

ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS

What characteristics define a society?

Why do people form governments?

How should societies settle disputes?

THE STORY BEGINS...

Tobacco became the most important cash crop in Jamestown and the Virginia colony. ▶

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LESSON 1

Origins of the American Nation

The owners of the Virginia Company of London had but one goal for their new colony: profit. Established by a joint-stock company in 1607, Jamestown would prove fruitful for its investors, though not right away. The early years of the colony were harsh, and many settlers perished. Over time, however, the English adapted to their new environment, thanks in part to help from local Native American tribes. From their neighbors, the English learned how to plant numerous crops, including the highly profitable cash crop tobacco. The variety native to Virginia, however, proved to be very bitter. In 1612, John Rolfe introduced a variety from the West Indies to Virginia. Soon, most planters in Jamestown were growing the crop.

E “Mr. George Yearly now invested Deputie Governour by Sir Thomas Dale, applied himselfe for the most part in planting Tobacco, as the most present commoditie they could devise for a present gaine, so that every man betooke himselfe to the best place he could for the purpose: now though Sir Thomas Dale had caused such an abundance of corne to be planted, that every man had sufficient, yet the supplies were sent us, came so unfurnished, as quickly eased us of our [surplus]. To relieve their necessities, he sent to the Chickahamians for the tribute Corne Sir Thomas Dale and Captaine Argall had conditioned for with them.”

