Grade 6 Louisiana Social Studies

Anne Hutchinson



The Exploration and Settlement of North America

Reader



Pocahontas



New Amsterdam

Colony of Quebec



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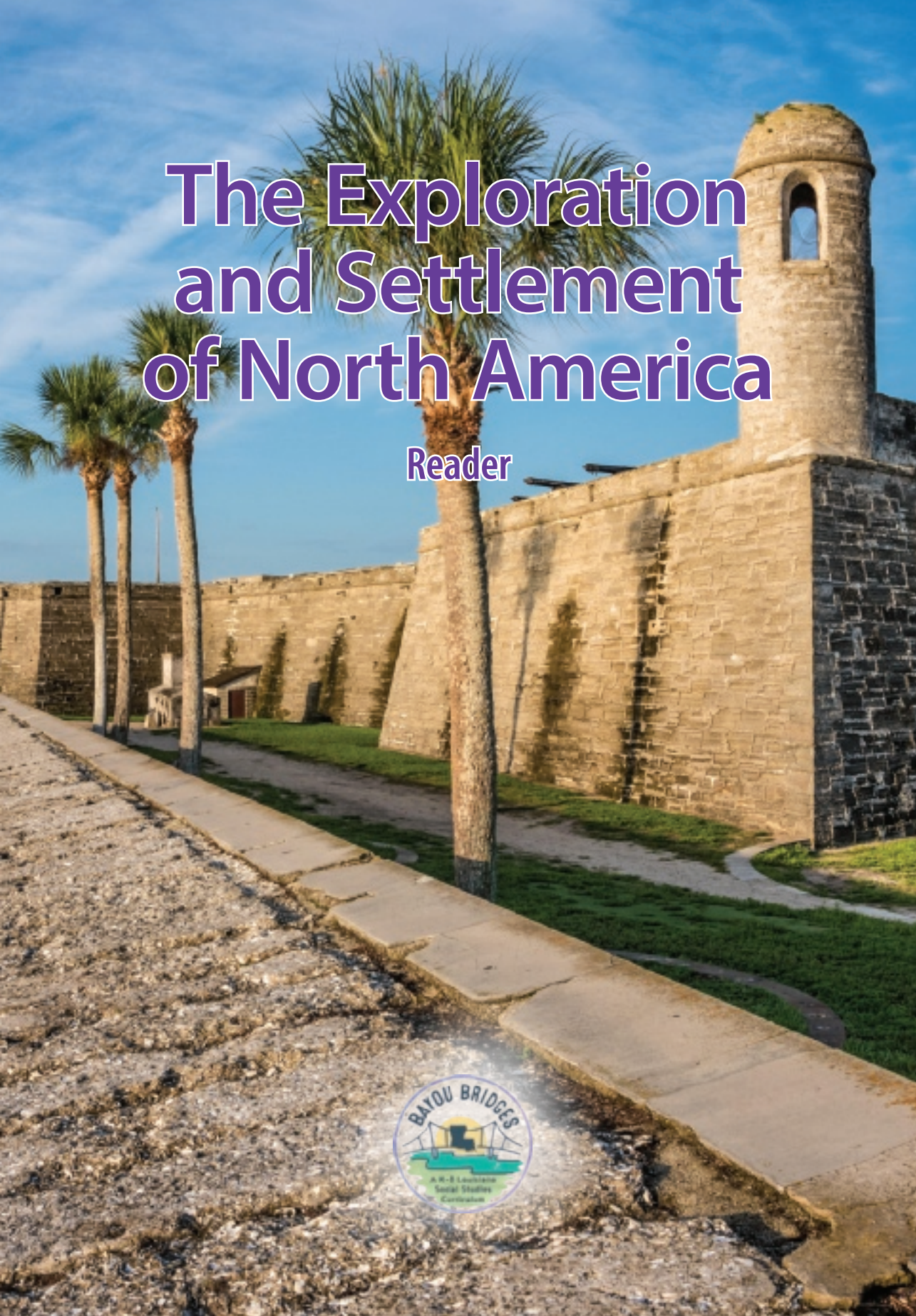
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Reader



