



Reading Guide I.

Unit One, August

LA MESA: Printed by Donald Ginn, at his office at the School-House



Settlement and Development of Colonial American Society, c. 1500 to c. 1775 – Historical Periods 1 & 2

A. New World Beginnings, 33,000 B.C. -

A.D. 1769 (Chapter One) (CP-1.1 & 1.2)

B. The Planting of English America, 1500-

1733 (Chapter Two) (CP-1.3)

C. Settling the Northern Colonies, 1619-

1700 (Chapter Three) (CP-

1.3)

D. American Life in the Seventeenth

Century, 1607-1692 (Chapter Four)

(CP-1.3)

E. Colonial Society on the Eve of

Revolution, 1700-1775 (Chapter Five)

(CP-1.4)

CHAPTER THEMES

✂ After a late start, a proud, nationalistic England joined the colonial race and successfully established five colonies along the Southeastern sea coast of North America, although varying somewhat in origins and character, all the colonies exhibited plantation agriculture, indentured and slave labor, a tendency toward economic and social hierarchies, and a pattern of widely scattered, institutionally weak settlements.

✂ The English hoped to follow Spain's example of finding great wealth in the New World, and that influenced the financing and founding of the early southern colonies. The focus on making the southern colonies profitable shaped colonial decisions, including choice of crops and the use of indentured and slave labor. This same focus also helped create economic and cultural ties between the early southern colonies and English settlements in the West Indies.

✂ The early southern colonies' encounters with Indians and African slaves established the patterns of race relations that would shape the North American experience—in particular, warfare and reservations for the Indians and lifelong slave codes for African Americans.

✂ Religious and political turmoil in England shaped settlement in New England and the middle colonies. Religious persecution in England pushed the Separatists into Plymouth and Quakers into Pennsylvania. England's Glorious Revolution also prompted changes in the colonies.

✂ The Protestant Reformation, in its English Calvinist (Reformed) version, provided the major impetus and leadership for the settlement of New England. The New England colonies developed a fairly homogenous social order based on religion and femicomunal family and town settlements.

✂ Principles of American government developed in New England Confederation, and colonial opposition to the Dominion of New England with the beginnings of written constitutions (Mayflower Compact and Massachusetts's royal charter) and with glimpses of self-rule seen in town hall meetings, the New England Confederation, and colonial opposition to the Dominion of New England.

✂ The middle colonies of New Netherland (New York), Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware developed with a far greater political, ethnic, religious, and social diversity, and they represented a more cosmopolitan middle ground between the tightly knit New England towns and the scattered, hierarchical plantation South.

✂ English In the Chesapeake region, seventeenth-century colonial society was characterized by disease-shortened lives, weak family life, and a social hierarchy that included hardworking planters at the top and restless poor whites and black slaves at the bottom. Despite the substantial disruption of their traditional culture and the mingling of African peoples, slaves in the Chesapeake developed culture that mixed African new-world elements, and developed one of the few slave societies that grew through natural reproduction.

✂ By contrast, early New England life was characterized by healthy, extended life spans, strong family life, closely knit towns and churches, and a demanding economic and moral environment.

✂ Compared with its seventeenth-century counterpart, eighteenth-century colonial society became more complex and hierarchical, more ethnically and religiously diverse, and more economically and politically developed.

✂ Colonial culture, while still limited, took on distinct American qualities in such areas as evangelical religion, education, press freedom, and self-government.

✂ England's Atlantic sea-board colonies, with their population growth and substantial agricultural exports, grew and developed in importance to the English empire. So, the relationship between England and these colonies was shifting economically, politically, and culturally. Colonists sold their agricultural abundance not only to England, but also to France and the West Indies. Royal authority was checked by colonial legislatures that sometimes refused to pay governor's salaries and the famous Zenger case. Schools and colleges emerged and the cultural reliance on England began to fade.

ESSENTIAL HISTORICAL DETAILS

Native American societies in North America prior to 1492

- Spanish exploration and patterns of colonization -
Columbian Exchange

The Spanish Empire in the Western Hemisphere

Capitalism - Plantation-Based agriculture

The Encomienda System - The Pueblo Revolt (Pope's Rebellion)

English Colonization Efforts - Joint-Stock Companies -
Atlantic Slave Trade - Chesapeake Colonies - Other
British Southern Colonies - British West Indies Colonies

New England Colonies-Puritans - Protestant Evangelism -

King Philip's War (Metacom's War) - The Middle
Colonies - Dutch Colonial Efforts - British Imperial

Structure - Mercantilism - Salutary Neglect

Chattel Slavery - Indentured Servants - Town Meetings

The British Imperial System-Triangular Trade -
Anglicanization - The Great Awakening - Transatlantic
Print Culture - Benjamin Franklin