—Captain John Smith, 1607

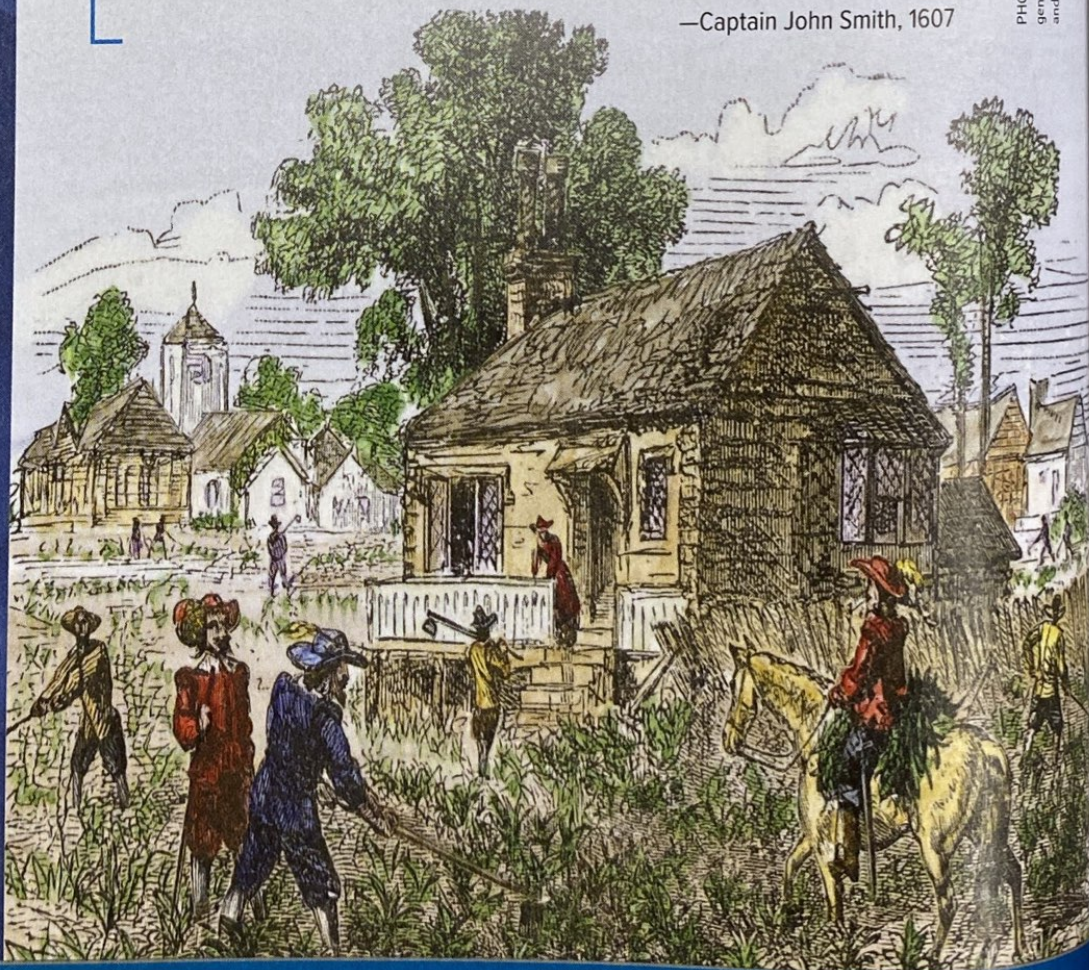


PHOTO: North Wind Picture Archives/Alamy Stock Photo; TEXT: Smith, John (1580-1631). 1907. The general historie of Virginia, New England, & the Summer Isles: together with the true travels, adventures and observations, and A sea grammar. Vol. 1. Glasgow: J. MacLehose, New York: Macmillan.



ANALYZING KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS

ORGANIZING As you read about the colonization of America, use a graphic organizer similar to the one below to indicate ways in which the colonists defied British rule.

EXPLORATION AND COLONIZATION

GUIDING QUESTION *What ideas and inventions encouraged Europeans to begin overseas exploration?*

No one knows exactly when the first people arrived in the Americas. Recent research suggests that they may have arrived between 15,000 and 30,000 years ago. In time, Native Americans learned how to raise crops. This shift led to the first permanent villages and to new building methods. Societies became more complex, and civilizations arose, marked by advanced knowledge of trade, government, the arts, science, and language.

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ANALYZING KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS

- 1. CITING TEXT EVIDENCE** When do scientists estimate that the first people arrived in the Americas, and on what do the scientists base the dates? [ELA.RH.11-12.1](#)
- 2. SUMMARIZING** What did early Mesoamerican cultures have in common? [ELA.RH.11-12.2](#)

EARLY CIVILIZATIONS

Anthropologists think the first American civilization arose between 1500 B.C.E. and 1200 B.C.E. among the Olmec. They lived in Mesoamerica, the region that today includes central and southern Mexico and Central America. Later, the Maya and the Aztec also developed civilizations in Mesoamerica, building impressive temples and pyramids and establishing trade networks.

After 300 C.E., the Hohokam and the Anasazi began growing crops in North America's dry Southwest by building elaborate irrigation systems. People in the Eastern Woodlands were developing their own cultures. The Hopewell built geometric earthworks that served as ceremonial centers, observatories, and burial places. By 900, C.E. the Mississippian people had built Cahokia, one of the largest early American cities.

NATIVE AMERICANS OF NORTH AMERICA

By the 1500s, Native Americans had established an array of cultures suited to their environments. In the Eastern Woodlands, most Native Americans combined hunting and fishing with farming. In the Southeast, many Native Americans built wooden stockades around their villages for protection. Southwestern peoples farmed corn, beans, and cotton. By the 1500s, the Apache and the Navajo had come to the Southwest. The Navajo settled in farming villages, but many of the Apache remained nomadic hunters. Hunting also sustained the Sioux and other peoples of the western Great Plains.

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The Pacific Northwest was home to fishing peoples. In what is today central California, groups such as the Pomo trapped small game and gathered acorns. In the Far North region from Alaska to Greenland, the Inuit and the Aleut hunted sea mammals, polar bears, and caribou.

As the people of Europe emerged from the Middle Ages, they wanted to find a quick trade route to Asia, the source of many luxury goods. Rulers of Portugal, Spain, France, and England wanted to find a water route to Asia that would bypass the Italian and Arab merchants and traders who controlled trade in the eastern Mediterranean.

RENAISSANCE AND REFORMATION

H1

In Western Europe, an intellectual revolution—the Renaissance—was underway. The arts flourished amid a rebirth of interest in ancient Greek and Roman culture. Europeans rediscovered the works of ancient thinkers and began reading the works of Arab scholars. A renewed commitment to reason helped trigger a scientific revolution. Inventions such as the astrolabe and the compass made sea travel easier.

Religious changes were taking place as well. In 1517, the German monk Martin Luther called for the reform of the Catholic Church, launching the Protestant Reformation. New churches emerged in Germany and England, including a burgeoning movement known as Puritanism. Puritans hoped to “purify” the new Church of England, but faced challenges after King James I became the English monarch in 1603.

