

## CHAPTER 2

# Europeans in North America

During the 9th and 10th centuries, Scandinavians (Vikings) journeyed across the North Atlantic to settle Iceland and Greenland. From there, a few adventurers sailed to the mainland of North America.

Icelandic legends describe the Scandinavian voyages to America, which took place around the year 1000. On one of these journeys, Leif Ericson, a Norseman from Greenland, probably visited Newfoundland or Nova Scotia. Because he saw many wild grapes, he called the area Vinland (land of vines). Scandinavian settlements in America were short-lived and news of them did not reach many people in Europe.

## EUROPEANS SAIL TO AMERICA

---

In the 15th century, Europeans were interested in finding a water route to East or South Asia. These Asian areas were rich in such goods as silk, spices, and jewels. Land routes existed, but they were long, dangerous, and expensive. European merchants knew that a safe and easy route to eastern trading centers would make their fortunes. European rulers knew that helping their merchants to trade with the East would enrich and empower their countries.

**1. Portuguese Explorers.** Since Italian traders controlled the Mediterranean, Portuguese explorers began to look for water routes to the East that went around the coast of southern Africa. In 1498, Vasco da Gama was the first to use this route to sail to India. He returned to Portugal with a ship full of spices and jewels. His voyage proved that an all-water route to the East existed.

**2. Columbus.** Christopher Columbus, a seaman from the Italian city of Genoa, had a different idea for simplifying European trade with the East. Instead of sailing eastward to reach East Asia, he wanted to sail west. Like most educated people of his day, he knew that the world is round. Columbus convinced King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella of Spain of his theories. He persuaded them to help fund a voyage that would bring wealth, power, and prestige to their country.

In August 1492, Columbus left Spain with three ships. On October 12, Columbus's crew sighted land, probably Watlings Island in

the Bahamas. Columbus thought that he had reached an island off the coast of Asia. While searching for the Asian mainland, he landed on the islands of Cuba and Hispaniola. In the spring of 1493, Columbus returned to Spain.

Columbus made three more voyages across the Atlantic. He explored other Caribbean islands, part of the coastline of present-day Honduras and Panama in Central America, and the mouth of the Orinoco River in South America. When he died in 1506, Columbus still did not know that he had not made it to Asia.

**3. Exploration After Columbus.** With both Portugal and Spain sending out expeditions, the two nations sometimes claimed the same lands. To prevent disputes, the pope divided the world into two parts. The so-called Line of Demarcation, drawn in 1493, ran from the North Pole to the South Pole, through a point about 300 miles west of the Azores in the Atlantic Ocean. (In 1494, the line was moved 1,000 miles farther west.) The pope said that Portugal could claim all newly found lands east of the line, while Spain could claim those west of the line. Because of the pope's rulings, Spain would gain control over much of the Americas. Portugal had a free hand in Africa and Asia.

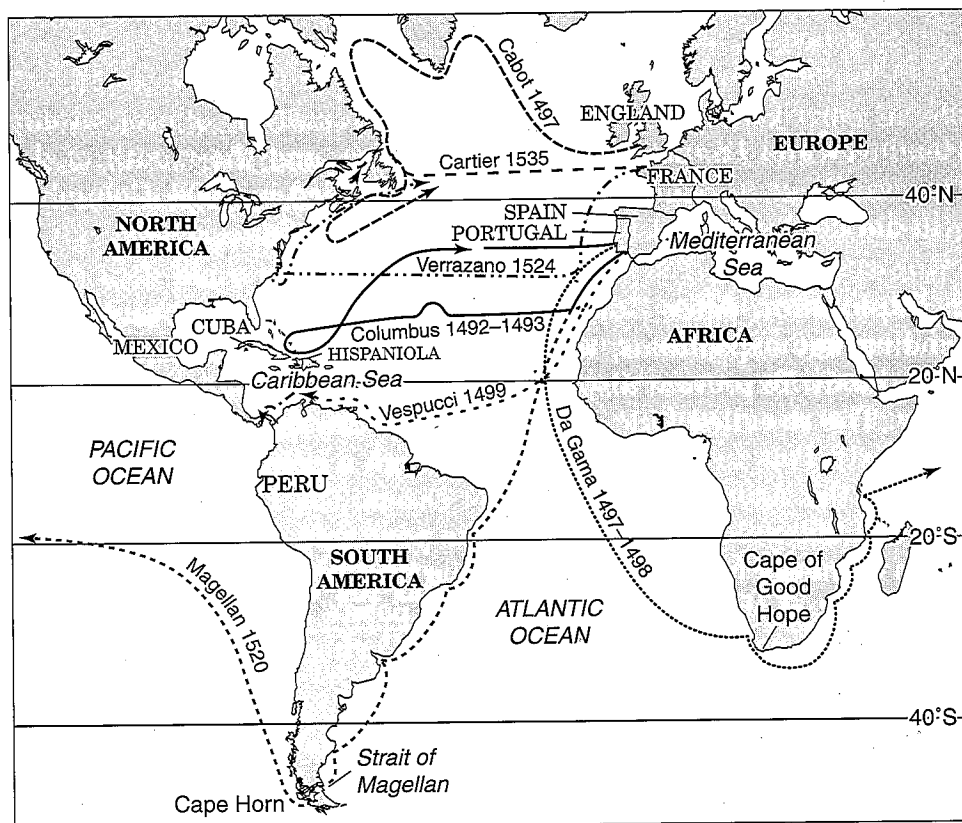
**a. Cabral.** In 1500, the Portuguese navigator Pedro Cabral sailed south along the African coast on his way to India. But then he swung so far west that he sighted the coast of Brazil. After landing, he claimed the area for Portugal. The Portuguese soon began colonizing Brazil.

