

THE AMERICAN COLONIES

Program One from
*The American Revolution:
From Colonies to Constitution*

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THE AMERICAN COLONIES

Program One from
The American Revolution:
From Colonies to Constitution Series

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THE AMERICAN COLONIES

Program One from *The American Revolution:
From Colonies to Constitution*
Grades 5-8

Viewing Time: 14 minutes with a one-minute,
five-question Video Quiz

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF THE SERIES

Four fifteen-minute programs make up this series which examines the creation of the United States of America from the founding of the thirteen colonies up through the writing of the constitution and the formation of the federal government. The programs in this series are:

1. *The American Colonies*
2. *The Road To Revolution: 1763-1775*
3. *The War of Independence*
4. *Shaping the New Nation*

Each program tells its story using compelling archival images and colorful historical re-enactments that bring American history to life. The re-enactments were done with great concern for historical accuracy and nearly all of them were filmed at or near the sites where the actual events occurred.

INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY OF PROGRAM ONE: THE AMERICAN COLONIES

This program tells the amazing story of how the American colonies came into existence. It examines the role of colonization in bringing about the huge population shifts and cultural changes that occurred as Europeans and African slaves displaced Native Americans. The program details the diverse reasons the English colonies were founded and shows how colonists came to take on a uniquely American identity.

LINKS TO CURRICULUM STANDARDS

The design for this program was guided by the curriculum standards of the states of Texas, California, and Illinois, as well as the National Center for History in Schools (U.C.L.A). In accordance with these guidelines we have attempted to help students:

1. Understand America's colonial heritage.
2. Examine the 13 English colonies, the places where the political values and institutions of the new nation were shaped.
3. Contrast America's southern colonies to its New England colonies.
4. Develop improved concepts of time and chronology and improve verbal skills.
5. Recognize and investigate problems and proposed solutions based on reason and evidence.
6. Express and interpret information and ideas.

TEACHER PREPARATION/INSTRUCTIONAL NOTES

1. Before presenting this lesson to your students, we suggest that you review history textbooks on the establishment of the American colonies. We also advise you to preview the video and review the guide and accompanying blackline masters in order to familiarize yourself with their content.

As you review the materials presented in this guide, you may find it necessary to make some changes, additions, or deletions to meet the specific needs of your class. We encourage you to do so, for only by tailoring this program to your class will they obtain the maximum instructional benefits afforded by the materials.

It is also suggested that the video presentation take place before the entire group under your supervision. The lesson activities grow out of the context of the video; therefore, the presentation should be a common experience for all students.

You should also duplicate selected "hand out" materials from the blackline masters included in this guide.

2. Set up a "Learning Center" with maps and any pictures or other materials relevant to the English colonization of America that may be available to you.

STUDENT PREPARATION

Before viewing *The American Colonies*:

1. Have students explore the "Learning Center".
2. Introduce or review with your students the meaning of any words from **Blackline Masters 2 and 3, Vocabulary List and Activity**, with which they may need help.

STUDENT OBJECTIVES

After viewing the video and participating in the follow-up activities students should be able to:

- Explain several different reasons that England's thirteen American colonies were founded.
- Describe the role of slavery and indentured servitude in the growth of the thirteen colonies.
- Explain some of the reasons people wanted to come to the American colonies.
- Identify that England was not the only colonial power in America's history and that colonial powers were often at war with one another both in America and in Europe.

- Explain the reasons why many people in England's thirteen colonies developed their own special "American" (as opposed to English) identity and how such an identity-shift led to a war of independence.
- Briefly describe the time sequence over which the thirteen colonies were founded.
- Describe the profound impact colonization had on the Native American way of life.

INTRODUCING THE VIDEO

1. Using a large map, point out the 13 English colonies in America. Show the boundaries of New France, New Spain, New Netherland, and New Sweden.
2. Distribute **Blackline Masters 4, 9, and 10, Crossword Puzzle, Video Quiz and Fact Sheet**, respectively.
3. **Present the video.** The viewing time is 14 minutes followed by a short (one-minute) optional video quiz.

FOLLOW-UP DISCUSSION

It is recommended that you involve students in a brief discussion after viewing the video and before beginning the Follow-Up Activities.

1. Discuss attitudes of European cultural and racial superiority that allowed both slavery and the colonization of native lands. What justifications were used by Europeans to explain their actions? How did treatment of native tribes vary between the English, French and Spanish?
2. Discuss differences and similarities in religious beliefs between Anglicans, Catholics, Pilgrims, Puritans, and Quakers.
3. Discuss the English class system and how it manifested itself in the colonization of America.

EXTENDED LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- In order to express and communicate ideas and improve research skills use the Internet and other resources to prepare papers or oral reports on the following subjects:

1. The origins of America's individual English colonies. (Assign one colony to each student; two could be done for extra credit)

2. Compare and contrast Anglicans and Puritans.

3. Compare and contrast Quakers and Puritans.

4. Indentured servitude and debtors' prisons.

5. The growth of the "American" identity.

6. Slavery in colonial America.

- If your school is in, or near, a state that was once an English colony, a field trip to an important colonial historical site (or sites) would be extremely worthwhile.