The caravel was ideal for exploration. These small ships ranged from 70 to 90 feet (23 to 27 m) long, were highly maneuverable, and very fast. Their smaller size enabled them to sail along shallow coastlines and explore up rivers much farther than other ships.

IDENTIFYING CONNECTIONS

Why might the development of the caravel have encouraged European exploration?

HSS HI.1, HSS HI.2

H2



OVERSEAS EXPLORATION BEGINS

Portugal took the lead in searching for a sea route around Africa to Asia in the early 1400s. Later, Spain funded an expedition by Italian sea captain Christopher Columbus to sail west across the Atlantic. In August 1492, Columbus and his crew left Spain and landed two months later on an island in the Caribbean. Columbus's news that he had reached land on the other side of the Atlantic triggered a wave of European exploration. Soon people realized that Columbus had not reached Asia but instead a continent they did not know. They named the new continent *America* in honor of Amerigo Vespucci, who explored the South American coastline for Portugal.

Columbus then headed farther into the Caribbean, searching for gold. At about that time, Spain and Portugal both claimed control over the Atlantic route to Asia. The Treaty of Tordesillas resolved the rivalry in 1494, recognizing Spain's claim to most of the Americas.

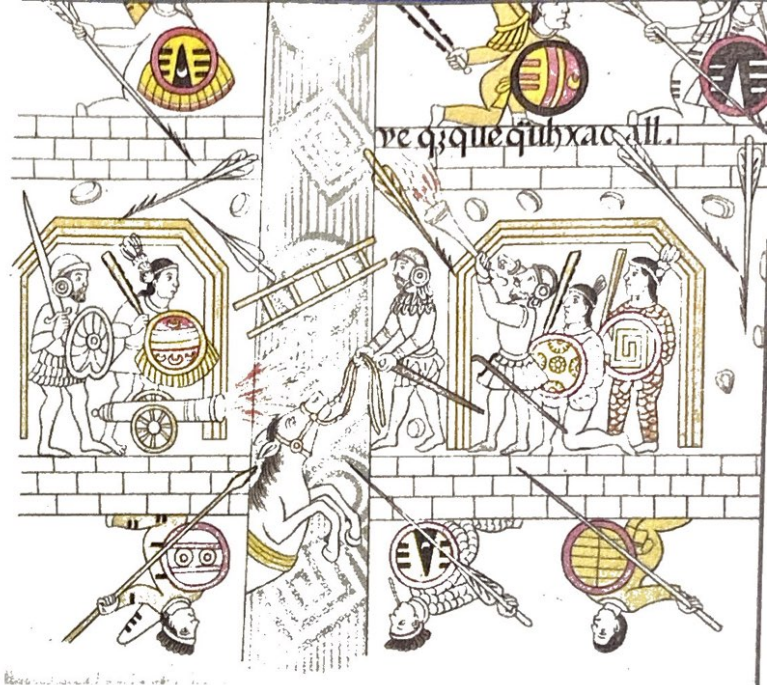
NEW SPAIN

In 1519, a Spaniard named Hernán Cortés sailed from Cuba to explore the Yucatán Peninsula. He had heard reports of vast riches in that region and set sail with an army seeking glory and gold. After conquering the peninsula, Cortés, his troops, and Tlaxcalan warriors (enemies of the Aztec) destroyed the Aztec city of Tenochtitlán in 1521. On its ruins, the Spanish built Mexico City, which became the capital of the colony of New Spain. Cortés then sent several expeditions to conquer the surrounding regions. The men who led these expeditions became known as **conquistadors**, or “conquerors.” Deadly diseases brought by the Spanish killed many native peoples and severely weakened their ability to resist the invaders. The Spanish soon controlled a territory stretching from Florida to California and into South America.

The Spanish were driven to explore for two main reasons—to find economic riches and fabled amounts of gold, and to bring religion and civilization to the native peoples of the Americas. Because this assertion of a new way of life was accompanied by a desire for wealth, abuses took place alongside an effort to convert. Some Spanish critics such as Catholic Bishop Bartolomé de Las Casas spoke out against the power abuses.