**b. Vespucci.** Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci made three voyages to South America—one in 1499 sponsored by Spain, the others in the early 1500s sponsored by Portugal. He then wrote letters claiming that he had discovered a new continent. The southern part of the Western Hemisphere became known as "America" in honor of Vespucci's first name. The word was later applied to the whole hemisphere.

**c. Magellan.** Ferdinand Magellan succeeded in reaching the East by sailing west. A Portuguese in the service of Spain, Magellan crossed the Atlantic in 1519 with five ships. Then, he sailed along the coast of South America to the southern tip. He passed through the Strait of Magellan (named after him) and entered the Pacific Ocean.

After many hardships, the small fleet reached the Philippines, where Magellan was killed by natives. One of his ships finally made it back to Spain in 1522. It thus became the first ship to *circumnavigate* (go completely around) the world.

### Early European Explorers



**4. Spanish Explorers North of Mexico.** Spanish explorers also traveled into what is now the United States. Their findings gave Spain claims to Florida, the Southwest, and California.

**a. Juan Ponce de León.** In 1513, Ponce de León traveled into Florida. Unlike other Spanish explorers, he was not searching for precious metals but for the Fountain of Youth, a legendary spring that made anyone who drank from it young again. Spain claimed Florida.

**b. Álvar Núñez Cabeza de Vaca.** He was the first European to explore southern Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona (1528–1536).

**c. Francisco Vázquez de Coronado.** He led an expedition through the Southwest (1540–1542). A member of his expedition reached the Grand Canyon.

**d. Hernando de Soto.** After exploring Florida, de Soto traveled westward into the southern United States, crossing the Mississippi River in 1540. Citing de Soto's explorations, Spain claimed the entire Gulf Coast region of North America.

e. *Juan Rodriguez Cabrillo*. A Portuguese sailor, Cabrillo explored the California coast for Spain (1542).

---

**DEFINE OR IDENTIFY:** Vinland, Watlings, Coronado, de Soto, Ponce de León, Cabrillo.

**CRITICAL THINKING:** Why is the New World named "America" after Amerigo Vespucci rather than "Columbia" after Christopher Columbus?

---

## SPANISH COLONIES IN AMERICA

---

Spain's rulers quickly realized that the Americas offered land, wealth, and power. Ambitious Spaniards saw a chance to win fame and fortune in the new lands. Others were motivated by the desire to spread Christianity. These goals of Spanish expansion are sometimes summarized as "glory, God, and gold."

Beginning in the late 15th century, the Spaniards created a vast empire in North and South America. In time, Spanish control extended from southern Chile as far north as Florida and California. The empire also included most of the islands of the Caribbean.

**1. Exploitation of the Colonies.** Spain strictly supervised the economic life of its colonies in America. It forbade colonists to produce any goods that might compete with Spanish ones. It also banned the colonists from trading with any country other than Spain. It did, however, encourage agriculture and mining in the colonies. Huge quantities of gold and silver were shipped to the home country. This wealth made Spain, for a time, the richest and most powerful nation in Europe.

The Spanish empire had many harmful effects, too. One of the most devastating was the introduction of new diseases such as smallpox, measles, and diphtheria. Because Native Americans had no immunity to these diseases, epidemics swept across the Americas and killed millions. As early as 1510, for example, it was reported that few Indians remained alive in the Bahamas and Hispaniola. According to another estimate, some 90 percent of those in the former Aztec empire of present-day Mexico died within 50 years of the arrival of the Spanish conqueror Hernando Cortés.

Another harmful effect of the Spanish (and other European) empires was the transatlantic slave trade. Slaves were wanted to work in the gold and silver mines. In the 1500s, Portugal dominated the

slave trade. In the 1600s, though, the Dutch became the major players in shipping slaves from Africa to the Americas. By the mid-1600s, the French and English also became major players in the slave trade. The height of the slave trade was the 1700s, when as many as 70,000 slaves a year crossed the ocean. The experiences of the Africans enslaved and herded onto ships were horrible. The Africans were chained to the deck, or (more likely) in the dark, dank hold. Some were whipped into submission. Many died of diseases or hunger.

**2. Spanish Settlements in the United States.** As a result of its explorations north of Mexico, Spain gained entry into what is now the United States. Spaniards began to settle Florida, the Southwest, and California.

**a. Florida.** In 1565, Pedro Menendez founded St. Augustine—the first European settlement in the United States. To convert the Native Americans of that region, the Spanish established missions in northern Florida, Georgia, and the Carolinas. They then built a fort at Pensacola on the Gulf Coast to protect their holdings against invaders from other countries.

**b. The Southwest.** Spaniards, looking for more gold, moved north from Mexico into what is now the United States. This region (which they named New Mexico) included Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. They founded Santa Fe as its capital in 1609. Abandoning their hopes of finding gold, Spanish settlers set up large cattle ranches in the region.

**c. California.** In the 1700s, the Spanish began to settle California. Some of their earliest settlements were Monterey, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, San Jose, and Los Angeles. The settlements usually began as Catholic missions where priests converted Native Americans to Christianity and taught them European skills and culture.

## OTHER COLONIAL POWERS

---

Since Spain and Portugal dominated the central and southern regions of America, the other European powers sent explorers farther north. They wanted to find a *northwest passage*—a route through or around North America leading directly to Asia.

