

The Southern Colonies

The Big Idea

Despite a difficult beginning, the southern colonies soon flourished.

Main Ideas

- Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in America.
- Daily life in Virginia was challenging to the colonists.
- Religious freedom and economic opportunities were motives for founding other southern colonies, including Maryland, the Carolinas, and Georgia.
- Farming and slavery were important to the economies of the southern colonies.

Main Idea 1: Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in America.

- King James I allowed the London Company to settle in a region called Virginia.
- The first colonists arrived in America on April 26, 1607.
- They settled in **Jamestown**, the first permanent English settlement in America.
- The colonists were not prepared to build and farm. Two-thirds died by their first winter.

Relations with Native Americans

- **John Smith** became the leader of Jamestown in 1608.
- Colonists were helped by the powerful Powhatan Confederacy of Native Americans.
- More settlers arrived, but many died from famine and disease.
- Settler John Rolfe married **Pocahontas**, which helped form peaceful relations with the Powhatan.
- Conflict between colonists and the Powhatan began in 1622 and lasted for 20 years.

Main Idea 2: Daily life in Virginia was challenging to the colonists.

Headright System

- Large farms, called plantations, were established by tobacco farmers.
- Colonists who paid their way to Virginia received 50 acres of land and 50 acres for each person they brought.

Labor

- Most workers were **indentured servants**: people who came to America for free by agreeing to work without pay for a set amount of time.
- The first Africans were brought as slaves and servants in 1619. Increased work and the falling cost of slaves led colonists to use more slave labor.

Bacon's Rebellion

- Colonial officials began to tax colonists.
- Nathaniel Bacon led a rebellion against the governor's policies in 1676.

Main Idea 3: Religious freedom and economic opportunities were motives for founding other southern colonies, including Maryland, the Carolinas, and Georgia.

- English Catholics came to America to escape religious persecution.
- Maryland was founded as a refuge for Catholics by Lord Baltimore in 1634.
- The Maryland assembly passed the **Toleration Act of 1649** to support religious tolerance.
- The Carolinas and Georgia expanded economic opportunities.

The Carolinas and Georgia

The Carolinas

- Carolina was founded south of Virginia in 1663.
- It was divided into North and South Carolina in 1712.
- Most colonists in North Carolina were farmers.
- South Carolina had large plantations with many slaves.

Georgia

- Georgia was founded by James Oglethorpe as a refuge for debtors in 1733.
- He wanted small farms, so he outlawed slavery and limited land grants.
- Settlers grew unhappy, and Georgia became a royal colony. Large rice plantations, worked by many slaves, were created.

Main Idea 4: Farming and slavery were important to the economies of the southern colonies.

- Economies of the South depended on agriculture. Cash crops were tobacco, rice, and indigo.
- The labor intensive cash crops and the long growing season meant more labor was needed.
- Enslaved Africans became the main source of labor.
- The conditions of slavery were brutal.
- **Slave codes**, or laws to control slaves, were passed.