

Origins of the Thirteen Colonies

- ❖ **Virginia** – Jamestown (1607)
 - Started as business venture by VA Co. of London – a joint-stock co.
 - King James I grants charter – 105 initial colonists – most men
 - Early troubles
 - Most settlers from English gentry – unaccustomed to work
 - Colony located on marshy area infested w/ malarial mosquitoes
 - Spent time seeking gold rather than growing food for survival
 - Capt. John Smith took control & instituted military discipline to ensure survival of colony
 - ◆ 1609-10 known as the “starving time” – colony saved in 1610 w/ arrival of new colonists & supplies
 - John Rolfe develops tobacco as the cash crop of the colony
 - All colonists originally considered employees – later owned their own farms & worked harder for their success
 - Headrights = 50 acres per person who pays own way to colony + 50 more for each person he brings (most indentured servants)
 - 1619 – House of Burgesses formed
 - 1st elected representative assembly in America
 - Decisions had to be approved by VA Co.
 - 1624 – Virginia becomes a royal colony
 - Crown takes over after complaints of mismanagement
 - Main troubles to overcome – high death rate, land disputes w/ Indians
- ❖ **Massachusetts**
 - **Plymouth** (1620) Founded by Pilgrims – Puritan separatists persecuted by Anglican Church
 - Given Charter in VA Co. of London territory but landed north of it beyond company jurisdiction
 - Arrived on *Mayflower* at Plymouth – Mayflower Compact serves as the colony’s “constitution”
 - ◆ Only ½ live through first winter
 - Leadership of William Bradford & help of Indians gets them through
 - The Plymouth Colony is later merged w. Mass. Bay
 - **Massachusetts Bay** (1630) – Formed by Puritans looking for freedom of worship away from the Church of England – charter granted by Charles I
 - Colony led by John Winthrop – envisioned the colony as a “city on a hill” – a Godly example
 - Towns included Salem, Cambridge, & Boston
 - Mass. Bay colonists better prepared – thrived early on
 - Population soars w/ Great Puritan Migration (1630’s & 40’s) from Eng.
 - Church & State linked – Puritanism the only tolerated religion
- ❖ **Rhode Island** (1636) – a corporate charter granted by Parliament in 1644
 - Formed by Roger Williams – expelled from Mass. Bay for challenging Puritan rule
 - Believed Indians should be compensated for land
 - Believed in separation of church & state
 - Williams & followers found Providence
 - ◆ Corporate charter granted in 1644
 - RI permitted religious freedom and separated church & state

- ❖ **Connecticut** (1636) – formed by Thomas Hooker at Hartford
 - Moved from Mass. Bay looking for better land and less restrictive govt.
 - Fundamental Orders of Connecticut drafted as a colonial constitution
 - Royal charter granted in 1662 by Charles II – gave settlers right to self-govt.
- ❖ **New Hampshire** (1638)
 - Settled by colonists who left Mass. for political, religious & economic reasons
 - Initially proprietary as part of Mass. but given own royal charter in 1679
- ❖ **Maryland** (1634) – 1st proprietary colony – granted to Lord Baltimore by Charles I
 - Colony's purpose was to enrich the proprietor
 - Also meant to serve as a refuge for English Catholics
 - Majority of colonists were Protestant but the colony practiced religious tolerance for all Christians
- ❖ **North & South Carolina** (1663) – granted to a group of proprietors by Charles II
 - North settled mostly by pioneers from VA.
 - South (based at Charles Town) settled by people from Eng. & other Euro nations
 - Both were primarily agricultural (tobacco, rice)
 - Both become royal colonies (1729) after years of pressure for more self-govt.
- ❖ **New York** (1664) – Seized from the Dutch who had called it New Netherland
 - Proprietor James Stuart– Duke of York – becomes royal colony when he becomes king (James II) in 1685
 - A multi-national colony – Dutch allowed to retain lands, religion, & language
 - Colony ruled by a governor without a legislative assembly
 - Gets representative assembly after Glorious Revolution in Eng. (1688-89)
- ❖ **New Jersey** (1664) – granted by Duke of York to 2 proprietors (Berkeley & Carteret)
 - Planned as a manorial colony but unable to adequately govern or secure rents
 - 1/2 eventually sold to Quaker proprietors for a religious haven – temporarily West & East Jersey
 - E & W Jersey reunite and becomes the royal colony of New Jersey in 1702
- ❖ **Pennsylvania** (1682) – Granted to William Penn by Charles II to pay a debt
 - Planned as both a business venture & a refuge for Quakers (Society of Friends)
 - Penn personally supervised his “Holy Experiment” – planned city of Philadelphia
 - Enjoyed religious freedom, popularly elected assembly, fertile land, & good relations with Indians
 - A multicultural colony (among them British, German, Dutch, Swiss)
- ❖ **Delaware** (1682) – originally colonized by Dutch & Swiss
 - Granted to Penn but colonists preferred independence from PA legislature
 - Penn granted Delaware its own representative assembly in 1701
- ❖ **Georgia** (1732) – Founded by James Oglethorpe – grant given by George II
 - Originally a military outpost against Spanish Florida & haven for English debtors
 - Initially a colony of small farms but becomes a plantation colony w/ slaves
 - Becomes royal colony in 1752

New England Colonies

Massachusetts
Rhode Island
Connecticut
New Hampshire

Colonial Regions
Middle Colonies

New York
New Jersey
Pennsylvania
Delaware

Southern

Virginia
Maryland
North Carolina
South Carolina
Georgia