**1. France.** The first explorer sent out by France was Giovanni da Verrazano, an Italian navigator. In 1524, he sailed along the North

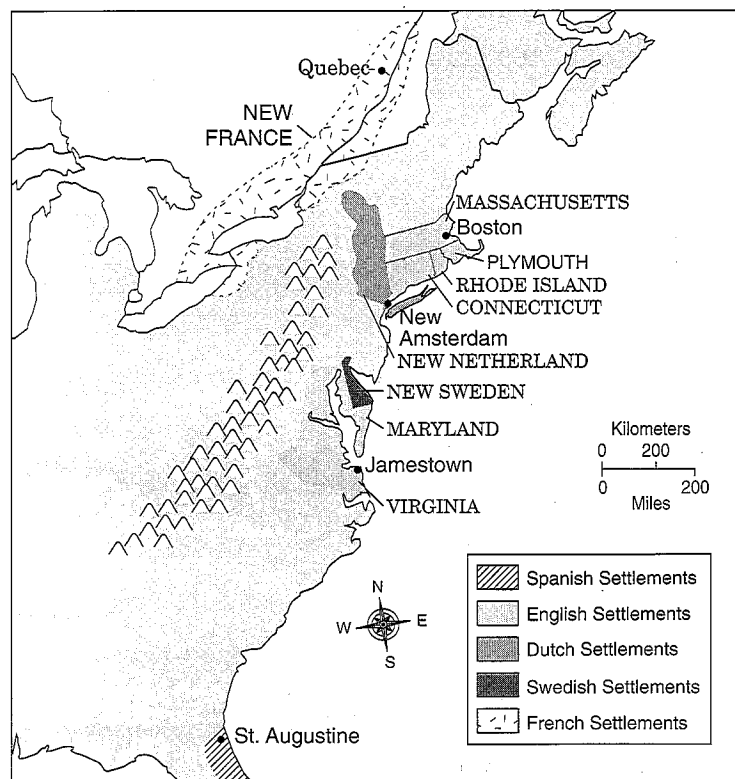
American coast from North Carolina to Nova Scotia. He was probably the first European to enter New York Bay. Not long afterward, in 1534, Jacques Cartier explored the eastern part of Canada along the Gulf of St. Lawrence. The following year, he made a second voyage, sailing up the St. Lawrence River to the present site of Montreal.

**a. French territories.** Years later, in 1608, another great French explorer, Samuel de Champlain, founded the settlement of Quebec on a height overlooking the St. Lawrence River. This was the beginning of the first permanent French colony in North America. Champlain also explored parts of New England and New York.

The French explored the forested lands to the south and west of Quebec and Montreal. Robert Cavellier de La Salle traveled through the Great Lakes and the Ohio River Valley. Sailing down the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico in 1682, he claimed the entire river valley for France. He called it Louisiana in honor of King Louis XIV of France.

**b. French settlers.** The French established few large settlements in New France. They wanted mainly to develop a profitable

### European Settlements in North America, 1640



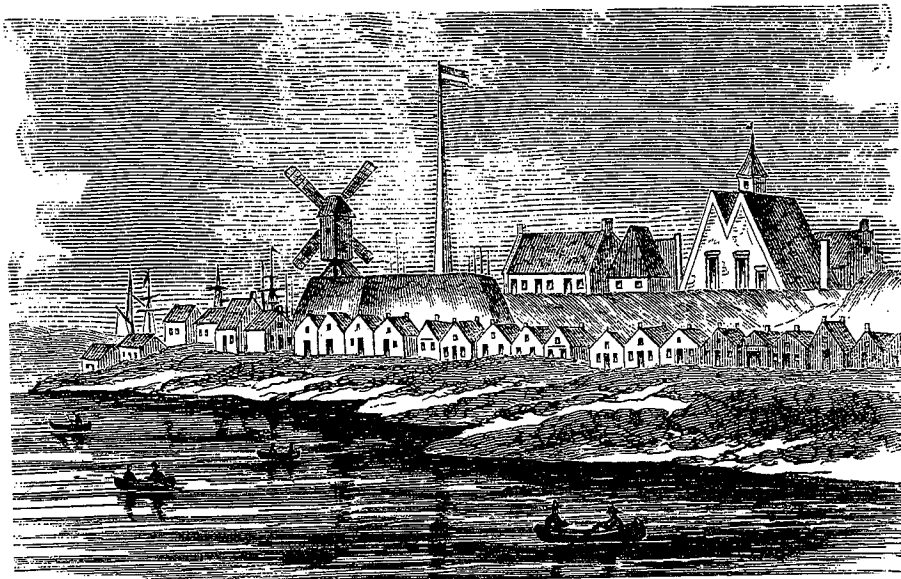
fur trade with Native Americans. Thus, the newcomers built trading posts and forts at strategic points. These helped control the waterways and served as centers for the trade.

The system of landholding in New France was similar to that in France. Large estates were granted to *seigneurs* (lords). In turn, they rented small farms to *habitants* (settlers). This system tended to discourage the immigration of French families who wanted to own farms. After 150 years of French control, New France had only 80,000 European settlers.

French missionaries followed the fur traders into the wilderness to convert natives to Christianity. Many of the missionaries explored the central parts of North America, along the upper Mississippi River and the central Mississippi Valley. As a result, Catholicism became firmly established in the Mississippi Valley and in eastern Canada.

**c. French policy toward Native Americans.** Perhaps because there were few French settlers in North America, the French had better relations with Native Americans than did the Spanish or British. The French depended on them to supply the French with furs for trade.

**2. The Netherlands.** The people of the Netherlands, the Dutch, also wanted to share the rich trade with Asia. A group of Dutch merchants hired Henry Hudson, an English navigator, to find a new water route to the Indies. In 1609, Hudson sailed his ship the *Half*



The southern tip of Manhattan Island looked like this in 1656. Note the windmill and the Dutch architecture of New Amsterdam.

*Moon* along the North American coast from Maine to the Carolinas searching for a northwest passage. He entered Delaware Bay and, later, New York Bay. From there, he sailed up the Hudson River as far as present-day Albany.