“They are very clean in their persons, with alert, intelligent minds . . . and open to doctrine, very apt to receive our holy Catholic faith, to be endowed with virtuous customs, and to behave in a godly fashion. And once they begin to hear the tidings of the Faith, they are so insistent on knowing more and on taking the sacraments of the Church . . . that, truly, the missionaries who are here need to be endowed by God with great patience in order to cope with such eagerness. . . . [Yet] into this land of meek outcasts there came some Spaniards who immediately behaved like ravening wild beasts, wolves, tigers, or lions that had been starved for many days . . . killing, terrorizing, afflicting, torturing, and destroying the native peoples, doing all this with the strangest and most varied new methods of cruelty, never seen or heard of before.”

—Bartolomé de Las Casas



This image depicts the battle for Tenochtitlán between the Aztec and the Spanish in 1519.

INTEGRATING INFORMATION

What does this image tell you about the Aztec view of the battle? ELA.RH.11-12.7, ELA.RI.11-12.7

R DETERMINING MEANING

What context clues in the paragraph help you determine the meaning of **conquistador**? ELA.RH.11-12.4, ELA.RI.11-12.4

ANALYZING PRIMARY SOURCES

- 1. DETERMINING MEANING** What can you infer from the statement “that, truly, the missionaries who are here need to be endowed by God with great patience in order to cope with such eagerness”? ELA.RH.11-12.4, ELA.RI.11-12.4
- 2. CITING TEXT EVIDENCE** How does the author feel about his fellow Spaniards? What language reveals his sentiments? ELA.RH.11-12.1, ELA.RI.11-12.1

NEW FRANCE

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France began exploring eastern North America, funding trips by Jacques Cartier and Giovanni da Verrazano in the early 1500s. In 1602, French king Henry IV authorized a group of French merchants to establish a colony in what is now Canada. They hired Samuel de Champlain to help them. In 1608, Champlain founded Quebec, the eventual capital of New France. The backers of the colony sought fur, and Frenchmen began a brisk trade with Native Americans. Fur traders made their homes among the Native Americans with whom they traded. In the late 1600s, the colony expanded. Explorers Louis Jolliet and Jacques Marquette reached the Mississippi River, and René-Robert Cavelier de La Salle followed it to the Gulf of Mexico. La Salle named the newly claimed region Louisiana for King Louis XIV. The French went on to found Biloxi, Mobile, and New Orleans.

✓ CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **IDENTIFYING CAUSES** What ideas and inventions encouraged Europeans to begin overseas exploration? HSS HI.2
2. **EXPLAINING CAUSES** What drove some European rulers to send explorers in search of a water route to Asia? HSS HI.2
3. **DETERMINING CONTEXT** How did Spanish and French relations with native peoples differ? HSS HI.1

SETTLING THE THIRTEEN COLONIES

GUIDING QUESTION *For what reasons were the thirteen colonies founded?*

Soon after Columbus made his historic voyage, England began exploring the eastern part of North America, sending John Cabot on expeditions in 1497 and 1498. It was not until the 1600s, however, that England succeeded in establishing colonies in North America.

JAMESTOWN

SL

English business and government leaders saw colonies as sources of raw materials and as markets for English goods. In 1607, they established Jamestown, the first lasting English settlement, in Virginia. The settlement was funded by a **joint-stock company**—a group of private investors who supported major projects to gain profits. The Jamestown settlers overcame early troubles with the help of a group of local Native Americans known as the Powhatan Confederacy, and **eventually** prospered by growing tobacco.

Encouraged by the Virginia Company, more than 4,500 settlers immigrated to Virginia by 1622. Alarmed Native Americans attacked Jamestown. An English court blamed the company's policies for the settlers' deaths and revoked its charter. Virginia then became a royal colony.

THE NEW ENGLAND COLONIES

Not all settlers came for economic gain. Some Puritans had decided the Church of England was too corrupt to be reformed. They were called Separatists. In 1620, a group of Separatists, later known as the Pilgrims, set sail from England on the *Mayflower* to escape persecution for their religious beliefs.

ANALYZING KEY IDEAS AND DETAILS

1. **ANALYZING EVENTS** What factors led Jamestown to become a royal colony? ELA.RI.11-12.3

2. **SUMMARIZING** Write a summary of how the New England colonies were founded. ELA.RH.11-12.2, ELA.RI.11-12.2

DETERMINING MEANING

What context clues in the paragraph help you determine the meaning of **eventually**? LA.RH.11-12.4, ELA.RI.11-12.4

H The Pilgrims finally settled near what is now Plymouth, Massachusetts. The colonists drew up the Mayflower Compact, a plan for self-government. Ten years later, facing increasing persecution in England, another group of Puritans arrived in Massachusetts Bay with a charter for their new colony. They founded several towns, including Boston.

