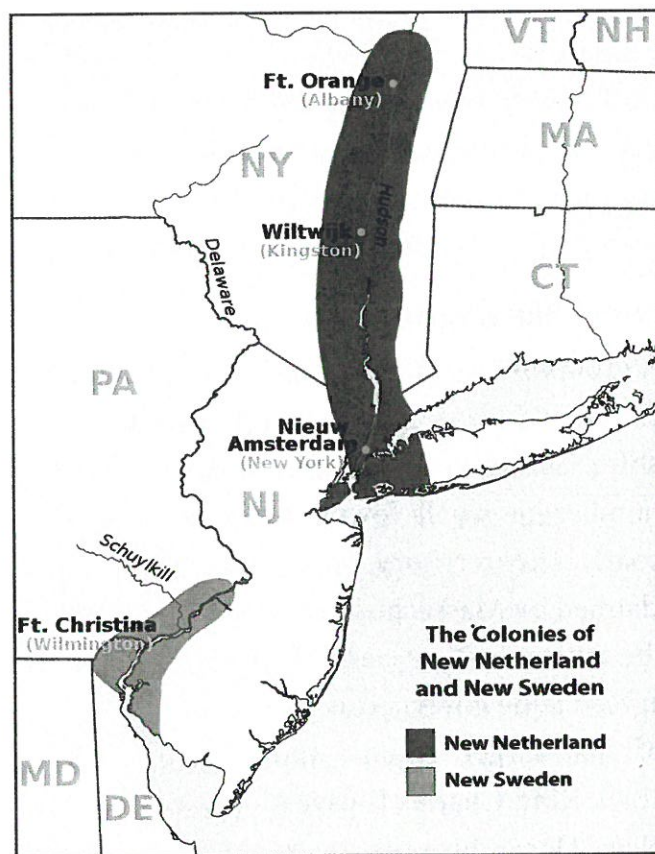
South Carolina was dominated by wealthy landowners with large plantations. The plantation owners used the labor of enslaved Africans and African-Americans to grow rice and indigo (*a plant used to make blue dye*) for sale in England.

New York, Delaware, and New Jersey

The Dutch colony of New Netherland was located between the British colonies of New England and the British colonies in the South. It was a long narrow band, stretching from western Long Island up the Hudson River. New Netherland had also taken Delaware (originally a Swedish colony).



In 1664, Britain and the Netherlands were at war. The British sent ships to capture the city of New Amsterdam. The Dutch colonists refused to resist and the colony's governor was forced to surrender. New Netherland was renamed **New York** after the King's younger brother, the Duke of York. New Amsterdam became **New York City** and Fort Orange became **Albany**.





1635
Roger Williams
banished from
Massachusetts

1639
Thomas Hooker unites
Connecticut settlements;
Fundamental Orders of
Connecticut

1664
England takes New
Netherland and
changes its name
to "New York"



1712
Carolina divides
into North and
South Carolina

1635

1650

1700



1636
Roger Williams
establishes
Rhode Island;
Connecticut
Colony founded

1636
Anne Hutchinson
banished from
Massachusetts;
Pequot War



1685
James II unites all
the New England
colonies together

1688
Glorious Revolution
in England; James II
flees

Dutch residents were allowed to stay and to keep all their lands and rights. **Delaware** and **New Jersey**, once part of New Netherland, became separate British colonies. New Jersey, located in an area between Delaware and New York, was given by Charles II to two of his friends.

Georgia

In 1732–1733, **James Oglethorpe** founded **Georgia** as a colony for debtors. **Debtors** are people who owe money and cannot pay it. In England, many debtors were sent to prison. Some debtors were permitted to go to Oglethorpe's colony.

At first, Oglethorpe prohibited slavery. But slavery was permitted in Georgia after 1743.