As a result of this voyage, the Dutch claimed the area from the Hudson River Valley south to Delaware Bay. They called this region New Netherland. In 1624, a trading company called the Dutch West India Company sent 30 families to be the first European settlers of New Netherland. Most of the settlers went up the Hudson River to the area now called Albany. Within the next two years, more colonists arrived. Many of them settled around New York Bay and on the lower Delaware River. A large settlement, New Amsterdam, was made on Manhattan Island. It soon became the seat of government, chief port, and main trading center of New Netherland.

## ENGLAND'S RISE TO POWER

Like other European nations, England wanted to trade with the East. In 1497 and again in 1498, King Henry VII sent an Italian navigator, John Cabot, to search for a northwest passage to Asia. During his explorations, Cabot claimed for England the area that now stretches from Newfoundland to Chesapeake Bay. At this time, however, England lacked the sea power to compete with Spain in the Americas.

**1. English Pirates.** In the 1560s and 1570s, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I, English pirates called "sea dogs" began to challenge Spain's control of the seas. One of the best known of these sea dogs, Sir Francis Drake, preyed on Spanish treasure ships and Spanish settlements in the Americas.

On one of his voyages (1577–1580), Drake circumnavigated the globe. On a quest to find a northwest passage, he explored the coastline north of California. Failing to find it, he returned south, landing near present-day San Francisco and claiming the region for England. From there, he sailed west around the globe back to England.

In the summer of 1588, King Philip II of Spain, angered by the English pirates' attacks on Spanish ships and colonies, sent the Spanish Armada (a fleet of 130 ships) to conquer England. The smaller English fleet defeated the Armada. After this defeat, Spain declined as a naval power.

**2. More Searches for a Northwest Passage.** Despite Cabot's failure to find a northwest passage (which did not exist), English



mariners continued to search for it. The map on page 20 traces Cabot's route.

**3. Reasons for Colonization.** England's rise as a major naval power led to the development of trade abroad and to the establishment of colonies overseas. People were attracted to these colonies for two main reasons:

**a. Economic reasons.** Poor and landless people hoped to obtain farms in America. England's leaders thought that colonies would enrich the nation's economy. *Mercantilism*, an economic theory of the time, held that nations should be self-sufficient and own large stores of gold and silver. If a country did not have sufficient natural resources, it should obtain colonies that could supply raw materials, provide a market for manufactured goods, and yield gold and silver.

**b. Religious reasons.** In 1534, the Church of England (the Anglican church) split from the Roman Catholic Church. The English monarch became the head of this new religion. English law required everyone to attend an Anglican church and pay taxes for its support. Many opposed the law. Many Catholics wanted to remain Catholics. One group of Protestants—the Puritans—wanted to “purify” the Anglican church by simplifying its rituals. Another Protestant group—the Separatists—broke away from it completely. America promised to be a refuge where people could worship as they pleased.

---

**DEFINE OR IDENTIFY:** Verrazano, mercantilism, sea dog, *seigneur*, *habitant*, La Salle.

**CRITICAL THINKING:** Why did the French enjoy better relations with the Native Americans than did the British and Spanish?

---

## THE FIRST FOOTHOLDS

---

Promoters of a colonizing venture had to seek a grant of land from the monarch, as well as the right to govern the area and to control its trade. The crown granted such privileges in the form of a *charter* (royal patent) to wealthy and influential people.

During the late 1500s, two men—Sir Humphrey Gilbert and Sir Walter Raleigh—made separate, unsuccessful attempts to plant



The settlement at Jamestown did not thrive until women arrived from England.

colonies in North America. It soon became clear that a single individual could not easily bear the expense of setting up a colony. Therefore, groups of wealthy merchants and investors banded together to sponsor colonial projects. Some organized large enterprises called *joint-stock companies*. Investors who purchased stock in such a company became shareholders and were entitled to a proportionate share of any profits earned.

**1. Jamestown.** A group of merchants and investors called the London Company made the first permanent English settlement in America at Jamestown, in Virginia. The company hoped to earn a profit by mining precious metals, exporting American products to Europe, and trading with Native Americans.

**a. Early hardships.** Jamestown's first settlers landed at the mouth of the James River in the spring of 1607. Chiefly interested in finding gold, they did not plant crops or build shelters. The area around the settlement was swampy and unhealthy. During the first seven months, more than half the settlers died of starvation and disease. Frequent attacks by Native Americans also threatened Jamestown's survival.

Captain John Smith took command and ordered all able-bodied settlers to build houses and plant crops. Smith also obtained food from the native peoples. After Smith returned to England in the fall of 1609, the colony almost failed again.

**b. A turn for the better.** The arrival of fresh supplies and more settlers kept Jamestown alive. But the colony remained on the edge of failure until several important changes took place:

1. *Land Ownership.* Originally, the Jamestown colonists were merely employees of the London Company, which owned all property. Later, individual settlers were given their own land. This change encouraged them to work harder.
2. *Family Life.* The first few women came to Jamestown in 1608. Starting in 1620, many more began to come. Family life made the community more stable.
3. *Tobacco Cultivation.* The use of tobacco, a plant grown by Native Americans, became popular in England during the 16th century. One colonist, John Rolfe, made a successful business of cultivating tobacco. Soon, the colonists were raising it on a large scale. As settlements spread beyond Jamestown, the colony became known as Virginia.
4. *Increased Labor Supply.* At first, *indentured servants* worked the tobacco fields. These men and women wanted to settle in America but did not have enough money to pay for their passage. They agreed to work for a certain period without wages for anyone who paid their way. During the time of the indenture agreement—usually four to seven years—the servants received food and clothing. In 1619, the first Africans arrived as prisoners aboard a Dutch ship. The settlers bought them as indentured servants. Merchants later sold other captive Africans to the colonists as slaves.
5. *Relations With Native Americans.* Initially, the leader of the Powhatans (Native Americans who lived in the area) tried to drive out the Jamestown colonists. Later, however, relations between the two groups improved. In 1614, the leader's daughter Pocahontas married John Rolfe, the tobacco planter. Their marriage brought a period of peace. In 1622, however, the Powhatans broke the peace by killing nearly 350 settlers. The colonists drove them out of the area.