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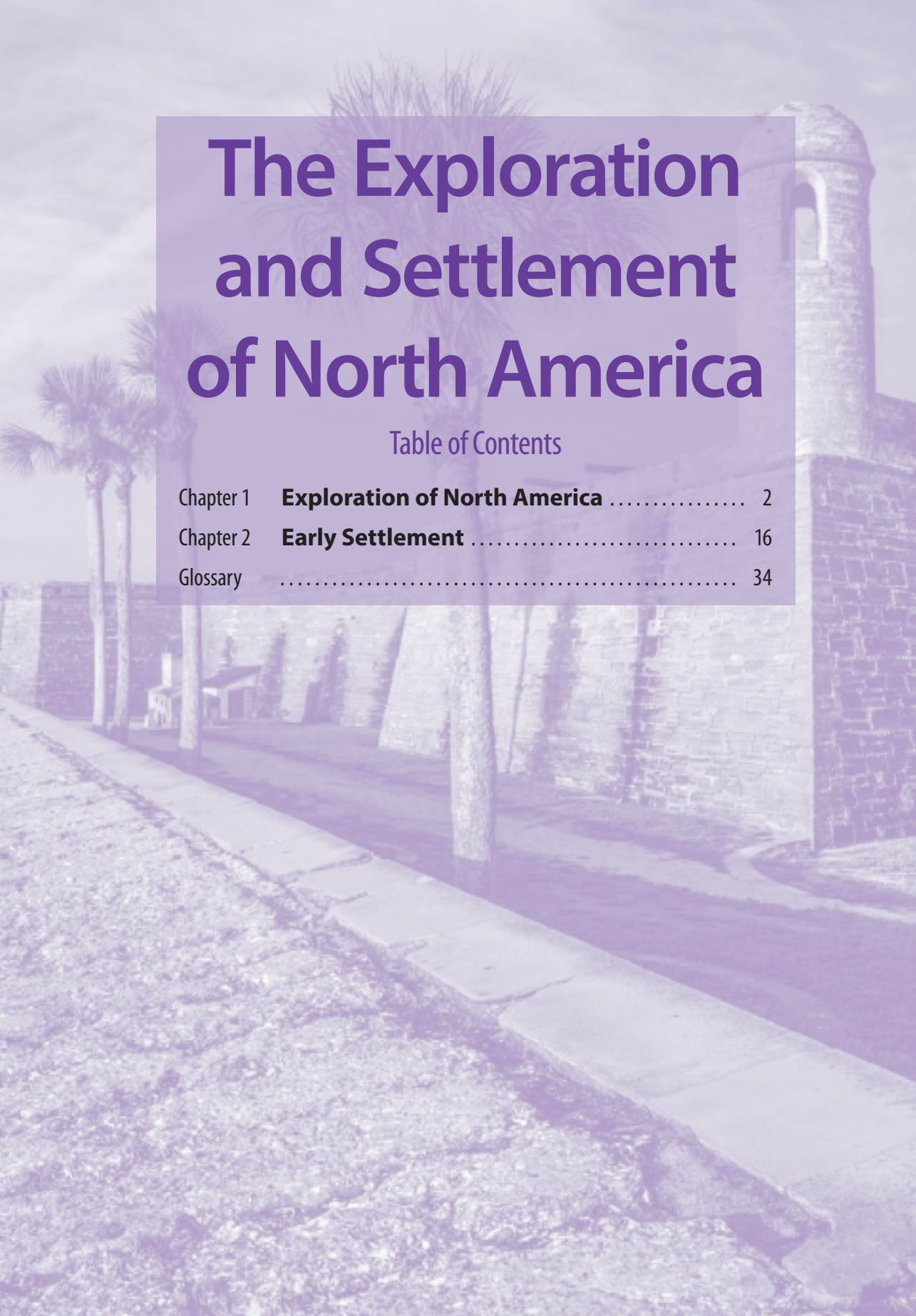
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ISBN: 979-8-88970-039-5



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Chapter 1
Exploration of North America

A Widening World History can be changed by many things, from battles and elections to natural disasters and new inventions. But did you know that simple goods, like peppercorns and cinnamon sticks, contributed to new exploration of the Americas—and the founding of the thirteen American colonies? In the Middle Ages, people in Europe relied on spices to flavor food and keep it fresh. But spices came from faraway places, making them hard to get and expensive. The desire for cheaper goods helped to spark the Age of Exploration. Eventually, this brought Europeans to North America, where they hoped to find a better route to Asia and the spices that originated there.

The Framing Question

What were the motivations that drove the exploration of North America?

Vocabulary

agrarian, adj. relying chiefly on agriculture and farming

monetary economy, n. a system of trade for goods and services that uses money rather than barter, or an exchange of goods

currency, n. a system of money

During the Age of Exploration, Europe was in the process of changing from an **agrarian** society to a **monetary economy**. **Currency** was used to trade goods. Trade relations began to expand between Europe and other parts of the world. Trading became



The search for a faster, more direct way to trade for spices like cinnamon and peppercorns eventually brought European explorers to North America.

more reliable, and traffic increased along trade routes. As time went on, more and more goods were traded between Europe and other places.

European powers began experimenting with unfamiliar ocean routes in their quest to find a faster way to reach Asia. Some of the earliest voyages led the Spanish and Portuguese to South America and the Caribbean, where they claimed land. Soon, more and more European explorers turned their attention to North America. On that continent, they hoped to find gold, other valuable natural resources, and a shortcut to Asia.

The Portuguese and the New World

As you may recall, the Portuguese focused their attention on Africa, India, the East Indies, and the Spice Islands. However, in order to avoid any conflict between Spain and Portugal in the Americas, an agreement known as the Treaty of Tordesillas was drawn up. The treaty divided the New World along a north-to-south line in the Atlantic Ocean and allowed the Portuguese to claim land east of this line and the Spanish to claim land west of the line. This essentially allowed the Portuguese to colonize what is today Brazil.

The Spanish Explore North America

Christopher Columbus, sailing for Spain, landed on the Caribbean island of Hispaniola in October 1492 CE. Columbus had been trying to reach the East Indies (present-day Indonesia). Though he failed to reach that destination, his landfall in the Caribbean—and his later voyages throughout the region—led to the continued expansion of Spanish territory in the Americas.

Between 1495 and 1535 CE, Spanish *conquistadors*, or conquerors, gained control of South and Central America, with Vasco Núñez de Balboa and Francisco Pizarro exploring Panama and reaching the Pacific Ocean. In North America, Spanish explorer Juan Ponce de León made several expeditions

to find a mythical "Fountain of Youth." De León had originally arrived in the Americas while sailing with Columbus and became determined to locate the spring that was said to cure illness and make the elderly young again. He was not successful and was fatally wounded in what is now Florida, which he claimed for Spain in 1513 CE, just before his death.