DESCRIPTION OF BLACKLINE MASTERS

- **Blackline Master 1, Pre-Test**, when compared to the Quiz results, will help you gauge student progress.

- **Blackline Masters 2 and 3, Vocabulary List and Activity**, will introduce students to unfamiliar words used in the program, or terms pertaining to the subject of the program they may encounter in outside reading.

- **Blackline Master 4, Thirteen Colonies Crossword Puzzle**, challenges students to identify the different colonies.

- **Blackline Masters 5-7, Timeline and Activity**, helps students develop improved concepts of time and chronology centering around the era of the America's colonial period.

- **Blackline Master 8, Post-Test** , may be used to evaluate student progress.

- **Blackline Master 9, Video Quiz**, appears at the end of this program. The video quiz encourages attentiveness and tests information retention.

- **Blackline Master 10, Colonial Fact Sheet**, provides some interesting bits of information.

ANSWER KEY

- **Blackline Master 1, Pre-Test**

1. Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, New York, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia.

2. Sweden, France, Holland, Spain

- **Blackline Master 3, Vocabulary Activity**

1. Proprietor

2. New England Confederation

3. Hogsheads

4. Indigo

5. Anglican(Church of England), Separatists(Pilgrims)

• **Blackline Master 8, Post-Test**

1. Any four of these: Religious freedom, economic opportunity, own their own land, improve their social status, as slaves, as indentured servants

2. Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island, New Haven

Bonus:

a) The great distance from England in an age of slow travel and communication.

b) The fact that many colonists had never set eyes on England.

c) By the time of the War of Independence some colonists could trace their American ancestry back for several generations.

d) England's attitude of superiority over the colonists; taxing them but giving them no say.

e) Freedoms that existed in America that did not in England.

• **Blackline Master 9, Video Quiz**

1. False, Spain was the first with New Spain.

2. False, the Pilgrims were separatists, an offshoot of the Puritan faith.

3. False, Penn was a Quaker.

4. True.

5. False, there were no slave plantations in New England.

THE AMERICAN COLONIES

Script of Video Narration

Five hundred years ago, the North American continent was a place of vast open spaces and tall forests where Native Americans made their homes. But, beginning with Christopher Columbus in 1492, European countries began to claim this land; founding overseas territories known as colonies. A few centuries after the time of Columbus, millions of people of European and African descent were living in the American colonies, and as a result, the native people were forced to leave their ancient homelands.

Spanish Colonization 1492-1565

Because Columbus claimed all land he discovered for Spain, it was the first country to colonize the New World. Spain's earliest colonies were founded in the 1490s on islands in the Caribbean Sea. Thirty years later, Spain conquered the powerful Aztec kingdom of Mexico and began to colonize the North American continent. By 1565, Spain had pushed northward and established a permanent outpost called St Augustine in what is today the state of Florida. But, even though Spain may have been the first country to colonize North America, it certainly wasn't the last: For at various times England, Holland, Sweden, France, and Spain all had colonies along the eastern shore of North America.

The English Colonies: Why They Were Started and Why People Came

England's colonies in America were basically business ventures organized by individuals or by companies who obtained permits called charters from the king to colonize the lands. The people who organized the colonies had two main goals: the first was to make a profit. The second was to expand English trade and industry.

Most of those who settled in the colonies came seeking better economic opportunities, freedom of worship and the chance to own their own land, something many of

them had been unable to do in Europe. Others came to be indentured servants. These were people who agreed to work for nothing for several years in order to pay off the cost of their voyage or their debts back in England. Finally there were the slaves. They were shipped into the colonies and were sold to the highest bidder.

Except for the slaves, it was much easier for people in the colonies to move up in society than it was in Europe, where class distinctions kept rich and poor far apart. For many that was an important reason for coming to the colonies.

Each English colony was slightly different. Each one had its own Governor, legislature, and special laws: but in spite of this King, parliament always had the final say.

Virginia 1607: The First English Colony of Jamestown
Jamestown, the first successful English colony in North America, was founded in 1607 by a company of adventurers who hoped to grow rich in Virginia. They struggled during many years of hard times, but they finally began to make good livings by raising tobacco.

As time passed, many of Virginia's tobacco farms grew into large plantations that depended on slave labor for their success; and, as more tobacco was exported from the colony, more people took up the smoking habit, as a result, Virginia prospered.

New England 1620: The Second English Colony of Plymouth
The second English colony in America, founded in New England in 1620, was called Plymouth. Plymouth colony was quite different from Virginia because it was founded more for reasons of religious freedom than simply to grow wealthy. Because, while the Virginia colonists were Anglicans, meaning they belonged to the official Church of England, many of the Plymouth colonists the ones we call Pilgrims, had broken away from the Anglican faith and were known back then as Separatists.

Another difference from Virginia was that Plymouth didn't depend on exporting crops; instead the colony shipped loads of furs, fish, and lumber back to England.

The New England Colonies: Massachusetts Bay, Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Connecticut 1629-1680

Nine years after Plymouth was founded, a religious group called the Puritans founded the Massachusetts Bay colony nearby.