**c. Representative government.** The London Company appointed a governor and council—a group of men who advised the governor—to rule the colony. Then in 1619, the Virginia Company (as the London Company was now called) allowed the colonists to form a representative assembly called the *House of Burgesses*. It was made up of two delegates, or burgesses, from each settlement in Virginia. The House of Burgesses was the first elective legislature in America.

**2. Plymouth.** The second permanent English colony in North America was at Plymouth, Massachusetts.

**a. Beginnings.** Separatists established the Plymouth colony. A group of English merchants financed the venture. In return, the Separatists promised the merchants all the profits earned by the colony in its first seven years. They set sail on the *Mayflower* in September 1620 and arrived at Plymouth in December.

The Pilgrims, as these settlers came to be known, drew up the *Mayflower Compact* before they landed. In this document, they agreed to make and obey just and equal laws for the common good. This agreement is one of the earliest expressions of self-government in America.

**b. The first years.** During the first winter at Plymouth, shelter was poor, disease widespread, and food scarce. Fortunately, some Native Americans helped the Pilgrims obtain food. One chief, Massasoit, made a peace treaty with the Pilgrims. The contact between the English colonists and the Native Americans was not as fortunate for the Native Americans as it was for the colonists. The Native Americans had no resistance to germs carried by the Europeans, and many died from the diseases they caused.

Governor William Bradford governed Plymouth colony wisely. Under his leadership, two important changes took place: (1) Each adult male acquired land for himself. At first, all the land had belonged to the community and was worked in common. (2) The Pilgrims became financially independent by repaying the merchants who had sponsored the new colony.

**3. Massachusetts Bay.** The Puritans also came to North America in search of religious freedom. In 1630, some 1,000 Puritans, sponsored by a joint-stock company formed by leading English Puritans, sailed to Massachusetts Bay and settled around Boston. John Winthrop was the first governor of this Massachusetts Bay Colony.

At this time in England, the conflict between the king (an Anglican) and religious dissenters resulted in the "Great Migration" of the 1630s. More than 60,000 people came to the Americas then. Of this number, about 20,000 settled in New England. The Massachusetts Bay Colony expanded into the Maine–New Hampshire region and later took over Plymouth Colony.

Everyone who lived in Massachusetts Bay was forced to support the Puritan church. Only church members could vote and hold public office. The clergy acted as governmental advisers and made sure that people lived according to Puritan values. Critics of the regime were threatened with banishment from the colony.

---

**DEFINE OR IDENTIFY:** charter, joint-stock company, House of Burgesses, John Rolfe.

**CRITICAL THINKING:** Why was life difficult for the early settlers in Jamestown?

---

## OTHER NEW ENGLAND COLONIES

---

The number of New England settlements grew steadily. Some were set up by colonists who moved north and south from Massachusetts. Newcomers from England founded other colonies.

**1. Connecticut.** Thomas Hooker, a Puritan minister, disapproved of the harsh rule of the Bay Colony's leaders. In 1636, he led a number of followers west to settle Hartford in the Connecticut River Valley. Other colonists from Massachusetts founded the nearby river towns of Wethersfield and Windsor. Farther south, Puritans from England settled in and around New Haven.

In 1639, Hartford, Wethersfield, and Windsor joined to form a government. They drew up a constitution with provisions for (1) electing deputies from each town to a legislature, (2) choosing a governor, (3) limiting the terms of office of public officials, and (4) assuring fair taxation. This document, the *Fundamental Orders of Connecticut*, was the first written constitution in America. In 1662, King Charles II of England united the towns of Connecticut into one colony.

**2. Rhode Island.** Roger Williams was another Massachusetts clergyman opposed to Puritan rule. When Massachusetts officials ordered him back to England for demanding religious freedom, he took shelter among Native Americans. Other colonists from the Bay Colony joined him. Williams then bought land from Native Americans and, in 1636, founded Providence.

Anne Hutchinson was also driven out of Massachusetts for religious reasons. With her followers, she moved to Portsmouth, Rhode Island. Other Massachusetts colonists founded Newport and Warwick. In time, England gave Providence, Portsmouth, Newport, and Warwick a charter allowing them to set up a government. The four settlements formed Rhode Island.

Under Roger Williams, Rhode Island adopted the principle of *separation of church and state*. This meant that the government could not pass laws restricting religious liberty or set religious standards for voting or holding office. Rhode Island was the first Amer-



Anne Hutchinson was tried by the General Court of Massachusetts Bay Colony for challenging the authority of the Puritan clergy. After being banished from Massachusetts, she helped found Rhode Island.

ican colony to guarantee religious freedom to everyone who lived there.

**3. New Hampshire and Maine.** The principal towns of New Hampshire were established between 1623 and 1640. Anglicans from England founded Dover and Portsmouth. Followers of John Wheelwright, a Puritan minister who had been banished from Bay Colony, founded Exeter. In the 1640s, Massachusetts annexed all these settlements. It retained control of the area until 1679, when New Hampshire was granted a charter making it a separate royal colony.

Settlement in Maine began in the 1620s. Augusta, the present capital, was founded as a fur-trading post on the Kennebec River in 1628. Massachusetts Bay Colony took over the region in the 1650s. Massachusetts held Maine until 1820.

## THE MIDDLE COLONIES

South of New England lay a region that became known as the Middle Colonies. As we learned earlier, the Dutch had established the colony of New Netherland along the Hudson River.