This claim would lay the foundation for future Spanish exploration in the area, including that of Pedro Menéndez de Avilés. A Spanish naval officer eager to find gold in Florida, de Avilés set sail in July 1565 CE with animals, seed, farming tools, and one thousand men. Heavy rain during hurricane season made the voyage difficult, but de Avilés did not abandon his course. After four weeks, he reached Florida and established a Spanish base called St. Augustine. He used this base to attack and destroy the nearby French colony of Fort Caroline. The Spanish colony built around the fort at St. Augustine is the oldest European settlement in North America that still exists today.

Throughout the 1500s CE, Spanish explorers continued to chart the coast of what is now the southern United States. In 1519 CE, Alonso Álvarez de Pineda drew the first map of the Gulf Coast region, stretching from Texas to Florida. In 1539 CE, Hernando de Soto, an explorer inspired by Ponce de León's earlier travels, also landed in Florida. He crossed the Mississippi River, hoping to find gold and other treasures. De Soto may have been





Castillo de San Marcos, a fort built by the Spanish to defend their recently claimed territory, still stands in St. Augustine, Florida, today. Spanish masons and an enslaved Indigenous workforce built it with blocks of limestone.

the first European to see the "big waters," as Indigenous peoples referred to the river. De Soto explored the interior of the continent, but he never found the riches he was seeking. Eventually, he died from yellow fever, an infection caused by a virus spread by mosquitoes. The Indigenous peoples he encountered during his explorations suffered as well, with large numbers dying from warfare and diseases spread to them by the Spanish. Many others were enslaved.

Other Spanish explorers searched for gold in the present-day American Southwest, converting Indigenous peoples to Catholicism as they took their land. Farther south in Mexico, explorer Juan de Oñate became rich by mining gold. He was sent by the Spanish monarchy to find the mythical cities of Cíbola, where the streets were supposedly paved with gold. De Oñate failed to find the cities, treating the Indigenous people so cruelly during his search that he was recalled to Spain and stripped of his title.



Hernando de Soto's expedition began in Florida and ended in present-day Louisiana. The expedition covered over four thousand miles (6,437 km) and lasted four years.

France and the Search for the Northwest Passage

Back in Europe, the French had heard about the wealth the Spanish were gaining from exploring the Americas. Now France was determined to find riches of its own. In 1524 CE, the French government hired the Italian sailor Giovanni da Verrazzano to find the **Northwest Passage**. Europeans had long believed that there was a quicker and more efficient sea route from Europe to Asia. They predicted there was a river passage between the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean that would allow ships to avoid having to sail around the southern tip of South America. Ships would instead follow rivers right across the North American continent, giving European powers better access to the spices and other valuable resources of Asia. Verrazzano sailed along the North American coast and claimed land, but he did not find gold or the Northwest Passage.

Vocabulary

Northwest Passage, n. an imagined river passage through North America that Europeans believed would make travel between Europe and Asia faster and more efficient

The French then hired Jacques Cartier, who explored the eastern coast of present-day Canada. Cartier sailed through the Gulf of St. Lawrence and the St. Lawrence River in the mid-1500s CE. He too failed to find the Northwest Passage or gold, which France was also eager to discover. However, Cartier did claim the land around the Gulf of St. Lawrence for France.

During the 1600s, the French developed a successful fur trade with the Indigenous peoples of Canada. French traders established relatively good relationships with the Huron-Wendat, Innu, and Algonquin. They traded European goods, such as tools and weapons, for beaver and other animal furs.

French explorer Samuel de Champlain became friends with the Algonquin and Huron. In 1608, Champlain founded the city of Quebec (present-day Quebec City) as a fur-trading center. The city's increasing wealth was tied to the busy French fur trade as demand grew for fashionable fur hats and clothing in Europe. Indigenous peoples were skilled in trapping and hunting animals.

They were also skilled negotiators, forcing the French to pay a high price for valuable beaver pelts.

The French were dependent on these Indigenous fur traders and established trading posts throughout Canada and the Great Lakes region. At trading posts, Indigenous peoples obtained European products such as weapons and metal goods. These once-unfamiliar goods rapidly replaced some of the peoples' traditional materials. In addition, the fur trade led to a sharp **depletion** of Indigenous peoples' natural resources and disrupted their traditional way of life.

Vocabulary

depletion, n. reduction in quantity

The fur trade spurred short-term economic growth. But it also led to tensions and conflicts among the French, other Europeans, and Indigenous peoples. Indeed, the fur trade would become a key factor in the French and Indian War as the French and Indigenous groups fought against the British in large part for control of the wealth generated by the region's furs.

By the 1670s, the French had ventured farther south and west in North America. And in 1673, Father Jacques Marquette and Louis Jolliet set off on



French explorer Samuel de Champlain founded the colony of Quebec in 1608. It grew into the second-oldest European city in North America to be continuously occupied.



Today, a statue of Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville stands in the city he founded over three hundred years ago.

a voyage to explore the North American interior. By 1674, they had explored thousands of miles along the Mississippi River. The French built settlements along the river.

In 1718, a French explorer named Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne de Bienville founded the settlement of New Orleans in present-day Louisiana. New Orleans would grow into a French colonial capital city—and an important center of trade and culture in the region. Early French explorers laid the foundation for the settlement and development of the Gulf Coast region, the claiming of which would later become an important part of the history of the United States.

Other Nations Join the Search

The failure of France to locate the Northwest Passage did not prevent numerous other European explorations of the Arctic region and North America. In particular, the British and Dutch remained committed to finding the route in the 1600s and 1700s. In 1609, the Dutch East India Company hired English explorer

Henry Hudson in the hope he would succeed where others had failed. Hudson set out from Norway and traveled northward. But the voyage became more difficult as his ship, the *Half Moon*, encountered ice and cold weather. Hudson planned to chart a course that would take him over the North Pole to the Malay **Archipelago**. Instead, he turned west.

