



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*

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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)*
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KEY CONCEPTS

As native populations migrated and settled across the vast expanse of North America over time, they developed distinct and increasingly complex societies by adapting to and transforming their diverse environments.

Contact among Europeans, Native Americans, and Africans resulted in the Columbian Exchange and significant social, cultural, and political changes on both sides of the Atlantic Ocean.

Europeans developed a variety of colonization and migration patterns, influenced by different imperial goals, cultures, and the varied North American environments where they settled, and they competed with each other and American Indians for resources.

The British colonies participated in political, social, and cultural, and economic exchanges with Great Britain that encouraged both stronger bonds with Britain and resistance to Britain's control.

British attempts to assert tighter control over its North American colonies and the colonial resolve to pursue self-government led to a colonial independence movement and the Revolutionary War.

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

CHAPTER SUMMARIES

1. . . . After they conquered and then intermarried with Indians of the great civilizations of South America and Mexico, the Spanish conquistadores expanded northward . . .

2. The defeat of the Spanish Armada and the exuberant spirit of Elizabethan nationalism finally drew England into the colonial race. After some failures, the first permanent English colony was established at Jamestown, Virginia . . .

The early encounters of English settlers with Powhatans in Virginia established many of the patterns that characterized later Indian-white relations in North America . . .

Other colonial ties were established in Maryland and the Carolinas . . . Later, when Georgia served initially as a buffer against the Spanish and a haven for debtors.

Despite some differences, all the southern colonies depended on a staple plantation agriculture for their survival and on the institutions of indentured servitude and enslaved

Africans for their labor. With widely scattered rural settlements, they had relatively weak religious and social institutions and tended to develop hierarchical economic and social orders.

3. The New England colonies were founded by English Puritans . . . More important than the Pilgrims was this larger group of Puritans, wanting to "purify" the Church of England, led by John Winthrop, who founded Massachusetts Bay Colony as part of the great migration of Puritans fleeing persecution in England in the 1630s . . . Although they shared a common way of life, the New England colonies developed with a substantial degree of independence.

The middle colonies took shape quite differently . . . With their economic variety, ethnic diversity, and political factionalism, the middle colonies were the most typically American of England's 13 Atlantic seaboard colonies.

4. Life was hard in the seventeenth-century southern colonies. Disease drastically shortened life spans in the Chesapeake region, even for the young single men who made up the majority of settlers. Families were few and fragile, with men greatly outnumbering women, who were much in demand and seldom remained single for long.

The tobacco economy first thrived on the labor of white indentured servants . . . But by the late seventeenth century, this increasingly frustrated and the discontents of the poor whites exploded in Bacon's Rebellion.

By contrast with the South, New England's clean water and cool air contributed to a healthy way of life, which added 10 years to the average English life span.

Rocky soil forced many New Englanders to turn to fishing and trade for their livelihoods. Hard work made New Englanders idealistic, purposeful, and resourceful . . .

Seventeenth-century American society was still almost entirely simple and agrarian. Would-be aristocrats who tried to recreate the social hierarchies of Europe were generally frustrated.

5. By 1775, the 13 American colonies east of the Appalachians were inhabited by a burgeoning population of 2 million whites and half a million blacks. The white population was increasingly a melting pot of diverse ethnic groups, including Germans and the Scotch-Irish.

Compared with Europe, America was a land of equality and opportunity, but relative to the seventeenth-century colonies, there was a rising economic hierarchy and increasing social complexity. Ninety percent of Americans remained agriculturalists. But a growing class of wealthy planters and merchants appeared at the top of the social pyramid, in contrast with slaves and "jail birds" from England, who formed a viable lower class.

By the early eighteenth century, the established New England Congregational Church was losing religious fervor. The Great Awakening, sparked by fiery preachers such as Jonathan Edwards and George Whitefield, spread a new style of emotional worship that revived religious zeal. Colonial education and culture were generally undistinguished, although science and journalism displayed some vigor. Politics was everywhere an important activity, as representative colonial assemblies battled on equal terms with politically appointed governors from England.