Language: English
School subject: British History
Grade/level: intermediate
Age: 12+
Main content: American Colonies.

THE NEW WORLD - AMERICAN COLONIES



The United States was formed from thirteen British colonies in 1776. Many of these colonies had been around for well over 100 years including the first **colony** of Virginia which was founded in 1607.
In 1775, over two million people lived in the thirteen American colonies and about 500,000 of them lived in Virginia, the largest and most populous colony. Many of these people were farmers or planters who lived and worked on small farms of less than two hundred **acres**. A relatively small number of Virginians were wealthy planters or merchants, and only about two percent of the population lived in Virginia's few small towns or cities like York, Norfolk, Richmond, Williamsburg, or Fredericksburg. About 200,000 of the people living in Virginia were **enslaved** African Americans most of whom worked in tobacco fields for white masters.

How did planters earn a living?

To earn a living, planters grew some type of cash crop that could be sold for money or credit in order to buy needed tools, livestock, and household goods which could not be produced on the farm. Before the American Revolution, tobacco was the **crop** most Virginians grew and sold to English and Scottish merchants. Toward the end of the eighteenth century, however, many farmers began growing grains like wheat, oats and corn. These crops took fewer workers to grow, did not **deplete** the nutrients in the soil the way tobacco did, and were in great demand in Europe and the West Indies. Although many Virginians began growing these grains, tobacco continued to be the colony's largest export crop.
Tobacco planters usually relied on enslaved people to help work the fields. Each additional worker could cultivate about two to three acres of tobacco, but workers were expensive. Planters had to balance the cost of buying a slave or hiring one against the profit they expected to gain from selling their crops at the end of the year. Small planters seldom had more than five enslaved people and many had only one or two.

Worksheet made by Maria Veloz and Camila Sánchez.

a - READING COMPREHENSION

Read the text below and answer the following questions:

1. When was the first colony founded?
   a. It was founded in 1776
   b. It was founded in 1607

2. Virginia was the largest and most populous colony. Many of these people were farmers or planters…
   a. who lived and worked on small farms.
   b. that lived in small Virginia towns.

3. Which was the origin from Virginian slaves?
   a. they were American
   b. they came from Africa.

4. Which were the tools that farmers pretend to buy, while sending the crops?
   a. the steam engine.
   b. livestock and household goods.

5. Why farmers started growing other crops?
   a. because they did not deplete the nutrients of the soil and were in great demand in Europe.
   b. because growing tobacco was too expensive.

6. How many acres of tobacco could cultivate each additional enslave worker?
   a. between 1 to 2 acres.
   b. between 2 to 3 acres.

b- VOCABULARY.

Match the word with its' meaning.

a. Colony		the plant or the product of a plant.
b. Acres		to put into slavery.
c. Enslave		a group of people who leave their native country in order to form a settlement in a new land.
d. Crop		to decrease seriously.
e. Deplete		a common variable unit of land.

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c- LISTENING ACTIVITY.

Watch the informative video about the 13 American Colonies and fill in the blanks in each sentence. One word for each space.
Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vd0fMpAls1s



1. There are _____ states in the United States of America but many years ago there were only _____.

2. In the early 1600s, English settlers came to America seeking _____ from British rulers.

3. English settlers founded Virginia, the first American _____ in 1607. Settlers for many different nations continued to form colonies for many years.



4. The 13th colony, _____, was founded in _____.

5. American colonies were divided into three _____. The New England colonies, the Middle colonies and the Southern colonies. Each region had a different way of _____.

6. The New England colonies were good for _____ and fur trading but there was very little _____.

7. The Middle colonies were better for growing _____ and raising _____ animals.



8. People in the Southern colonies made money from cash crops such as _____ and _____. Cash crops were grown for the purpose of selling.

9. After the revolutionary war, colonies started to become _____.

10. Colonies got independence to start a new _____.

Bibliography

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- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vd0fMpAls1s