Colonial America and the Revolutionary War

1620 - 1783
The First English Settlement

- Jamestown – the first permanent English settlement in North America, created in 1607
- Almost all of the Jamestown settlers died
- Settlers learned to farm tobacco to earn money, but the tobacco belonged to the Virginia Company in London
- Indentured servants (people that worked off their travel expenses) were used for labor
- Settlers were mad at the governor who only helped the Virginia Company in London so they created the House of Burgesses
- House of Burgesses – first representative assembly (mini Congress) in America
New Hampshire, Massachusetts (which included Maine), Rhode Island and Connecticut

Separatists were a group of people that wanted to separate from the Church of England (Pilgrims)

Sailed to America on the Mayflower and wrote the Mayflower Compact

Mayflower Compact was a list of rules that the Pilgrims agreed to and promised to follow for the good of the community

Pilgrims developed a relationship with the Native Americans in the area which helped them survive

Puritans, a group that wanted to “purify” the Church of England also came to America but were less friendly with the Native Americans
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Middle Colonies</th>
<th>Southern Colonies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware</td>
<td>Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia</td>
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<td>Catholics, Jewish and Quakers came to the Middle Colonies for religious freedom</td>
<td>Roman Catholics settled in Maryland to get away from unfair treatment in England</td>
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<td>William Penn (founder of Pennsylvania) was a Quaker who was focused on treating Native Americans fairly</td>
<td>Georgia was created for people who owed money to get away from England</td>
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<td>Many Southern Colonies needed help with the work of farming and the use of slaves was encouraged</td>
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Colonial Economics

- New England Colonies: farming for themselves (called subsistence farming), fishing and trading
- Middle Colonies: farming
- Southern Colonies: plantation farming, used slave labor to handle the large amount of work

Slavery
- By 1750 – there were 235,000 African slaves in America
- 7% of the slaves were in the Middle Colonies
- 85% of the slaves were in the Southern Colonies
Triangular trade helped the colonies get the supplies they needed to keep their colonies alive.

New England Colonies
(rum and iron)

West Indies
(sugar and molasses)

Africa
(slaves)
Magna Carta, a document that guaranteed rights to noble men and free men
- Allowed for representation
- Set up Parliament (England’s version of Congress)
- Colonists based their government on it

Colonial assemblies were ruled by Royal Governor’s
- Colonists were angry that the Governors would not be fair with decisions (always helped England more than colonists)
French and Indian War

- France, Huron and Algonquin (Native American tribes) vs. British and Iroquois (Native American tribe)
- The two sides were fighting over control of the fur trade ($$$)
- British won control of North America, but only east of the Mississippi River
- No more French power in North America
- Treaty of Paris – 1763 (ended French and Indian War)
England was in debt (owed $) after French and Indian War

Taxed colonies to pay off the war debt
- Sugar Act – 1764 (taxed sugar and other products shipped to colonies from England)
- Stamp Act – 1765 (official documents needed a stamp)

Colonists get angry about being taxed without having a say in the matter (they had no representatives in Parliament)
- “No Taxation Without Representation!” became the colonists slogan

Colonies boycott (don’t buy) British goods

Parliament repealed (took away) the Stamp Act in 1766
Colonial Resistance Grows

- Townshend Acts – 1767 (New York assembly not allowed to meet until the British soldiers are allowed to stay in colonists’ houses, also taxed more goods)
- Sam Adams (leader of the Boston Sons of Liberty group) leads another boycott to protest taxes
  - Sons of Liberty – secret group that opposed British policies

Why does a boycott work so well?
Write your answer in your notes…
Boston Massacre

- March 5, 1770 – a fight between the British soldiers and young people of Boston
- Boston youth were packing rocks into snowballs and yelling at the British soldiers – trying to get them to fight back
- Soldiers shot and killed 5 civilians (non-soldiers) including the first free African American man Crispus Attucks
- Boston Massacre became major anti-British propaganda (advertising to change your opinion)
Resistance Continues

- Townshend Acts were repealed
- Tea Act – 1773 (British East India Company now control all tea trading in colonies)
- Boston Tea Party – organized by the Sons of Liberty – December 16, 1773
  - The Sons of Liberty dressed up like Native Americans and secretly boarded the British ships carrying the tea
  - This anti-British group threw 342 barrels of tea into the ocean

What was the point of throwing the tea into the ocean? Answer this question in your notes...
Boston Tea Party made England mad
England passed the Coersive Acts in 1774 to punish Massachusetts and warn other colonies not to rebel
Coersive = Intolerable
Colonists call Coersive Acts the Intolerable Acts
Closed Boston harbor (no trading at all) until all of the tea was paid for
1774 – all of the colonies (except for Georgia) meet in Philadelphia for the First Continental Congress
They decide to ban trade until Intolerable Acts were repealed and build an army in case the British want to attack
Road to Lexington & Concord (cont’d)

- Parliament got mad and increased restrictions and troops in the colonies
- April 18, 1775 – General Gage (British general) orders Sam Adams and John Hancock arrested
  - British troops destroyed weapons stored in Concord
- Paul Revere makes his famous ride telling colonists “the British are coming”
Lexington & Concord

- Lexington – small battle (70 colonists fought, 8 died)
- Concord – small battle (British retreat) colonists shout at the British soldiers as they retreat

- Lexington & Concord – 1st battle of the Revolutionary War
Declaring Independence

- Ethan Allen captures Fort Ticonderoga in New York (a British fort) and colonists get guns and ammunition
- May 10, 1775 – Second Continental Congress (Philadelphia)
  - Continental Army formed with George Washington as commander
- Bunker Hill/Breeds Hill – 1775 (British victory, but 1,000 British soldiers killed)
- 1776 – General Howe withdraws British troops
- Committee formed to write the Declaration of Independence (Ben Franklin, John Adams, Roger Sherman, Robert Livingston and Thomas Jefferson)
  - Thomas Jefferson wrote the actual document
  - Declaration of Independence signed on July 4, 1776 (named Independence Day)
Early Years of the War

American Colonists

Loyalists (30%)
Patriots (45%)
Neutral (25%)

African Americans and Native Americans fought on both sides
Building the Continental Army was hard because of supply issues and only 20-30% support for independence from England.

1776 – Americans win battles at Trenton, Princeton and later at Battle of Saratoga.

Battle of Saratoga – turning point of the war (where the Americans finally started winning most of the battles).
France decides to help Americans
- They send money, supplies, troops
- Marquis de Lafayette (French commander) commanded an army division
- Winter of 1777-78 – Washington’s army faced challenges at Valley Forge but were strong and kept fighting for independence
- British navy was very powerful but privateers (kind of like pirates) helped the Americans
- John Paul Jones had a major naval victory for America
Path to Victory

- British thought the Southerners were mostly loyalists so they had moved south with their troops.
- Francis Marion surprise-attacked the British forces.
- British General Cornwallis set up at Yorktown in 1781.
- French navy blocked the bay near Yorktown.
- American and French troops trapped British in Yorktown and fired canons until General Cornwallis surrendered.
- Small battles still happened later, but Yorktown was last major battle of Revolutionary War.
By 1783 – all British troops had left America

Treaty of Paris (1783) – was signed, formally ending the Revolutionary War

America was officially independent!

But now what?