

# 13 Colonies

• New England Colonies

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• Middle Colonies

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• Southern Colonies

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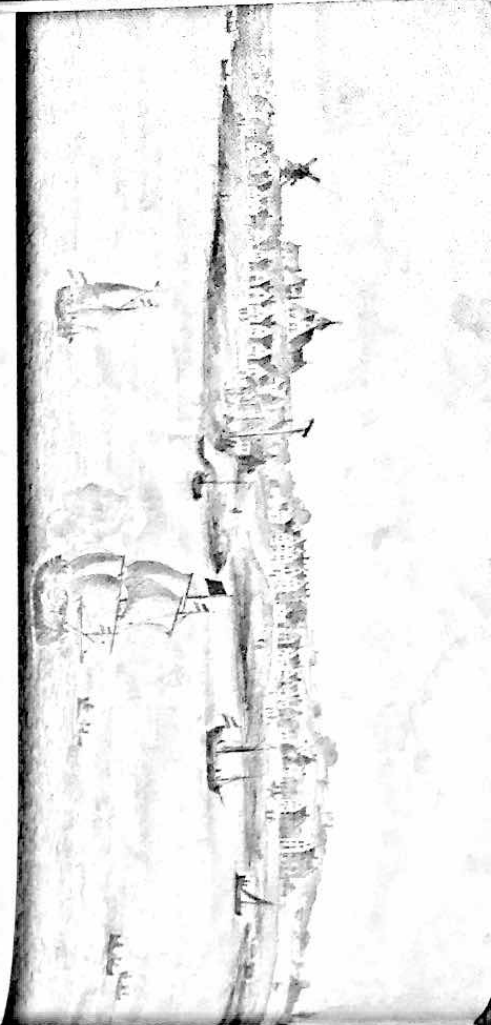
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This map shows the 13 American colonies. (Shutterstock)

## CHAPTER SEVEN 13 COLONIES

Meanwhile, the number of colonies grew. England eventually had 13 American colonies which went all the way from near Canada to near the Gulf of Mexico. (This is why the American flag has 13 stripes.) We divide these colonies into three groups.



**This painting shows what New York would have looked like when it was the Dutch colony known as New Amsterdam.** (Anonymous Painting)

## NEW ENGLAND

The four New England Colonies were Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and New Hampshire.

Massachusetts was the first of the New England Colonies. It grew out of the Plymouth colony (which we talked about in Chapter 5).

Two more New England Colonies were started by people who disagreed with Governor John Winthrop of Massachusetts about religion. One was Roger Williams, who took some of his followers and settled Rhode Island (which is actually not an island!). Another was Thomas Hooker, who started a colony called Connecticut.

The colonists in New England found it hard to grow crops because of the rocky soil, the cold climate and short growing season. The main exports of the New England Colonies were fish, **lumber** and things made from lumber (like ships).

