



# THE MIDDLE COLONIES

## LESSON 3



# CONTENT VOCABULARY

1. patroon— landowner in the Dutch colonies who ruled over large areas of land
2. pacifists— people opposed to the use of war or violence to settle disputes



# NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

- In 1660, the English had colonies in New England and in the South (Virginia).
- In between the British colonies was an area called New Netherlands, controlled by the Dutch. The main settlement was called New Amsterdam, and it was located on Manhattan Island. This location combined access to the Hudson River, which linked farms, forests, and furs, to a seaport.
- Because of this, New Amsterdam became a center of shipping.
- To increase the colony's population, the Dutch West India company offered large land grants to anyone who could bring 50 workers.
- These landowners, called **patroons**, ruled like kings with their own courts and laws. Settlers owed their patroons labor and crops.



# NEW NETHERLAND BECOMES NEW YORK

- After seeing the success of the Dutch colony, the Brits insisted they had a right to the land because of Cabot's exploration in the late 1400s, and sent troops to attack New Netherland.
- In 1664, Peter Stuyvesant, the governor of New Netherland, surrendered it to the British without a fight.
- King Charles of England gave it to his brother, the **Duke of York**, who named it for himself.
- For 30 years, New York was a **proprietary colony**—a colony in which an owner owns the land and controls the government.



# NEW NETHERLAND BECOMES NEW YORK

- In 1691, citizens were finally able to elect their legislature.
- By 1683, the population had grown from 8,000 (in 1664) to 12,000, and was one of the fastest growing places in the colonies.
- It also had a diverse population, made up of Dutch, German, Swedish, and Native American people.
- As part of its diverse population, New York had the first Jews to settle in North America.



# FOUNDING NEW JERSEY

- The Duke of York divided his colony and gave the land between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers to **Lord John Berkley** and **Sir George Carteret**. They named this area **New Jersey** after the island of Jersey in the English channel where Carteret was born.
- To attract settlers, they offered land, and religious freedom, trial by jury, and representative assembly.
- Like New York, New Jersey's population was diverse. But unlike New York, New Jersey had no natural harbors and did not develop into a major port city.
- The proprietors of New Jersey made little profits and eventually sold their shares. By 1702, New Jersey was a royal colony, though the colonists continued to make their own laws.



# PENNSYLVANIA AND DELAWARE

- The **Quakers**, a Protestant group who had been persecuted in England, founded Pennsylvania.
- In 1680, **William Penn** received a land grant from King George in payment of a debt. Called “Penn’s Woods,” the new colony was nearly as big as England.
- William Penn decided to use his colony as a “holy experiment,” allowing him to put his Quaker ideals into practice.
- The Quakers believe:
  - Everyone is equal.
  - People can follow their “inner light” rather than the teachings of a religious leader.
- They are also **pacifists**, meaning they refuse to use force or fight in wars.



# PENNSYLVANIA AND DELAWARE

- Penn was a very involved owner.
- In 1682, he sailed to America to oversee the building of Philadelphia, a city he designed himself.
- Penn also wrote Pennsylvania's constitution
- He believed the land belonged to the Native Americans and that the settlers should pay for its use. Because of this belief, he negotiated several treaties with local Native Americans.
- He advertised his colony throughout Europe, causing more than 3,000 settlers to arrive by 1683
- In 1701, he granted colonists the right to elect their representatives.
- Philadelphia quickly became America's most prosperous city and most popular port.



# PENNSYLVANIA AND DELAWARE

- People from Sweden settled in the southern part of Pennsylvania before the Dutch and English.
- Penn allowed these settlements to form their own legislature, allowing them to function as a separate colony they called Delaware.
- Although it functioned as a separate colony, Delaware was still under the authority of Pennsylvania's governor.



# STOP & CHECK

1. How was the colony of New York governed?
2. Why did no major cities develop in New Jersey?
3. What policies of Pennsylvania reflected Quaker beliefs?
4. What was William Penn's main purpose for founding the colony of Pennsylvania?