Vocabulary

archipelago, n. a chain of islands

Hudson traveled down the Atlantic coast of North America. He claimed the land at the mouth of the present-day Hudson River for the Netherlands. Sailing up the river excitedly, he thought he had finally found the passage. But after reaching present-day Albany, New York, the shallow river made it clear that it did not lead to the Pacific Ocean. Hudson returned to Europe.

The next year, Hudson returned to North America on an English ship called the *Discovery*. This time, he headed north and discovered a huge bay, which he mistook for the Pacific Ocean. But the ship got caught in ice, and winter came quickly. The crew began to turn on each other, resulting in



Henry Hudson's second trip to North America ended with a mutiny by his crew.

a **mutiny**. The mutineers forced Hudson, his sons, and a few loyal sailors onto a small boat and left them behind. They were never seen or heard from again.

Hudson may be famous for his voyages, but he was just one in a long line of explorers who looked for the **elusive** Northwest Passage. In the 1700s, frustrated by their inability to locate the route, the British offered a monetary reward to anyone who could find it. Many expeditions were launched,

Vocabulary

mutiny, n. the rebellion of a ship's crew against the captain

elusive, adj. difficult to locate

Henry Hudson's Voyages in North America



Henry Hudson did not find the Northwest Passage, but he did sail to present-day Albany, New York, along a river later named for him. Hudson claimed the region for the Netherlands, later sailing north of there for England.

including those by James Cook and George Vancouver. Cook explored the west coast of North America but was unsuccessful in finding a passage through. Vancouver mapped the northwest coast in detail and confirmed there was no easy passage south of the Bering Strait, the narrow waterway between the continents of Asia and North America.

New Amsterdam

In the early seventeenth century, Dutch merchants wanted to expand their trading operations and profit from the land that Henry Hudson had claimed for the Netherlands during his 1609 voyage. In 1614, merchants formed the New Netherland Company, which primarily traded in furs. They built a trading post called Fort Orange in present-day Albany, New York. This city became a center for the fur trade in the region. Despite the success of this trade, few colonists relocated to the area. Many in the Netherlands were not interested in leaving their homeland. Additionally, harsh weather and difficult living conditions in the wilderness of North America made colonization even less appealing.

In 1626, the Dutch West India Company took over and acquired Manhattan Island from the Indigenous people who lived there. There, the company built a town called New Amsterdam. While the town grew slowly, it remained a center for trade and commerce, attracting colonists from other European countries. However, with the British growing increasingly powerful, the Dutch government was not willing to defend the colony if it came at a high cost. In 1664, a small fleet of English warships took over the colony without much resistance. The English changed the name of the city from New Amsterdam to New York. With this takeover, Dutch efforts to colonize North America officially came to an end. Nevertheless, the legacy of the Dutch in New York can still be seen today in many aspects of American culture, from names to architecture and food.

The Impact of Settlement on Indigenous Peoples

As with Quebec and New Amsterdam, Europeans often established colonies when they discovered new lands. As people settled in a place, they soon

exploited the region's natural resources and constructed trading posts for these resources and other goods. This process contributed to the European domination and colonization of large parts of North America—and it had an enormous negative impact on Indigenous peoples already living on the continent.



Located in present-day New York City, the town of New Amsterdam was renamed New York when the English took control of it in 1664.

As you have read, the French fur trade permanently influenced centuries-old cultural traditions of Indigenous groups in present-day Canada and along the Mississippi River. The Dutch acquisition of Manhattan Island changed the life of the people who had long lived there. The land claims of other European countries were also harmful to Indigenous peoples.

Sweden claimed land along the Delaware River in the mid-1600s, establishing a colony known as New Sweden. The Swedish built good relationships with the Lenape people, but their presence attracted other European powers, who began competing for control of the area. This led to tensions and conflicts between the Lenape and European settlers, and the colony was eventually taken over by the Dutch. Although the Swedish colonial presence in North America was short-lived, its long-term impact on the Indigenous population was important. Huge numbers of Indigenous peoples, including the Lenape, died after catching smallpox and other European-borne diseases.

Much farther north, Russia claimed present-day Alaska in 1741 and established a colony for fur trading. The Russians traded with the native Tlingit people, but their presence disrupted local fishing and hunting patterns and led to conflicts. They often forced Indigenous peoples to work in the fur trade and conducted raids on their villages, killing and enslaving them.

PRIMARY SOURCE: FROM THOMAS HARIOT'S *A BRIEF AND TRUE REPORT OF THE NEW FOUND LAND OF VIRGINIA* (1590)

Thomas Hariot was a mathematician, scientist, and language expert who helped organize the first Roanoke expedition. Although the colony failed, Hariot returned to England with a wealth of information about Virginia and its Indigenous inhabitants, which he published in his A Brief and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia.

It rests I speak a word or two of the natural inhabitants, their natures and manners, . . . how that they in respect of troubling our inhabiting and planting, are not to be feared; but that they shall have cause both to fear and love us, that shall inhabit with them.

They are a people clothed with loose mantles made of deer skins . . . having no edge tools or weapons of iron or steel to offend us with, neither know they how to make any. Those weapons they have are only bows made of witch hazel and arrows of reeds. . . .

Their towns are but small and near the sea coast but few, some containing but 10 or 12 houses; some 20; the greatest that we have seen has been but of 30 houses. If they be walled, it is only done with barks of trees made fast to stakes or else with poles only fixed upright and close one by another. . . .