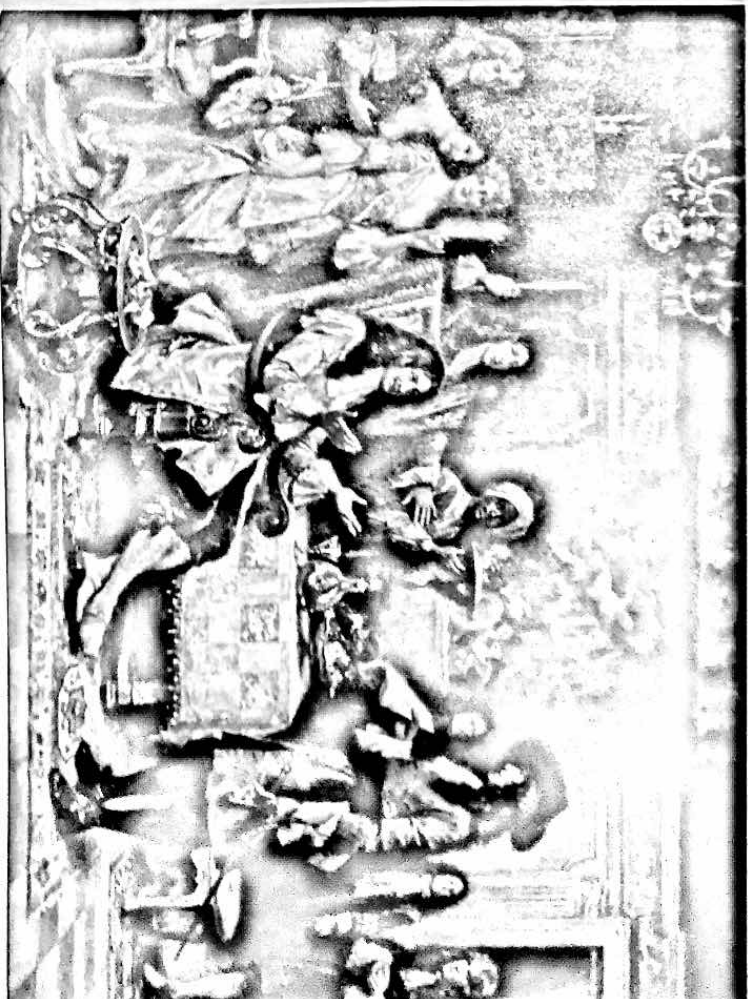
The New England Colonies eventually developed close relationships with each other. They traded with each other. They also fought alongside each other against Native American tribes such as

the Mohegans, the Narangansets and the Pequots. These tribes were largely wiped out by the English colonists. Today, for instance, there are only about a thousand members of the Pequot tribe still alive.

## MIDDLE COLONIES

New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey and Delaware are known as the Middle Colonies. These colonies had much better soil than the New England Colonies. Because of this, they grew lots of wheat and corn and became known as the “bread basket” colonies.

New York was started by colonists from the Netherlands. Since the capital of the Netherlands is Amsterdam, the colony was



**This painting depicts the moment that King Charles II of England granted William Penn the right to start the colony of Pennsylvania.** (Jean Leon Gerome Ferris painting)





**This painting depicts William Penn's first agreement with the Native Americans who were living where he wanted to start the colony of Pennsylvania.** (Edward Hicks painting)

originally known as New Amsterdam. In 1664, New Amsterdam was taken over by the English, who changed the name to New York. (York is a city in England.)

William Penn founded Pennsylvania. It was originally started with the idea of religious **tolerance**, especially for members of a branch of Christianity known as Quakerism. Many Quakers had been run out of other colonies, especially Massachusetts.

## SOUTHERN COLONIES

Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia were the Southern Colonies.

Virginia was the oldest; in fact, it was the first of all the colonies. As we know, it began with Jamestown, in 1607.

Maryland was settled in 1632. Its founder, Lord Baltimore, came from an important **Catholic** family. Maryland was known for its large number of Catholics.

North and South Carolina were originally started as one colony called Carolina. But it later split in two.



**An ad for tobacco appeared in a newspaper in England in the early 1700s.** (British Museum image)



**A reenactor in Williamsburg, Virginia, reminds us that most of the work involved in harvesting tobacco was done by slaves.** (Historic Williamsburg photo)

Georgia was the last of the 13 colonies. Its founder James Oglethorpe wanted it to be a **haven** for English people who had been sent to jail because they owed money. The colony was named for King George II of England.

One of the most important crops that the New World introduced to Europeans was **tobacco**. While the Middle colonies were known for growing wheat and corn, the Southern colonies were known for growing tobacco. The Southern colonies had a long growing season and good soil. 🌱

## QUESTIONS

1) What was the first of the New England colonies?

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2) What two New England colonies started because their founders disagreed with John Winthrop about how to worship God?

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3) What was the oldest of all the colonies?

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4) Which group of colonies became known as the “bread basket” colonies?

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5) Which group of colonies became known for growing tobacco?

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