The Puritans had strong religious beliefs similar to those of the Pilgrims but the Puritans hadn't broken away from the Church of England as the Pilgrims had done. Starting in 1630 thousands of Puritans seeking religious freedom crossed the ocean to settle in the Massachusetts Bay colony. They cleared forests to make room for farms and houses. The colony grew rapidly and eventually the Plymouth Colony joined up with it. By the late 1670s Massachusetts Bay Colony had purchased the vast territory that is today the state of Maine, whose northern border was not far from the city of Quebec, the capital of the French colony, called New France.

Because of its rocky soil, New England was not well-suited for large plantations. Instead, New England became a place where small farms and villages were the norm and where having slaves was unusual.

It was mainly Puritans from the Massachusetts Bay Colony who helped establish New England's other colonies of Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

Most people in the New England colonies were required to follow the strict rules of the Puritan religion so sometimes they were a bit more severe than people from the other English colonies.

The Middle Colonies: New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania

Not long after the Plymouth Colony was established, a

trading company from Holland went into the fur business and started to colonize the area between New England and Virginia. They called their colony New Netherland and soon brought in slaves.

As time went by fierce disputes over trade developed between England and Holland. In 1664 England sent a fleet of ships to capture the capital of the colony and the Dutch gave up without a fight. The king had given a charter to the land to his brother the Duke of York and so it was re-named New York.

The Duke gave a large part of his territory to a couple of his aristocratic friends. On this land the New Jersey colony was founded, later it was split into two colonies but in 1702 it was reunited into a single royal colony.

The land of the colony of Delaware was originally claimed by Holland too. In 1631, Dutch traders settled near here, not far from the mouth of the Delaware Bay, but clashes with native tribes soon drove them away. Seven years after that a ship like this one brought settlers from Sweden and they established another colony in the northern part of Delaware. They named their colony New Sweden and lived in Swedish style log cabins like this one. Seventeen years after its founding the Dutch wiped out Sweden's colony. After New Netherlands fell, the land passed into English hands and eventually Delaware became a separate English colony.

Like Delaware, the land that became the colony of Pennsylvania had been colonized earlier by both Sweden and Holland. Even though he had given this territory to the Duke of York, the king was in debt to the father of a man called William Penn and to pay it the king gave William a charter for his colonization.

Penn belonged to the Quaker religion. In England he worshipped in this simple meeting house. Quakers were persecuted in England because they did not follow the teachings of the official Anglican faith; That was why

Penn wanted to emphasize his Quaker beliefs of fairness, justice and equality in Pennsylvania. He also wanted the people of Pennsylvania to enjoy peace, have self government and good property rights.

Penn's colony was a great success and its capital, Philadelphia, "The City of Brotherly Love", grew to be the largest city in all the thirteen colonies.

The Southern Colonies: Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia

As we have already learned, the first southern colony, Virginia, was first colonized in 1607. Twenty-five years after that the king granted a charter for a second southern colony called Maryland to a wealthy Catholic aristocrat named Cecil Calvert, whose official title was "Lord Baltimore."

Since Catholics were also persecuted in England, Calvert, as the Proprietor of Maryland, realized that his colony must have religious freedom otherwise a lot of people would not want to settle there.

In 1634, the first large group of colonists arrived in Maryland and started tobacco plantations. The colonists built a fine town called St. Mary's City overlooking this small and beautiful bay: It became the first capital of Maryland and an important trading center for that part of the colony.

The coastal lowland area of what became the colony of North Carolina was first permanently settled by Europeans in the 1650s when people moved down from Virginia. The colonies of both North and South Carolina officially began a short time later in 1663 when a group of eight of the king's best friends, all of them noblemen, were granted charters to colonize the territory.

The Carolina colonies turned into places where large plantations predominated. In the summer slaves raised

rice and, in the winter, a plant called indigo was grown from which a valuable blue dye was obtained.

The last English colony to be settled was Georgia. It was named in honor of King George II who, in 1732, granted a colonial charter to a group of men that included James Oglethorpe. Oglethorpe didn't want slavery in his colony. He hoped the land of Georgia could become a place where poor English people, who had been imprisoned for not paying their debts, could come to work and be free. But his plan had to be abandoned, partly because so much time had to be spent fighting with the neighboring Spanish colony of Florida.

Conclusion

As we have just seen, the North America colonies were founded by people from several nations for a lot of different reasons.

By 1770, Spain ruled the southern part of the continent and had just begun to build missions in California. At the same time there were 2 million people, both free and slaves, living in England's Thirteen American colonies.

For many of them the patriotic link to their mother country was often broken due to unfair treatment and just the passage of time. This was especially true in England's colonies; where tens of thousands of colonists, the ones who no longer desired to be English subjects, would fight and die in a long, painful, war that finally brought them Independence.

Video Quiz

1. TRUE OR FALSE? England was the first country to have colonies in North America.
2. TRUE OR FALSE? The Pilgrims of Plymouth belonged to the Anglican faith.
3. TRUE OR FALSE? William Penn was a Puritan.
4. TRUE OR FALSE? Delaware was once part of the colony of New Sweden.
5. TRUE OR FALSE? Massachusetts Bay Colony had many large slave plantations.

