

Life in the Colonies

The population of the colonies was rapidly growing.

-Growing from 250,000 in 1700 to 2.5 million in the 1770s.

-The African American population was growing as well. They grew from about 28,000 to 500,000 in the same period.

-Immigration was a huge factor in this growth.

-Also, women married young and had very large families.



New England Colonies

New England was mainly composed of organized towns.

-Meetinghouses served as churches and locations of town meetings.

-Any farms were on the outskirts of the town.

-Farming in this region was subsistence farming.

-Most of the northern farmers depended on their children as part of the labor force.



Commerce

Small businesses were abundant in New England as well.

-Mills for grinding grain or sawing lumber were very necessary services.

-Women could also earn extra income for the home if they produced a surplus of cloth, garment, soap, or candles.

-Shipbuilding was also a major industry due to the abundant forests.

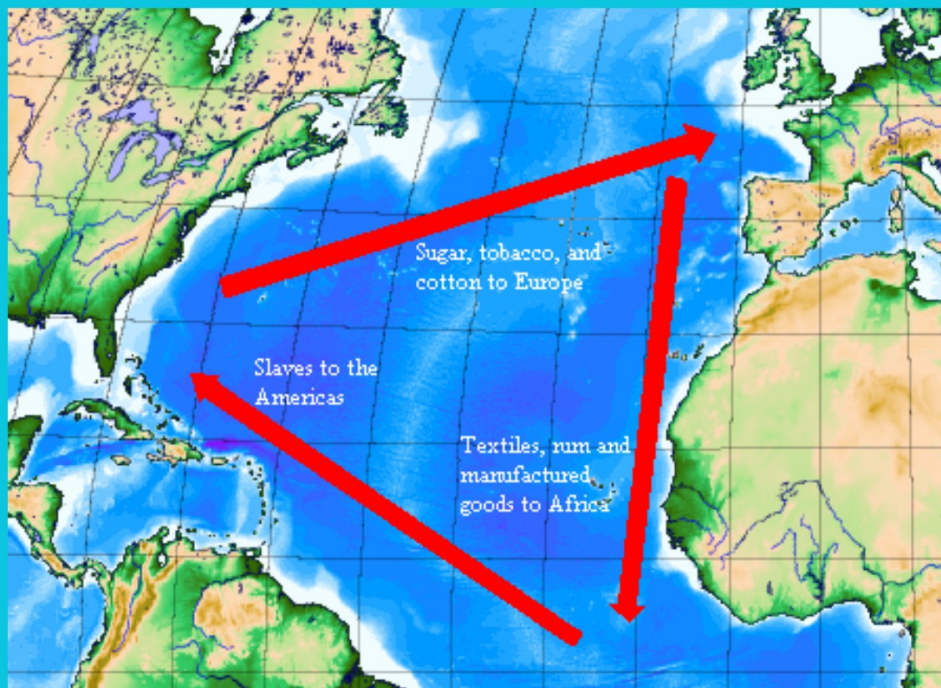
-Fishing was also a staple of the economy.



Triangular Trade

Sugar and molasses would be brought from the West Indies to New England.