Notwithstanding in their proper manner considering the want of such means as we have, they seem very ingenious; For although they have no such tools, nor any such crafts, sciences and arts as we; yet in those things they do, they show excellence of wit. And by how much they upon due consideration shall find our manner of knowledge and crafts to exceed theirs in perfection, and speed for doing or execution, by so much the more is it probable that they should desire our friendships and love, and have the greater respect for pleasing and obeying us. Whereby may be hoped if means of good government be used, that they may in short time be brought to civility, and the embracing of true religion.

Source: Hariot, Thomas. *A Brief and True Report of the New Found Land of Virginia*. A Facsimile Edition of the 1588 Quarto. Ann Arbor: Clements Library Associates, 1951, pp. 58–60.

PRIMARY SOURCE: THE MISSISSIPPI VOYAGE OF JOLLIET AND MARQUETTE (1673)

Louis Jolliet, an explorer born near Quebec, and Father Jacques Marquette, a Catholic priest, traveled by canoe down the Mississippi River in 1673. In this excerpt describing part of their journey, they have just passed the Ohio River and encountered a group of Indigenous people.

While drifting down with the current, . . . we perceived on land some savages armed with guns, who awaited us. . . . I spoke to them in Huron, but they answered me by a word which seemed to me a declaration of war against us. However, they were as frightened as we were and what we took for a signal for battle was an invitation that they gave us to draw near, that they might give us food. We therefore landed, and entered their cabins, where they offered us meat from wild cattle [bison] and bear's grease, with white plums, which are very good. They have guns, hatchets, hoes, knives, beads, and flasks of double glass, in which they put their [gun]powder. . . . They assured us that we were no more than ten days' journey from the sea . . . .

This news animated our courage, and made us paddle with fresh ardor [enthusiasm]. We thus push forward, and no longer see so many prairies, because both shores of the river are bordered with lofty trees. The cottonwood, elm, and basswood trees there are admirable for their height and thickness. The great numbers of wild cattle, which we heard bellowing, led us to believe that the prairies are near.

Source: Marquette, Jacques. "The Mississippi Voyage of Joliet and Marquette, 1673." In *Early Narratives of the Northwest, 1634–1699*. Edited by Louise Kellogg. New York: C. Scribner's Sons, 1917, pp. 251–252.

Chapter 2
Early Settlement

The Framing Question

What effect did Europeans have on the area of North America recognized as the American colonies?

Settling in North America Now that the English had begun exploring North America, they began establishing their own colonies there. They wished for these colonies to be as prosperous as Spain's colonies in South America. So in 1585 CE, Sir Walter Raleigh established the first English colony in North America. Raleigh sent a group of men to Roanoke Island, off the coast of present-day North Carolina. But the colonists were discouraged by how difficult it was to live there. They returned to England.

In 1587 CE, Raleigh sent a second group to the island. This time, women and children traveled with the men. It is believed that at first things went well. But in 1590 CE, a supply ship reached the colony and found that everyone had disappeared. Today the colony that Raleigh founded is remembered as the "Lost Colony."

In 1606, King James I gave some merchants a charter to found two colonies in America. The merchants teamed up to form a joint-stock company called the Virginia Company. Investors bought shares, or pieces, of the company to help with the costs—and therefore share the profits. The Virginia Company had big goals. It wanted to make money for its shareholders and for the English government. It also wanted to convert Indigenous people to Christianity.



The colony of Jamestown was the first permanent English settlement in the Americas.

In 1607, the Virginia Company sent a hundred men and boys to North America on three small ships. The four-month sea journey was rough. The travelers landed at Chesapeake Bay, a body of water reaching from present-day Virginia to Maryland. To avoid the Spanish, the English colonists moved about forty miles (64 km) inland. Along a river, they built a settlement they named James Fort, in honor of their king. James Fort later became Jamestown. The settlement was located on a low-lying island surrounded by marshes teeming with mosquitoes carrying malaria. Jamestown's first residents had hoped to find riches by discovering gold in North America. Instead, they soon found disease and drought.

Jamestown

Early English colonists in Jamestown struggled to grow and find enough food to eat. Many had little experience with farming. Food shortages were common, and mosquitoes brought serious disease. The colonists were also hampered by the fact that the water supply was contaminated. Soon the arrival of even more settlers further reduced the colony's food supply.

At the same time, the colonists learned that their presence was not welcomed by the Powhatan people, on whose land they had built Jamestown. The Powhatan lived in villages under the rule of a chief named Wahunsenacawh. When they discovered a group of colonists stealing their corn for food, they killed them.



Pocahontas's relationship with the English settlers at Jamestown and her marriage to John Rolfe brought several years of peace between the settlers and the Powhatan. Pocahontas and John had a baby named Thomas. They later moved to England. Pocahontas died there at the age of twenty-eight.

But Jamestown would survive. This was due in large part to Captain John Smith, who became the colony's leader. Smith made peace with the Powhatan with the help of Pocahontas, the chief's daughter.

As leader of the colony, Smith established strict rules about work. And he was willing to punish those who stole corn from the Powhatan. He is famous for saying, "He that will not work, shall not eat," referencing a sentence from the Bible. All the colonists were expected to do their share of work and farming. Smith's rules saved the colony from starvation. In 1609, John Smith was injured in a fire and had to step down as Jamestown's leader. The colony once again suffered from food shortages and increased attacks by the Powhatan. Harsh winter weather was an additional challenge. Colonists faced starvation and death, soon eating any available animals and even leather shoes. The winter of 1609–10 is now referred to as the Starving Time.

Women and children first arrived in Jamestown in 1608. Many more came to the colony over the next few years. The Virginia Company created a campaign to recruit single females to the colony, where they would become wives of settlers already living there. In May and June of 1620, ninety women sailed to Virginia from England. This was a significant development for the colony because it helped establish families and a more stable, long-term community.