Before long, Puritan efforts in Massachusetts to suppress other religious beliefs led to the formation of Rhode Island and Connecticut. Dissenter Roger Williams founded the town of Providence. Anne Hutchinson and others banished from

Massachusetts settled in the area and eventually joined their towns to become the single colony of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations. Religious freedom became a key part of the colony's charter. Reverend Thomas Hooker and his congregation moved to the Connecticut River valley and founded the town of Hartford, marking the beginning of the colony of Connecticut, which adopted America's first democratic constitution in 1639. The territory north of Massachusetts was divided into Maine and New Hampshire, but claimed by Massachusetts. In 1679, New Hampshire became a royal colony. Maine remained part of Massachusetts.

THE MIDDLE COLONIES

In 1609, Henry Hudson, a navigator hired by Dutch merchants, had discovered what is now the Hudson River valley in New York. The Dutch called the region New Netherland and established their main settlement of New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island. Charles II seized New Netherland from the Dutch and granted the land to his brother, the Duke of York. Much of the land was renamed New York. The rest became New Jersey, a colony that offered greater land grants, religious freedom, and political rights. In 1681, William Penn, wanting to help his fellow Quakers escape persecution in England, created the colony of Pennsylvania south of New York. The "lower counties" became Delaware.

THE SOUTHERN COLONIES

Farther south, tobacco helped Virginia thrive. Its neighbor colony, Maryland, was a proprietary colony that began in the 1630s to provide a refuge for Catholics who faced persecution in England.

In 1663, King Charles II gave eight friends a vast tract of land named Carolina. This region developed into two distinct areas: North Carolina, with scattered tobacco farms, and South Carolina, where a larger number of settlers established the community of Charles Towne (Charleston), exported deerskins,

BIOGRAPHY

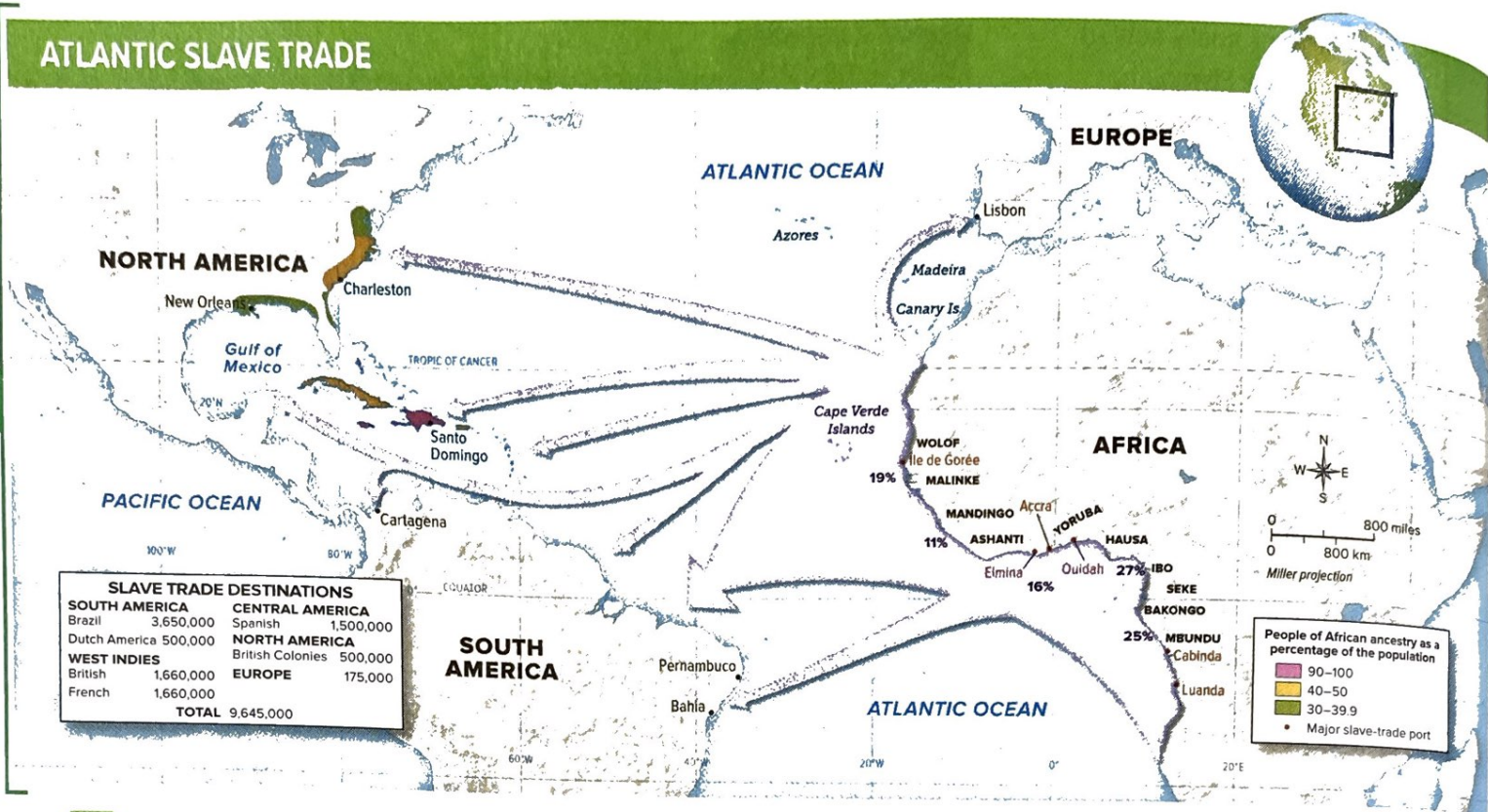
ANNE HUTCHINSON (1591–1643)