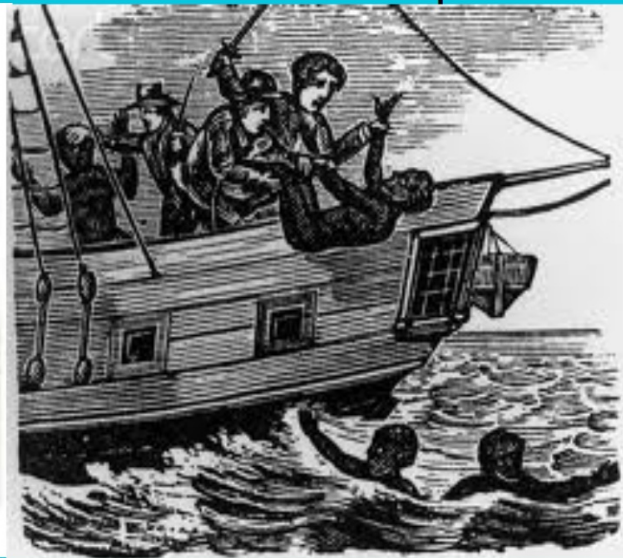
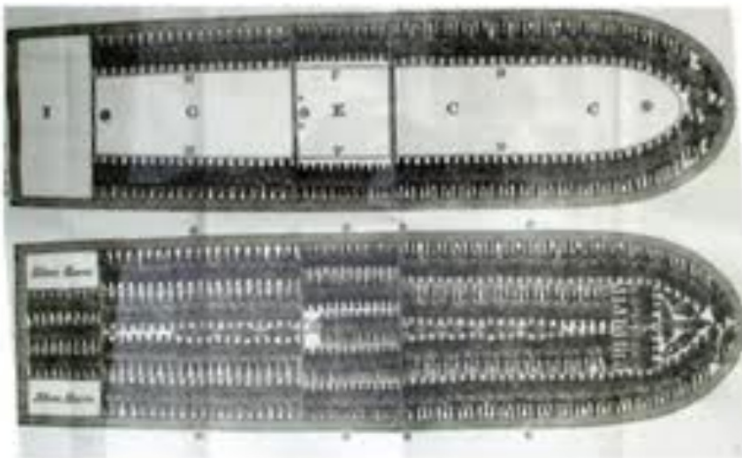
In New England, the molasses would be used to make rum. The rum would be sent to Africa in exchange for slaves.



The Middle Passage

The voyage to the Americas typically began by marching across Africa tied together, before being branded and forced onto a ship.

- Little food or water
- Whipped if you didn't eat.
- Sold at slave markets upon arrival to the colonies.
- Estimated that about 12 million slaves will make this trip.



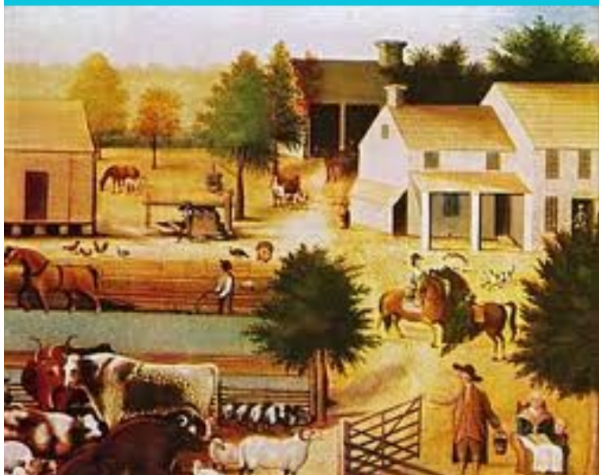
The Middle Colonies

The middle colonies had bigger harvests than New England did.

-NY and PA are going to specialize in wheat and other cash crops.

-New York City and Philadelphia developed into major port cities as well.

-Iron mills, lumber yards, and mines provided other sources of income.



Southern Colonies

The southern colonies benefitted from rich soil and mild climate.

-Mainly focused on cash crops, such as tobacco. Tobacco was sold in Europe.

-This will lead to an increase in slavery.

-In South Carolina and Georgia, the main cash crop was rice.

-Slavery grew there as well.

-Large plantations were found in the Tidewater, while smaller scale farms were in the backcountry.



Colonial Rule

Following Charles II, James II came to the throne. He tried to take back some of the powers that had been forfeited to Parliament.

-Parliament forced out James II, and replaced him with his daughter, Mary, and her husband, William of Orange.

-This began the Glorious Revolution.

-William and Mary instituted the English Bill of Rights.



Colonial Rule

The colonies were looked at as a huge economic asset.

-The Navigation Acts were used to increase the economic potential of the colonies, but they were largely ignored.

-The colonists heavily believed in limited government and representative government.

