

The Colonial Period

The first settlers

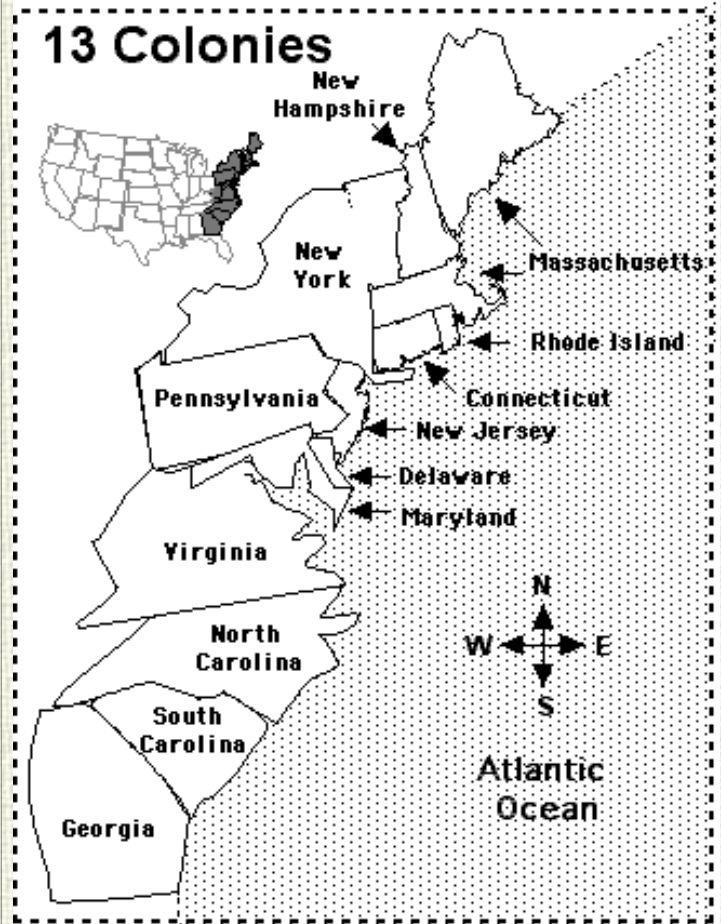
(a settler is a person who comes to live in a country)

England decided to send people to live in America.

The first people arrived and settled down in Jamestown, Virginia. They arrived on May 6, 1607. The people of Jamestown came because they wanted to make money. This area became part of the Southern Colonies.

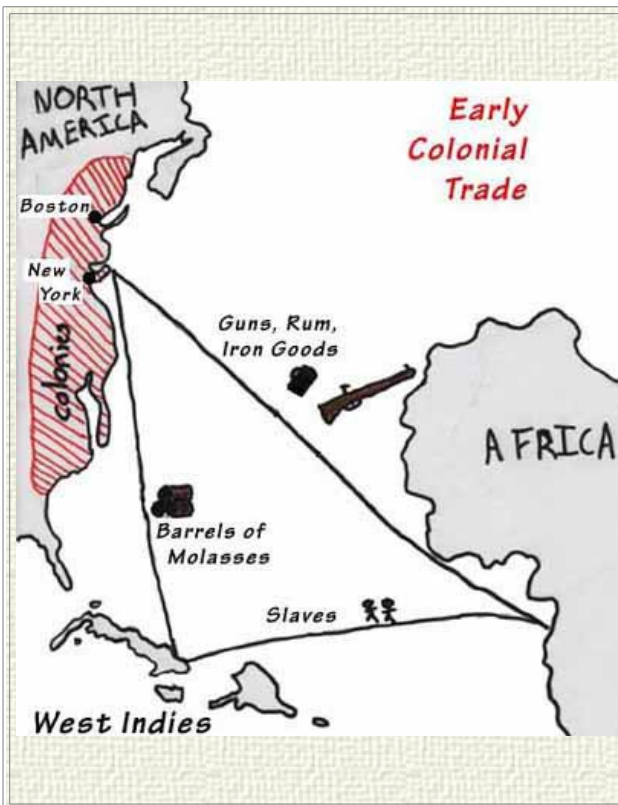
In 1620, the Pilgrims settled in Plymouth, Massachusetts. The Pilgrims came because they wanted to have a new life that would give them freedom of religion. They started the New England colonies.

The Middle Colonies grew between the 1600s and 1700s when thousands more people from Europe came to find a new way of life. In early times, the Middle Colonies became known as "the breadbasket of America."



The established colonies

By the early 1700s enslaved Africans made up a growing percentage of the colonial population. By 1770, more than 2 million people lived and worked in Great Britain's 13 North American colonies.



Trade in the colonies

The New England colonies traded with Europe, Africa and the West Indies. They traded with those places because they could get slaves and many products. The New England colonies traded sugar, molasses, fur, rice, rum, potatoes, timber and cocoa. In return, the colonies received manufactured goods, slaves and luxuries from England.

The slave trade existed throughout all of the British colonies. It was a big business. They would either buy or trade slaves. On the bottom of the boats that carried the slaves, they were chained together so tightly that you could barely walk around them. If one of the slaves were to die, the men on the ship would toss them over as if they were waste. This is what slave trade was like.

trade = échanger / faire du troc

slave = esclave