Anne Hutchinson arrived in Boston in 1634. There, she held meetings with other women to discuss sermons, express her own beliefs, and evaluate the ministers. Hutchinson stirred up controversy with her views on how salvation could be obtained. She was tried for sedition and banished by the Massachusetts General Court in 1637. Hutchinson, her family, and some followers settled in what is today Rhode Island. She later moved to Long Island, where she was killed in an attack by Native Americans.

CITING TEXT EVIDENCE Why was Anne Hutchinson banished from Massachusetts?
ELA.RH.11-12.1, ELA.RI.11-12.1



ATLANTIC SLAVE TRADE



GEOGRAPHIC REASONING

The introduction of enslaved Africans to the American Colonies was part of the broader Atlantic slave trade.

1. PATTERNS AND MOVEMENT

What region of the Americas was the destination for most enslaved peoples? HSS.CS.3, ELA.RH.11-12.7, ELA.RI.11-12.7

2. **SPATIAL THINKING** What area of North America held the largest numbers of enslaved people? HSS.CS.3, ELA.RH.11-12.7, ELA.RI.11-12.7

DETERMINING MEANING

What context clues in the paragraph help you determine the meaning of **indentured servants**?

ELA.RH.11-12.4, ELA.RI.11-12.4

and grew rice. With a charter from King George II, James Oglethorpe founded Georgia as a place for English debtors to begin a new life.

Most colonists relied on agriculture for their livelihoods. Often, poor English people came to America as **indentured servants** who agreed to work for four or more years in return for ship's passage and basic needs. Southern landowners with large plantations also relied on the labor of enslaved Africans, taken from Africa by way of the Atlantic slave trade. This reliance on enslaved labor increased as land became cheap, more enslaved persons were forcibly transported to from Africa to America, and fewer English settlers were willing to become indentured servants. Unlike indentured servants, enslaved workers were not freed at the end of a set contract.

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

- EXPLAINING CAUSES** For what reasons were the thirteen colonies founded? HSS.HI.2
- DETERMINING CONTEXT** What is the historical importance of the Mayflower Compact? HSS.HI.1
- SUMMARIZING** How did indentured servitude differ from slavery? HSS.HI.3

THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

GUIDING QUESTION *Why did the colonists fight a war for independence against Great Britain?*

The American colonies experienced rapid population growth. In time, colonists revolted against what they saw as oppressive British rule. They established a new, independent government for themselves.