-Three types of colonies developed

1. Charter colonies-CT, RI-Settlers were given a charter, listing rights and privileges.
2. Proprietary colonies-DE, MD, PA-Proprietors appointed the governor and members of the upper house of legislature.
3. Royal colonies-GA, MA, NH, NJ, NY, NC, SC, VA-Britain directly ruled these colonies.



An Emerging Culture

From the 1720s to the 1740s, the Great Awakening swept the colonies.

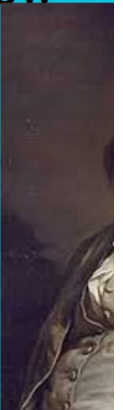
-This was essentially a rebirth of religion.

-Jonathon Edwards and George Whitfield were very prominent preachers, who often held revivals.

-Most early education focused on making sure everyone could read the bible.

-Harvard, America's first college, was originally established to train ministers.

-Soon, the Enlightenment swept the nation, focusing on how knowledge, reason, and science could improve society.



France and Britain Clash

During the 1700s, Britain and France were two of the strongest countries in all of Europe.

- Mercantilism is a factor
- Both are in competition with one another.
- Troubles intensified when the British became interested in the Ohio River Valley.

North American, Spanish, French and British Territories circa 1700



Hostilities Rise

The hostilities continued to grow during the 1740s.

- The British built a fort near Pickawillany.
- The French attacked this fort quickly.
- The French also began raiding towns in ME and NY
- New Englanders raided the French fort at Louisbourg.
- Both knew that Native American aid was going to be essential to this conflict.
- Many Native Americans were partial to the French.



Native Americans Take Sides

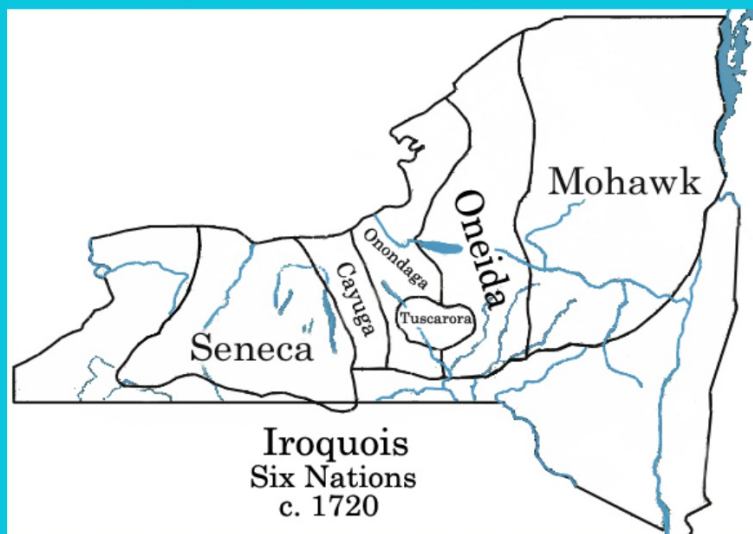
The most powerful group was the Iroquois Confederacy

- Initially was comprised of five tribes, but added a sixth later.

- The British referred to them as the Six Nations.

- Remained independent by trading with the French and the British.

- Eventually gave trading rights to the British, swinging the balance of power in favor of the British.



Colonists Take Action

In 1753, Virginia governor Robert Dinwiddie sent George Washington to the Ohio country.

- Told Washington to inform France that they were trespassing.
- The French told Washington that they planned to take control of the area.
- Washington was sent back with a militia.
- Had instructions to build a fort near the Ohio River, at present day Pittsburg.
- However, the French had already built Fort Duquesne there.



Fort Necessity

Washington built a small fort named Fort Necessity.

-The French overwhelmed him, and he was forced to surrender quickly.

-The French released Washington and his men, but he was still considered a hero.

-The colonies needed to be more unified to defend themselves against the French.



The Albany Plan of Union

Representatives from the colonies met in Albany, New York to discuss the threat of war.

-This plan was created by Benjamin Franklin. It was intended to create one plan of government for all of the colonies.

-However, none of the legislative assemblies in the colonies voted to adopt the Albany Plan of Union.