Jamestown's Economy and Government

Tobacco also changed life in Jamestown. The plant had been grown both by local Indigenous people and in the Caribbean for years. Around the time Jamestown was developing, people in Europe were starting to enjoy smoking. In 1614, John Rolfe brought Caribbean tobacco plants to Jamestown as a new crop to farm. After that, many colonists started growing it as a **cash crop**. Jamestown sold a large amount of tobacco to Europe over the years.

Vocabulary

cash crop, n. a crop that is grown to be sold



As people realized the value of tobacco as a crop, the need for land and workers grew.

While tobacco was profitable, it was also a challenging crop to grow. Many workers were needed to grow and harvest it. At first, the colonists tried to enslave Indigenous people, forcing them to work. However, many died of the diseases they caught from the Europeans. The colonists then recruited workers using a system called **indentured servitude**. People were given free passage to America if they agreed to work with no pay when they arrived. After a few years, the unpaid laborers would then receive their own pieces of land.

Vocabulary

indentured servitude, n. a system in which a person agrees to work for an employer for a certain amount of time in exchange for training or payment in land or goods at the end of the agreed time period

Most of these workers were people from Ireland or England seeking a better life. Landowners indentured only the strongest and healthiest young men and women. Even though it was hard work, many indentured servants did eventually become successful in America. In 1629, seven people who were once indentured servants served in the Virginia legislature. Fifteen served in the Maryland Assembly several years later. For many Europeans, the promise of land in North America was worth the hard work and sacrifice.

As the earliest successful English colony in North America, Jamestown achieved many firsts. Many of these played a crucial role in the development of the other American colonies. One of Jamestown's most significant accomplishments was the establishment of America's first representative assembly, the House of **Burgesses**. While only male landowners could be elected members, the assembly did pave the way for democratic governance throughout the English colonies in North America.

Private ownership of land in Jamestown also marked an important step toward **capitalism**. Each free male was given three acres of land and encouraged to provide for himself and his family. As colonists acquired more land, they needed more people to work the land. As a result, they turned to enslaved Africans who were brought to the colonies by the Dutch to work as laborers on large **plantations**. The first Africans arrived in Jamestown in 1619. As the number of enslaved people grew in the colonies, slavery became a key part of the economic system. It allowed landowners to build their wealth at the cost of oppressing enslaved people. The institution of slavery persisted in America for centuries. And as you will soon learn, the slave trade was one side of a lucrative trading triangle. Sadly, as a result of this trade triangle, millions of Africans were enslaved and transported to the Americas.

Vocabulary

burgess, n. a representative to the legislature in colonial Virginia and Maryland

capitalism, n. an economic system in which resources and businesses are privately owned and prices are not controlled by the government

plantation, n. a large farm where one or more crops are grown by a large number of laborers, then sold for a profit by the plantation owner

Bacon's Rebellion

Jamestown contributed to and shaped British colonial social, economic, and political systems in North America. These would ultimately lead to the formation of the United States. However, the constant flow of new settlers

to the region also created tension between settlers and Indigenous peoples. This led to conflicts over land.

As indentured servitude contracts ended, settlers began moving farther and farther west of Jamestown into the larger area known today as Virginia. This resulted in increased conflict with the Indigenous peoples already living in the region. These groups sometimes attacked the settlers claiming Indigenous land. In response to this resistance, a number of conflicts occurred. This series of conflicts is known as Bacon's Rebellion, named after Nathaniel Bacon, the leader of a militia group who carried out raids on Indigenous peoples in an attempt to drive them off of their land.

Virginia Governor William Berkeley hoped to avoid more violence between settlers and Indigenous peoples. He urged Bacon's followers to stop their attacks in the interest of peace and the valuable trading relationships many colonists maintained with local Indigenous groups. Berkeley also ordered the construction of new forts, but settlers resented paying the taxes that would fund the forts.

Nathaniel Bacon was not happy with Governor Berkeley's plans. And the governor was not happy with Bacon, declaring him a rebel. In 1676, Bacon and a number of angry colonists marched to the capital of Jamestown and burned the town's buildings. Fighting between colonists and Indigenous peoples and between Bacon's militia and Berkeley's government continued until Bacon died in October 1676.



Bacon's Rebellion resulted in several confrontations between Nathaniel Bacon's followers and Virginia Governor Sir William Berkeley.

Bacon's Rebellion marked a turning point in colonial history. Many of Bacon's followers were poor and formerly indentured servants. Some historians believe this may have made farmers reluctant to continue to use indentured servants and contributed to the growth of slavery in the colonies.

Plymouth

While some colonies, like Virginia and those in the Carolinas and Georgia, were established as economic centers, New England colonies were founded for religious reasons. Early colonists in New England wanted to build religious sanctuaries, or safe places, for people escaping **persecution** in England.

In 1620, a group of English people known as Pilgrims, sometimes called Separatists, boarded a ship called the *Mayflower* in England. After a long sea voyage, they landed in Plymouth in present-day Massachusetts. They were in search of a place where they could worship the way that they thought was correct, separate from the Church of England. Thirty-five of the Pilgrims had previously tried to establish a community in Leiden, the Netherlands. Although they found religious freedom in Leiden, they wanted to build a new community of their own in America. About seventy other people traveled with them.