NEW IDEAS INFLUENCE THE COLONISTS

During the 1600s and 1700s, philosophers of the Age of Enlightenment stressed the use of reason and logic to understand natural laws. Enlightenment writer John Locke attempted to use reason to discover natural laws that applied to politics and society. He argued that governments existed because the people who were governed allowed them to exist: “For no government can have a right to obedience from a people who have not freely consented to it; which they can never be supposed to do, till . . . they are put in a full state of liberty to choose their government.” Locke’s ideas influenced Thomas Jefferson and other colonists.

Also in the 1700s, some Americans renewed their Christian faith in what became known as the Great Awakening. The new ideas of Baptists, Presbyterians, and Methodists won many converts. Along with the Enlightenment, this movement emphasized an individualism that inclined American colonists toward political independence.

R

UNDERSTANDING CRAFT AND STRUCTURE

1. ANALYZING STRUCTURE How has the author structured the text in this section? Why do you think the author chose this specific structure?
ELA.RH.11-12.5, ELA.RI.11-12.5

2. DETERMINING MEANING Reread the first sentence of the paragraph that begins “The resumption of smuggling soon led to strife.” Why do you think the author chooses to use the word *strife* rather than one of its more common synonyms, such as *quarrel* or *dispute*?
ELA.RH.11-12.4, ELA.RI.11-12.4

THE GROWING RIFT WITH BRITAIN

In the 1750s, Great Britain and France began fighting for control of North America. Both countries relied on Native Americans as allies, and the war became known as the French and Indian War. The British victory in the war left Britain with steep debts and new territories to govern and defend. Many British leaders thought that the colonies should share in these costs. The American colonists, however, did not like the policies Britain adopted to solve its financial problems.

The Proclamation of 1763 tried to halt colonial expansion into Native American lands west of the Appalachians. King George III wanted to avoid another costly war with the Native Americans, but the colonists, who wanted access to the Ohio River valley, were enraged.

“No Taxation Without Representation” Colonists had been smuggling goods without paying customs duties, so Britain tightened customs and introduced unpopular taxes such as the Sugar Act and the Stamp Act—the first direct tax Britain had levied on the colonists. In October 1765, representatives from nine colonies issued the Declaration of Rights and Grievances, arguing that only representatives elected by the colonists—not Parliament—had the right to tax them. “No taxation without representation” became a popular catchphrase. Colonists boycotted British goods, and Britain repealed the Stamp Act in 1766. In 1767, the Townshend Acts put new customs duties on key British imports and **enforced** rules against smuggling. Colonial anger turned to violence in 1770, resulting in the Boston Massacre on March 5. Eventually Britain repealed the Townshend Acts.

SL

DETERMINING MEANING

What context clues in the paragraph help you determine the meaning of **enforce**?
ELA.RH.11-12.4, ELA.RI.11-12.4

The resumption of smuggling soon led to strife. Colonists created **committees of correspondence** to communicate with one another about British activities. In 1773, colonists dumped hundreds of cases of tea off British ships in a protest called the Boston Tea Party. Outraged, Parliament passed the Coercive Acts to punish the colonists for their defiance and the Quebec Act, which extended the boundaries of what was then the Province of Quebec to include much of what is now Ohio, Michigan, Indiana, Wisconsin, and Illinois. Together these laws came to be known as the Intolerable Acts.

W

Declaring Independence Opposition to British policies continued to rise. Fifty-five colonial delegates met at the First Continental Congress in Philadelphia



This lithograph, titled *The Destruction of Tea at Boston Harbor*, was created by engravers Currier & Ives in 1846.

CITING TEXT EVIDENCE What was the significance of the Boston Tea Party being a physical demonstration?
 ELA.RH.11-12.1, ELA.RI.11-12.1

on September 5, 1774. Soon after gathering, they learned that Britain had suspended the Massachusetts Assembly. The Congress responded by boycotting British goods.

In the meantime, the suspended Massachusetts Assembly gathered secretly to create a new Massachusetts Provincial Congress and a Committee of Public Safety. They selected John Hancock to be President of the Committee and gave him the power to call up the militia, in effect making Hancock a rival governor to General Gage, whom the British had put in control of Massachusetts. In April 1775, Gage decided to seize control of the militia's weapons and supplies that were stored in Concord.

As the British troops marched past the town of Lexington on their way to Concord, fighting broke out between the Minutemen militia and the British troops. The first shots of the revolutionary war had been fired.