**1. New York.** The English decided to take over New Netherland for the following reasons: (1) They claimed that Cabot's explorations had given them a right to the area. (2) New Netherland separated the English colonies in New England from those farther south. (3) The

Dutch violated English trade laws by carrying on extensive trade with the English colonies. (4) The English coveted the Dutch fur trade with Native Americans. (5) England wanted to control New Amsterdam's harbor.

**a. Overthrow of the Dutch.** King Charles II gave New Netherland (which he regarded as English territory) to his brother James, the Duke of York. In 1664, an English fleet sailed to New Amsterdam and took New Netherland from the Dutch. In honor of the Duke of York, the colony and its main town were named New York.

**b. Government.** As *proprietor* (owner) of the colony, the Duke of York ruled New York through an appointed governor and council. This arrangement denied the people representation in government. After the colonists protested, the Duke appointed Thomas Dongan as governor and authorized him to hold elections to a representative assembly. In 1683, the assembly drew up a *Charter of Liberties and Privileges*. It provided for an elective assembly, freedom of worship, and trial by jury. When the Duke of York became King James II in 1685, though, he abolished the charter and assembly. Representative government was not restored until 1691.

**2. New Jersey.** New Netherland had included the area between the Hudson and Delaware rivers. When the Duke of York took over New Netherland, he gave this area to friends. The new proprietors named their colony New Jersey. They encouraged colonization by promising settlers large grants of land, representative government, and freedom of religion.

**3. Pennsylvania.** Quakers, who also lacked religious freedom in England, needed a refuge where they could worship as they pleased.

**a. William Penn's Quaker principles.** King Charles II gave William Penn land in North America. The area was called Pennsylvania ("Penn's woods"). Penn, a devout Quaker, envisioned a colony where people of all beliefs and nationalities could live together in peace. They would also be equal before the law and enjoy freedom of speech and religion. The first settlers arrived in 1682.

**b. Growth and prosperity.** Pennsylvania became large and successful for several reasons:

1. *Many Settlers.* Penn's belief in self-government, in making land available on good terms, and in freedom of religion attracted many Europeans. Philadelphia became the largest city in the colonies.

2. *Good Government.* Penn drew up a constitution that became known as the *Frame of Government*. It provided for a deputy governor to be appointed by the proprietor and for a council and an assembly to be elected by the people. At its first meeting, held in 1682, the legislature adopted a code of laws for the colony called the *Great Law*. It granted freedom of religion to all people in Pennsylvania. (But only Christian men could vote or hold office.) It provided for the care of the poor, protection against unfair trials, and humane treatment of wrongdoers.
3. *Friendly Relations With Native Americans.* Penn paid Native Americans fair prices for their lands and negotiated a peace treaty between them and European settlers.

**4. Delaware.** The Middle Colonies were also colonized by Swedes. One group settled Fort Christina (present-day Wilmington) in 1638. Other groups built forts along the Delaware River and named the region New Sweden. The Dutch seized New Sweden in 1655. When New Netherland fell to the English in 1664, New Sweden also became English property. The new owner, the Duke of York, renamed it Delaware. To provide Pennsylvania with access to the sea, the Duke gave Delaware to Penn. In 1703, Delaware became a separate colony with a legislature of its own.

## THE SOUTH

---

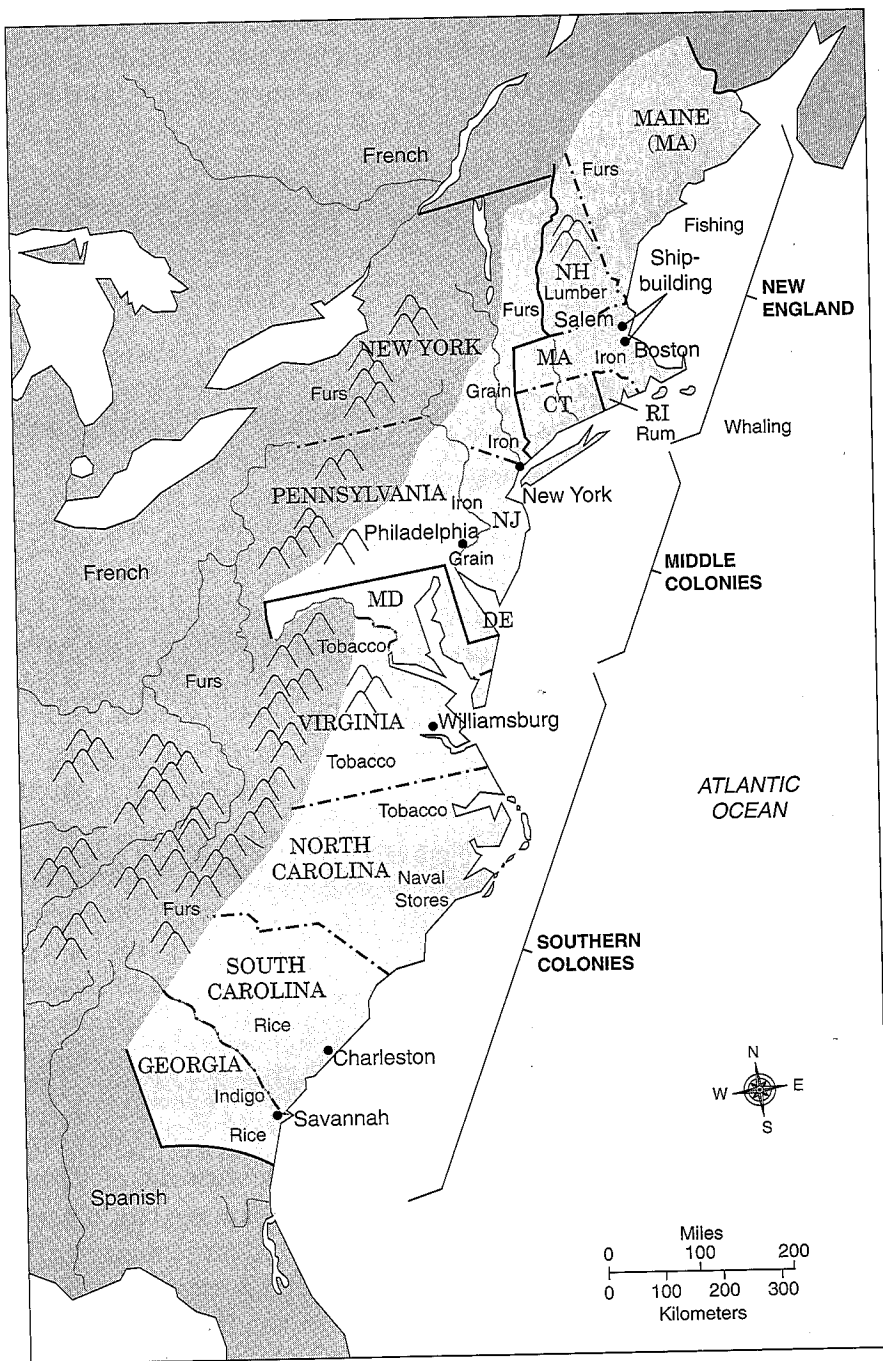
The Virginia colony grew steadily as restless pioneers began to leave the coast for inland regions.