Vocabulary

persecution, n. the cruel and unfair treatment of a group of people

Mayflower Compact, n. an agreement for self-government signed by the Pilgrims on the ship *Mayflower*

The **Mayflower Compact** was an agreement created by the Pilgrims. It stated that they would form their own government and agree to follow its laws in their new homeland. The Pilgrims settled in an abandoned village that used to be inhabited by Wampanoag, a local Indigenous people. The village turned out to be essential to the survival of the Pilgrims. They named their hillside colony Plymouth, after the English town their ship had sailed from. The first house they built was called the common house, which was initially used as a shelter and a place to store tools. Later, it was used as a place of worship and became the center of the village.



This painting depicts what the signing of the Mayflower Compact may have looked like. The agreement established a framework for government in the Plymouth colony.

Like the colonists in Jamestown, the Pilgrims in Plymouth struggled. They were already weak from their voyage. They faced famine, disease, and harsh weather. The first winter was brutal, and nearly half of the group died during the first year, including most of the married women. However, the luck of the colony changed with the arrival of spring. An Indigenous man named Samoset visited Plymouth. The Pilgrims were astonished that he spoke English. Later, he returned to the colony with other men, including Massasoit, the chief of the Wampanoag. He also brought Squanto, who was Pawtuxet and also fluent in English. Squanto, whose name at birth was Tisquantum, had been taken to England by fishermen before his people were killed by disease.

The Pilgrims and the group of Indigenous people ate and drank together and exchanged gifts. Governor John Carver of Plymouth, a fellow Pilgrim named Edward Winslow, and Massasoit negotiated a peace treaty that lasted

fifty-four years. After the others departed, Squanto stayed behind to help the Pilgrims plant crops. He also showed them where to fish and how to identify nuts and berries that were safe to eat.



The celebration of thanksgiving between the Wampanoag and the Pilgrims lasted three days.

When Governor Carver died, the Pilgrims chose William Bradford as the new governor of Plymouth. He held this position for the next thirty-five years. Bradford was careful to maintain friendly relations with the local Indigenous people. In 1621, he sent men to hunt turkey and organize a community feast of thanksgiving. Many Wampanoag also attended. This Thanksgiving feast has become part of American tradition, commemorating a time when the Pilgrims shared a meal with the Wampanoag and gave thanks to God for their survival.

King Philip's War (1675–78)

Armed conflict did eventually break out between the colonists in New England and a confederation of Indigenous tribes, led by the Wampanoag. As more and more colonists arrived and more and more Indigenous land was lost, tensions grew until they finally boiled over into a bloody war. The Indigenous confederation was led by the younger son of Massasoit, Metacom, also known as Philip. Indigenous people raided settlements and set fire to homes, and the colonists retaliated. In the end, the Wampanoag were almost completely wiped out.

Massachusetts Bay Colony

The Puritans, another religious group, arrived in New England in 1630. They wanted to build "a city on a hill." In other words, they wanted to create a model Christian society. Like the Pilgrims, the Puritans had struggled with laws in England that required them to be members of the Church of England.

The Puritans landed not far from the Pilgrims, ten years after the Plymouth colony was founded. They were a group of English Protestants who wanted to cleanse the Church of England from what they saw as corrupt Catholic practices. Many Puritans believed in predestination, the idea that God decides people's fate before they are even born. They also believed that people should work hard and live a simple and pious life devoted to God. When Puritans began to migrate to North America in the 1600s, they wanted to create a society based on their religious beliefs. They established the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Ministers were appointed as government officials, and laws were based on the Bible and Puritan beliefs.

John Winthrop was the colony's first governor. He wrote a pamphlet of rules called *A Modell of Christian Charity*. It stressed hard work, clean living, and faith in God. The Puritans believed in teaching everyone, boys and girls alike, to read and write. They believed it was important that everyone be able to read the Bible for themselves. The Puritans established the first schools for children in America and even founded the first college, Harvard, in 1636.

Despite leaving England due to religious differences, the Puritan leaders did not practice religious tolerance. They punished and executed people with different religious beliefs. They also believed that the role of government was to promote God's will—and prevent what Puritan leaders considered immoral behavior. This belief resulted in the creation of laws that banned practices such as gambling, attending the theater, and drinking alcohol. The Puritans also believed in individual freedom as long as it supported the community's interests. This particular belief helped lay the

groundwork for the idea of the common good in American government and society.

Not everyone who lived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony agreed with all of the colony's laws. This included Anne Hutchinson, who spoke out against some of the Puritans' religious beliefs. She was the wife of a successful merchant and hosted Bible studies in her home. Hutchinson discussed sermons with both men and women. This was shocking to the Puritan leaders since they did not allow women to be leaders. Hutchinson gained a large following and was known for her expertise on religious topics, which threatened the authority of Puritan leaders. As a result, these officials **banished** her from the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1638.



Anne Hutchinson was banished from Massachusetts because she was regarded as a threat to the colony's leaders.

Vocabulary

banish, v. to require by law to leave a place

Roger Williams was a Puritan leader who also drew the attention of the colony's officials. Williams was a minister in Massachusetts in 1631. However, he publicly disagreed with certain Puritan rules and was ordered to return to England. Instead, Williams escaped the colony. In 1636, he founded Providence, which would become the colony of Rhode Island. The colony was the first to allow complete religious freedom, and Anne Hutchinson would become one of its first residents.



Today, a statue of Roger Williams overlooks the city of Providence, Rhode Island.