Three weeks later, as fighting continued in Massachusetts, the Second Continental Congress gathered in Philadelphia. They appointed George Washington to command a new Continental Army made up of the colonial militias. Battles took place in Boston; near Norfolk, Virginia; in North Carolina; and outside Charleston, South Carolina. By July 1776, the Congress had decided the time had come to declare independence and appointed a committee to draft a declaration, even though there were still thoughts in the colonies who supported remaining loyal to Britain. The first draft of the Declaration of Independence was written by Thomas Jefferson, then edited and revised by others on the committee including John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, Roger Sherman and Robert Livingston. On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress issued the Declaration of Independence.

THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE 1776-1777



GEOGRAPHIC REASONING

In March 1777, General John Burgoyne proposed a three-pronged attack to isolate New England from the other American states.

- 1. EXPLORING PLACE** What are two colonial victories that occurred in New Jersey?
 HSS CS.3, ELA.RH.11-12.7, ELA.RI.11-12.7
- 2. HUMAN-ENVIRONMENT INTERACTION** How did General Howe make his attack on the United States?
 HSS CS.3, ELA.RH.11-12.7, ELA.RI.11-12.7

John Hancock was the first person to sign, followed by 55 other representatives from the colonies. Thomas Jefferson, Roger Sherman, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin were among the signers. Others included Benjamin Rush, who had helped organize the Sons of Liberty in Pennsylvania and assisted Thomas Paine in writing *Common Sense*; John Witherspoon from New Jersey, who went on to help draft the Articles of Confederation; and Charles Carroll, the sole Catholic signer of the Declaration, and a leader of opposition to Britain in Maryland. With the signing of the Declaration, the thirteen colonies had now become the United States of America and the American Revolution had begun.

THE WAR FOR INDEPENDENCE

The Continental Army could not match the British army in size, funding, or experience. However, it was fighting on home ground and used unconventional tactics. The British enjoyed early victories, but the American win at Saratoga in 1777 was a turning point. Morale improved, and the French signed a military alliance with the United States and recognized the new nation's independence.

American troops controlled the frontier, but the British won victories in the South. In 1780, Patriot forces regained control in the South after the Battle of Kings Mountain. The last major battle of the war was fought at Yorktown, Virginia. Trapped by Washington's forces and the French navy, General Charles Cornwallis and approximately 8,000 British troops surrendered on October 19, 1781.

Parliament then voted to end the war. Peace talks began in early April 1782, and the Treaty of Paris was signed on September 3, 1783. With the Revolutionary War over, a new nation began to take shape.

CHECKING FOR UNDERSTANDING

- 1. EXPLAINING CAUSE AND EFFECT** Why did the colonists fight a war for independence against Great Britain? *HSS HI.2*
- 2. IDENTIFYING EFFECTS** What was the Great Awakening intended to revive or awaken? *HSS HI.2*
- 3. USING MAPS** Which waterway did General Howe's forces use to reach Philadelphia? *HSS CS.3*

LESSON 1 REVIEW

Time and Place

- 1. IDENTIFYING EFFECTS** How did geography influence the ways Native American cultures developed? *HSS CS.2*

Building History-Social Science Analysis Skills

- 2. EXPLAINING CAUSES** Why did Spain and France establish colonies in the Americas? *HSS HI.2*
- 3. SUMMARIZING** What was the purpose of committees of correspondence? *HSS HI.2*
- 4. IDENTIFYING CONNECTIONS** How did the growth of the Jamestown colony impact relations with Native Americans? *HSS HI.1*

- 5. SUMMARIZING** Use the notes you completed during the lesson to summarize ways that the colonists resisted British rule. *HSS HI.4*

Writing About History

- 6. ARGUMENTATIVE WRITING** Take on the role of a Patriot trying to convince other colonists to support independence from Great Britain. Write a speech in which you explain why independence is the right choice. *ELA.WHST.11-12.1, ELA.W.11-12.1*

Collaborative Activity

- 7. COLLABORATING** With a partner, develop a digital presentation slide that illustrates the meaning of "No taxation without representation." Share your presentation with the class. *ELA.SL.11-12.1, ELA.SL.11-12.2, ELA.SL.11-12.4, ELA.SL.11-12.6*