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STUDY GUIDE: AMERICAN COLONIES

ENGLISH COLONIES:

1. **ROANOKE** (1585): Located off the coast of present day North Carolina.

FOUNDER: **Sir Walter Raleigh**

Raleigh explored this area for England. In 1585, he sent 600 soldiers to establish the first English settlement in America. Due to low supplies, only 107 men stayed in America to maintain the colony. The first English child to be born on American land was born here, and she was named **Virginia Dare**.

Governor White returned to England and did not get back to the colony until 1590. The colony was gone. The only clues were the letters "CRO" carved on a tree, and the word "**croatoan**" on a doorpost. The colony became known as "**the lost colony**."

2. **JAMESTOWN** (1607): Located at the mouth of the James River.

LEADER AND FOUNDER: **John Smith**

Jamestown was settled by the London Company, a joint stock company formed to develop trade in America. **Jamestown was the first permanent English colony in America.**

MAIN CROP: Tobacco was introduced by **John Rolfe**, one of the settlers who married **Pocahontas**, the daughter of the neighboring Indian chief.

INDIANS: Powhatan Indians, who were interested in trade and were friendly.

TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: Representative. The London Company allowed the settlers to select representatives who met together in a group called the **House of Burgesses**, which made laws and decisions. **The first Africans were brought to Jamestown as indentured servants to work the tobacco fields.**

Page 2, AMERICAN COLONIES

3. PLYMOUTH COLONY (1620): Located in Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

Plymouth Colony was settled by the **pilgrims**, who came to America in their ship, the **Mayflower**. They came in an attempt to attain the right to worship in their own manner.

LEADERS: **William Bradford**, Governor, and **Miles Standish**, Military Leader.

TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: Representative. Before leaving the ship, the settlers set up a civil government and agreed to obey the laws. This agreement was called the **Mayflower Compact** and became the basis for government in the colony.

INDIANS: Wampanoag Indians, led by Chief Massasoit. They signed a peace treaty with the Indians that lasted 40 years. **Squanto**, a Pawtuxet Indian, lived with the colonists and taught them how to grow crops the Indian way, by using fish for fertilizer, as well as other ways to survive in the wilderness. The **first Thanksgiving** was celebrated in this colony after the first good growing season.

3. MASSACHUSETTS BAY COLONY (1630): Near present-day Boston.

Settled by the **Puritans**, who were sponsored by the Massachusetts Bay Company.

LEADER: **John Winthrop**, Governor

Winthrop began the **Congregational church**. Religion governed their lives, and strict rules and behaviors were enforced.

TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: Representative. Voters from each town chose three people to represent them in the general court. However, only Puritans could be involved in the government.

4. RHODE ISLAND (1644): Located at Providence.

LEADER AND FOUNDER: **Roger Williams**, who left the Massachusetts Bay Colony to establish a place where true religious freedom could be practiced.

First colony to allow complete religious freedom.

INDIANS: Narragansett. They were friendly, because Williams bought the land from them.

5. PORTSMOUTH, RHODE ISLAND (1637)

LEADER AND FOUNDER: **Anne Hutchinson**, who also fled the Massachusetts Bay Colony because of conflicting religious views.

Page 3, AMERICAN COLONIES

6. **CONNECTICUT** (1636): Located near Hartford.

FOUNDER: **Thomas Hooker**

TYPE OF GOVERNMENT: Representative. They wrote the **Fundamental Orders of Connecticut**, which was similar to the Massachusetts form of government.

7. **MARYLAND** (1634): Located near the mouth of the Potomac River.

FOUNDER: **Sir George Calvert**, whose title was Lord Baltimore, founded the colony as a refuge for **Catholics**. First proprietary colony. The kings often gave land in America to their rich friends, who were called **proprietors**. These proprietors chose officials, over whom they had direct control, to lead their colonies.

MAIN ECONOMY: Farming, with an importance on tobacco.

Known for its **Act of Toleration**, a law that said no Christian could be persecuted because of his or her beliefs. By the middle of the 1600s, there were more Protestants than Catholics in Maryland.