Pennsylvania

The area between the New England English colonies and the southern English colony of Maryland was home to the Middle Colonies. Among these Middle Colonies was Pennsylvania. William Penn was a town planner and lawyer who believed everyone should have the right to worship freely. In 1681, the king of England gave Penn a signed charter to found Pennsylvania, a colony where people who shared Penn's Quaker religious beliefs would have religious freedom. Penn wanted his colony to be a place where Quakers and



This painting shows William Penn signing a treaty with Indigenous peoples in the Pennsylvania colony.

other religious groups could live together in harmony. Originally, he named the colony Sylvania. However, King Charles renamed the colony Pennsylvania in honor of Penn's father. This name means "Penn's Woods." Penn wrote booklets to advertise his colony that highlighted the beauty of the land and promised religious freedom for all who made their home there.

People from all over Europe came to Pennsylvania. Many could afford to buy farmland. And trade was prosperous there too. People were also attracted to the colony because it maintained peaceful relations with Indigenous groups.

The land in Pennsylvania was perfect for farming. Farmers sold their crops in the city of Philadelphia, which had become a busy port and trading center. Ships loaded with flour, grains, and dried fruit sailed from Philadelphia to other ports in the colonies and across the Atlantic Ocean to England and Europe, making it a significant trading hub. This economic success helped create many different jobs, such as farmer, baker, blacksmith, toolmaker, tailor, glassmaker, teacher, printer, bookseller, and lawyer.



Many skilled people of various occupations worked in Philadelphia.

As Philadelphia grew, the city built paved streets, raised sidewalks, curbs, and lamps that burned whale oil at night. It was home to several American firsts, such as the first hospital, the first museum, and the first public library. Philadelphia became the largest city in the thirteen colonies and the unofficial capital of the colonies. By the late 1700s, it was the second-largest English-speaking city in the world, after London.

The English Colonies



The English colonies were divided into three regions. Massachusetts was in the New England region, Pennsylvania was in the Middle Colonies, and Virginia was in the Southern Colonies.

PRIMARY SOURCE: FROM JOHN SMITH'S *THE GENERALL HISTORIE OF VIRGINIA*

In 1608, John Smith assumed leadership of Jamestown. Soon after, he made the following announcement.

Countrymen, the long experience of our late miseries, I hope is sufficient to persuade every one to a present correction of himself, and think not that either my pains, nor the Adventurers purses, will ever maintain you in idleness and sloth. I speak not this to you all, for diverse of you I know deserve both honour and reward, better then is yet here to be had: but the greater part must be more industrious, or starve, how ever you have been heretofore tolerated by the authority of the Council, from that I have often commanded you. You see now that power rests wholly in myself: you must obey this now for a Law, that he that will not work shall not eat (except by sickness he be disabled:) for the labours of thirty or forty honest and industrious men shall not be consumed to maintain an hundred and fifty idle loiterers. And though you presume the authority here is but a shadow, and that I dare not touch the lives of any but my own must answer it: the Letters patents shall each week be read to you, whose Contents will tell you the contrary. I would wish you therefore without contempt seek to observe these orders set down, for there are now no more Councilors to protect you, nor curb my endeavours. Therefore he that offends, let him assuredly expect his due punishment.

Source: Adapted from Smith, John. *The Generall Historie of Virginia, New England & the Summer Isles: Together with the True Travels, Adventures and Observations, and a Sea Grammar*. Glasgow: J. MacLehose, 1907, pp. 174–175.

PRIMARY SOURCE: THE MAYFLOWER COMPACT

In the name of God, Amen. We, whose names are underwritten, the loyal subjects of our dread Sovereign Lord, King James, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, France and Ireland king, defender of the faith, etc. having undertaken, for the glory of God, and advancement of the Christian faith, and honour of our king and country, a voyage to plant the first colony in the Northern parts of Virginia, doe by these presents solemnly and mutually in the presence of God and one of another, covenant and combine ourselves together into a civil body politick, for our better ordering and preservation, and furtherance of the ends aforesaid; and by virtue hereof to enact, constitute, and frame such just and equal laws, ordinances, acts, constitutions and offices, from time to time, as shall be thought most meet and convenient for the general good of the Colony unto which we promise all due submission and obedience. In witness whereof we have hereunder subscribed our names at Cape-Cod the eleventh of November, in the year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord, King James, of England, France and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth. Anno Domini 1620.

Source: *The Federal and State Constitutions Colonial Charters, and Other Organic Laws of the States, Territories, and Colonies Now or Heretofore Forming the United States of America*. Compiled and Edited Under the Act of Congress of June 30, 1906, by Francis Newton Thorpe. Washington, D.C.: Government Printing Office, 1909, p. 1841.

Glossary

A

agrarian, adj. relying chiefly on agriculture and farming (2)

archipelago, n. a chain of islands (10)

B

banish, v. to require by law to leave a place (27)

burgess, n. a representative to the legislature in colonial Virginia and Maryland (21)

C

capitalism, n. an economic system in which resources and businesses are privately owned and prices are not controlled by the government (21)

cash crop, n. a crop that is grown to be sold (19)

currency, n. a system of money (2)

D

depletion, n. reduction in quantity (8)

E

elusive, adj. difficult to locate (11)

I

indentured servitude, n. a system in which a person agrees to work for an employer for a certain amount of time in exchange for training or payment in land or goods at the end of the agreed time period (20)

M

Mayflower Compact, n. an agreement for self-government signed by the Pilgrims on the ship *Mayflower* (23)

monetary economy, n. a system of trade for goods and services that uses money rather than barter, or an exchange of goods (2)

mutiny, n. the rebellion of a ship's crew against the captain (11)

N

Northwest Passage, n. an imagined river passage through North America that Europeans believed would make travel between Europe and Asia faster and more efficient (7)

P

persecution, n. the cruel and unfair treatment of a group of people (23)

plantation, n. a large farm where one or more crops are grown by a large number of laborers, then sold for a profit by the plantation owner (21)

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