**1. Maryland.** Cecilius Calvert (Lord Baltimore), a prominent Catholic noble, founded Maryland in the land just north of Virginia as a haven for Catholics. As proprietor, Lord Baltimore could assign, sell, or rent the land as he saw fit. He also had the power to levy taxes, set up courts, and control church matters. But he could not make laws without the advice and consent of the free, white men of the colony. In 1634, a settlement was started at St. Mary's, near the mouth of the Potomac River. The colony did well from the start. Growing tobacco soon became an important source of income.

Although Maryland was founded as a refuge for Catholics, Christians of all denominations flocked to the colony. Soon Protestants outnumbered Catholics. Lord Baltimore wanted to prevent religious



### The Regions of English North America



disputes and protect Catholics against discrimination. Accordingly, the Maryland Assembly passed the *Toleration Act* in 1649. It provided that all Christians were free to worship as they pleased. Although the law did not protect non-Christians, it was an important step toward full religious liberty.

**2. The Carolinas.** In 1663, Charles II issued a charter to eight noblemen allowing them to develop Carolina, the region south of Virginia. The proprietors offered liberal land terms, freedom of religion, and representation of landowners in an assembly. In 1670, the first group of settlers founded Charles Town (Charleston), which soon became a thriving seaport and main center of the colony.

From the beginning, Carolina seemed to divide itself naturally into a northern and southern section. In the north, the colonists raised tobacco and produced forest products. In the south, the settlers grew rice and indigo. (*Indigo* is a plant from which a blue dye is made.) Carolinians in the north traded mainly with New England, while those in the south dealt directly with England.

The Carolinians began to rebel against proprietary rule. Unable to maintain law and order, the proprietors surrendered their charter to the king. In 1729, North Carolina and South Carolina became separate royal colonies.

**3. Georgia.** Georgia was the last of the 13 original colonies to be established. Its founder, James Oglethorpe, was a member of the British legislative body, *Parliament*. He wanted to provide a place where imprisoned debtors could make a fresh start in the New World. (At that time, people who could not pay their debts were sent to jail.) Oglethorpe with a small band of settlers founded Savannah in 1733.

A board of trustees, made up of Oglethorpe and his associates, governed the colony. Aiming to make Georgia a region of small, independent farms, the trustees limited landholding and forbade the use of slaves. The colonists opposed these policies, so they were soon abandoned. In 1752, the trustees surrendered their rights to the king, and Georgia became a royal colony.

---

**DEFINE OR IDENTIFY:** Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, William Penn, indigo, Parliament.

**CRITICAL THINKING:** How did the British acquire the areas that became the colonies of New York, New Jersey, and Delaware?