8. **MAINE** (1629)

LEADER: **Sir Ferdinando Georges**

The area was settled to obtain large amounts of lumber, tar, pitch, and resin needed by the English navy for building and restoring ships. The colony was purchased from the Georges family by the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

9. **NEW HAMPSHIRE** (1629)

LEADER: **John Mason**

The colony was later changed to a Royal Colony, or a colony under direct control of the king, to avoid the purchase of the area by the Massachusetts Bay Colony. **Became the first royal colony in America.**

10. **CAROLINA** (1670)

LEADERS: Eight noblemen under Charles II.

Northern part: Settled by people from Virginia, who set up small farms that grew mainly tobacco, and later rice. Southern part: Founded the port settlement of Charles Town (later Charleston), which dealt mainly in trade. Many French Huguenots settled here. The two colonies were divided into North Carolina and South Carolina in 1712 because of their separate and distant locations.

Page 4, AMERICAN COLONIES

11. **GEORGIA (1732):** Located at Savannah.

FOUNDER: **James Ogelthorpe**, who wanted to establish a place for English prisoners, who were in prison because they could not pay their debts.

12. **PENNSYLVANIA (1682):** Located in the Philadelphia area.

FOUNDER AND LEADER: **William Penn**, who established a colony for **Quakers**, where they could live and worship peacefully.

INDIANS: Friendly because Penn also purchased the land from them.

People of all faiths were welcome to the colony. Many settlers were Germans, who had been treated harshly in their own country. They became known as the Pennsylvania Dutch. By the late 1700s, Philadelphia was the largest and busiest colony in the Americas.

DUTCH COLONIES:

1. **DUTCH FORTS AND TRADING POSTS (1614)**

The Dutch hired **Henry Hudson** to find the Northwest Passage to Asia. He did not locate the passage, but he did claim the Hudson River, and the land along it, for the Dutch. In 1614, the Dutch built a fort and trading post at the north end of the river at Albany, New York. They built another trading post on Manhattan Island at the south end of the river.

2. **NEW NETHERLANDS (1624):** The land around the Hudson River.

LEADER: **Peter Minuit**, head of the Dutch West India Company, which financed the colony. Settlers developed a thriving fur-trading business with the Indians, and they became successful farmers.

3. **NEW AMSTERDAM (1626)**

Peter Minuit purchased Manhattan Island from the Indians for about 24 dollars in trading goods. The name Manhattan was changed to New Amsterdam, which became the capital of New Netherlands and a major Dutch trading center. In the 1660s, New Amsterdam was governed by Peter Stuyvesant, who ruled harshly. When English warships tried to overtake the colony, the colonists refused to fight, and the colony surrendered without a fight. The colony became a proprietary colony with the Duke of York serving as the proprietor. **The colony was renamed New York.**

Page 5, AMERICAN COLONIES

4. NEW JERSEY: The land east of the Delaware River.

The Duke of York divided his colony and gave the land east of the Delaware River to two English noblemen, **John Berkeley** and **George Carteret**, who named their colony New Jersey. The colony was eventually settled by people from many nations. The king granted religious freedom to the colony.

SWEDISH COLONIES:

1. NEW SWEDEN (1638): Known now as Wilmington, Delaware.

The colony began as a Swedish fort called Fort Christina along the Delaware River, just south of New Netherlands. The Dutch claimed this land but had not yet settled it. In 1655, New Sweden was taken over by the Dutch and became a Dutch colony.

FRENCH COLONIES:

1. **NEW FRANCE** – the name for all the French holdings in North America, which lay to the north and west of the English colonies and included much of Canada and the entire Mississippi River valley. **Fur trading** was the main economy of the colony. Quebec was the first French town in New France. Montreal was founded shortly after as an Indian, fur-trading post.

NEW ORLEANS was founded in 1718 at the mouth of the Mississippi River. To protect their land from the English, the French built many forts from New Orleans along the Mississippi River to Canada.

SPANISH COLONIES:

1. **EL PASO, TEXAS (1598):** Located on the Rio Grande.
Settled by **Juan De Onate**, who brought along several African- and Native-American slaves.
2. **SAN JUAN, NEW MEXICO (1598)**
Onate and his followers overtook the Indian town at San Juan and started a Spanish settlement.
3. **SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO (1609)**
Also settled by Onate and his followers.
4. **ST. AUGUSTINE, FLORIDA (1565)**
It is the oldest city founded by Europeans in the United States today.