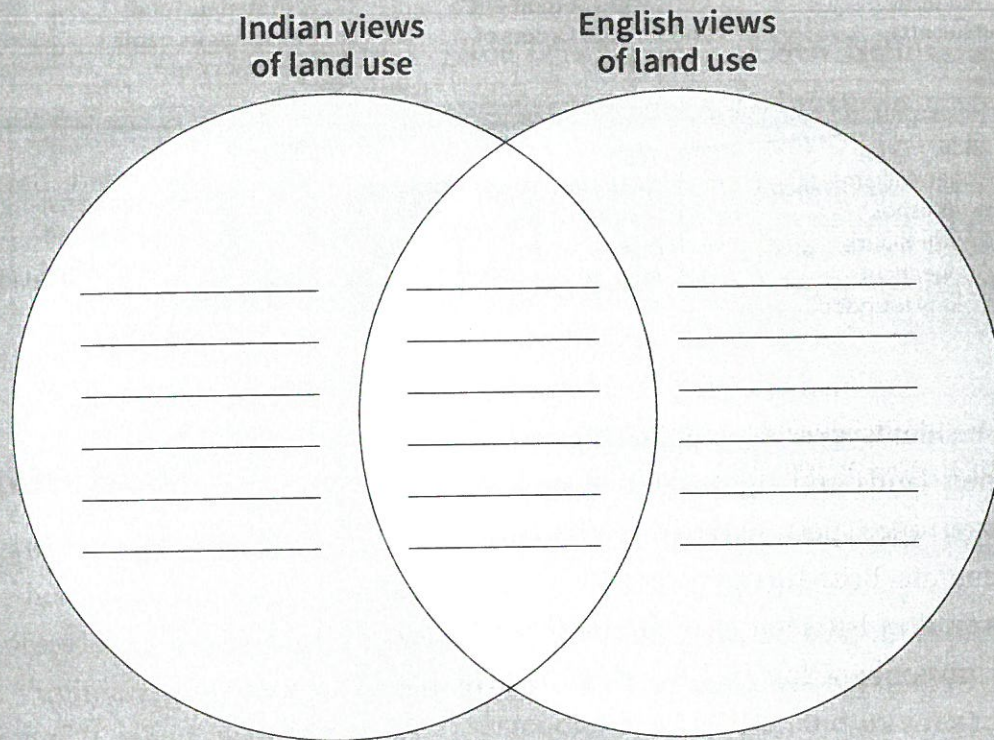


The Impact of Colonial Settlements on Native Americans

The building of English settlements had very harmful effects on Native American peoples. Native Americans had shared these lands for thousands of years. They used them for hunting,

and growing corn, squash, and beans. The English had very different ideas of land ownership. They believed in **exclusive ownership**: When an Englishman owned a piece of

Complete the Venn diagram below.

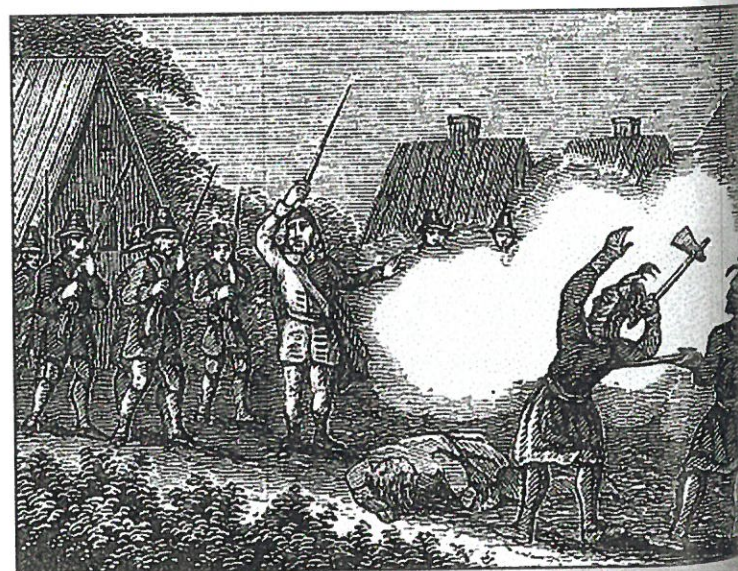


land, no one else had the right to use it. English settlers cleared the land by cutting down trees, building wooden houses, plowing the soil, and planting crops.

The spread of English settlements reduced the amount of land that Indian tribes living along the Atlantic coast could use. This led to conflicts between those tribes and other tribes farther west. The introduction of guns and other new weapons made Indian warfare more dangerous. Native Americans became dependent on European goods and neglected their own traditional ways. Native American populations were also reduced by the introduction of European diseases such as smallpox.

The English often took sides with some tribes against others. Relations between colonists and Native Americans sometimes led to open warfare. Metacom, known as King Philip, was the son of the Indian chief who had once welcomed the Pilgrims. Metacom allied with other tribes in

New England. They attacked local colonial settlements, taking hundreds of lives in **King Philip's War** (1675–1676). Metacom was finally killed and his allies were defeated. In another example, the Tuscarora Indians started a war against English settlers in North Carolina in 1711. This war lasted several years before the Tuscarora were defeated.



Colonists fighting Indians

The Historian's Apprentice

1. Discuss the following question with a partner:

Imagine what it would be like if people suddenly landed from outer space and introduced new products and new ideas that replaced those of your own culture. Would the benefits of using these new products and ideas outweigh the loss of traditional ways?

2. Make a chart or graphic organizer identifying some of the effects that the arrival of English colonists had on Native Americans.

3. Pretend that you are at a meeting of Indian leaders. Write a speech about how you think they should respond to the arrival of English colonists.

4. Complete the chart below showing how important leaders influenced the economic, political, and/or social development of the English colonies. Fill in only those sections of the chart you think apply.

- ◆ Economic relations concern how people work and share to meet their material needs, such as for food and shelter.
- ◆ Political relations concern how people are governed.
- ◆ Social relations concern how people relate to one another in society. They can include how people are affected by their religious beliefs.

Leader	Economic Impact	Political Impact	Social Impact
Captain John Smith			
William Bradford			
John Winthrop			
Roger Williams			
Anne Hutchinson			
William Penn			
Lord Calvert			
James Oglethorpe			

Based on the chart, what conclusions can you draw about the impact of early colonial leaders?