---

# Chapter Review



## MATCHING TEST

### Column A

1. Powhatan
2. Anne Hutchinson
3. William Penn
4. James Oglethorpe
5. Thomas Hooker

### Column B

- a. Pennsylvania
- b. Rhode Island
- c. Connecticut
- d. Georgia
- e. Jamestown

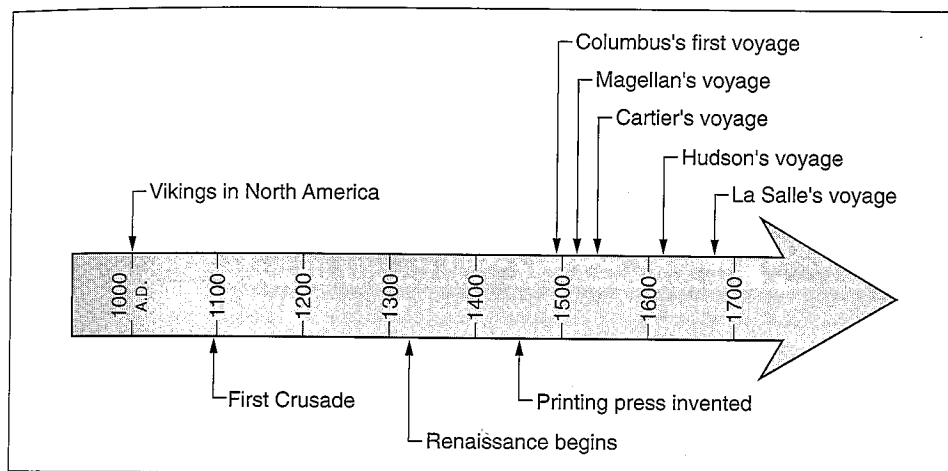
## MULTIPLE-CHOICE TEST

1. About how many years before Columbus's voyages did the Vikings explore a part of North America? (a) 100 years (b) 300 years (c) 500 years (d) 1,000 years.
2. The first Portuguese explorer to sail around Africa to India was (a) Vasco da Gama (b) Dias (c) Vespucci (d) Magellan.
3. In 1492, Columbus wanted to (a) reach Asia by sailing east (b) prove that the Earth is round (c) discover America (d) reach Asia by sailing west.
4. The main reason that the Dutch settled in North America was to gain (a) trade (b) political freedom from Spain (c) religious liberty (d) converts for Christianity.
5. The first man to explore North America for the English was (a) Sir Francis Drake (b) Sir Walter Raleigh (c) John Cabot (d) Henry Hudson.
6. Plymouth Colony was organized by (a) Separatists (b) Catholics (c) Quakers (d) Anglicans.
7. The first American colony to guarantee all its people religious freedom was (a) Massachusetts Bay (b) Maryland (c) Pennsylvania (d) Rhode Island.
8. The first European settlers in the Middle Colonies were the (a) Swedes (b) Dutch (c) English (d) French.

9. The English colony settled at first mainly by debtors was (a) Maryland (b) Georgia (c) Rhode Island (d) New Hampshire.
10. North Carolina and South Carolina (a) were at first part of Georgia (b) were founded as one colony (c) began as homes for jailed debtors (d) attracted few settlers at first.

### UNDERSTANDING A TIMELINE

#### Important Events in European Exploration of North America



1. The event on the timeline that took place first was (a) the first voyage of Columbus to America (b) Cartier's voyage (c) Vikings in North America (d) Hudson's voyage.
2. An event that took place in the same century as Cartier's voyage was (a) Magellan's voyage (b) Columbus's first voyage (c) Hudson's voyage (d) Champlain's voyage.
3. The date of Henry Hudson's exploration of the Hudson River is (a) 1580 (b) 1609 (c) 1677 (d) 1710.
4. No event is listed on the timeline for the (a) 11th century (b) 12th century (c) 14th century (d) 15th century.
5. Which of the following could *not* be considered a reason why Columbus made a successful voyage to America in 1492? (a) Magellan's voyage (b) the Crusades (c) the Renaissance (d) the invention of the printing press.

**ESSAY QUESTIONS**

1. Describe the voyages of da Gama, Columbus, and Magellan. Which of these voyages do you think was most important? Why?
2. What were the main effects of Spanish rule in the Americas?
3. Why did the English want to colonize the New World in the 1600s?
4. Describe the system of indentured servitude. Why was it introduced? What system eventually replaced it? Why?
5. What was the role of religion in the founding of Pennsylvania? Massachusetts Bay? Rhode Island? Plymouth? Maryland? Which of these colonies was the most tolerant? The least tolerant?

**DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION**

---

This question is based on the accompanying documents (1–4). It will improve your ability to work with historical documents.

**Historical Context:**

Most of Central America, South America, and the Caribbean was colonized by the Spanish. They helped shape the course of American civilization in many ways.

**Task:**

Using information from the documents and your knowledge of history, read each document and answer the question that follows it. Your answers to the questions will help you write the document-based essay.

**Document 1.** In late 1492, Christopher Columbus made the following entries in his journal about the first Native Americans whom he encountered:

- A. I knew that they were a people who could be more easily freed and converted to our holy faith by love than by force. . . . [They] appeared to me to be a race of people very poor in everything.

- B. If your Highnesses [King Ferdinand and Queen Isabella] order either to bring all of them to Castile or to hold them as *captivos* [captives] on their own island, it could easily be done, because with about fifty men, you could control and subjugate them, making them do whatever you want.

Source: Jameson, J. Franklin (ed.) *Original Narratives of Early American History*. NY: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1909, p. 110.

Did Columbus plan to treat the Native Americans the same way in both entries, A and B? Explain your answer.

**Document 2.** In 1519, Spanish explorer Hernando Cortés arrived in Mexico. In the following letter to King Charles V of Spain, Cortés described his experience:

Before dawn, I came upon two villages in which I killed many people. . . . I fell upon another town, so large that more than twenty thousand houses were found there. . . . As I caught them by surprise, they came out unarmed, and the women and children went naked in the streets; and I opened fire. . . . Since we were . . . fighting for our faith and in the service of your Holy Majesty. . . , God gave us so great a victory that we killed many people without suffering any losses.

Source: Letters to Charles V, quoted in *Americas* (August 1972), p. S-10.

What mood do you think Cortés was in as he wrote the letter to Charles V? Explain.

**Document 3.** Bartolomé de las Casas was a Spanish priest who worked to prevent the enslavement of Native Americans. In the mid-1500s, he expressed the following view of Native Americans, whom he called "savage people":

For all the peoples of the world are . . . formed in the image and likeness of God. . . . [But] no one is born enlightened. . . . All of us must be guided . . . by those who were born before us. And the savage peoples of the earth may be compared to uncultivated soil that readily brings forth weeds and useless thorns, but has within itself such natural virtue that by labor and cultivation it may be made to yield sound and healthful fruits.

Source: [www.oregonstate.edu/dept/philosophy/ideas/papers/keen.html](http://www.oregonstate.edu/dept/philosophy/ideas/papers/keen.html)

How does Las Casas see Native Americans as both equal and unequal to Europeans?

**Document 4.** Study the illustration below.



Why do you think the Spanish destroyed Native-American religious art in Mexico?

### **DOCUMENT-BASED ESSAY**

---

Using information from the above documents and your knowledge of United States history, write an essay in which you:

- Explain why many Spanish of the 15th and 16th centuries believed that the Spanish conquest of the Americas was justified.
- Explain why many people of that time, especially Native Americans, believed that Spanish rule was *not* justified.