

The background of the slide is a quilted border with a red and white checkered outer edge and a blue inner band containing white stars.

THE SOUTHERN COLONIES

LESSON 4

CONTENT VOCABULARY

1. indentured servants— laborer who agrees to work without pay for a certain period of time in exchange for passage to America
2. constitution— a list of fundamental laws to support a government
3. debtor— person or country that owes money

COLONIAL LIFE: THE SOUTHERN COLONIES

- The furthest south were the Southern Colonies: Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.
- Because of their climate, the growing season was longer, and the soil was richer. Large-scale agriculture thrived in the Southern Colonies.
- Tobacco and rice became the main cash crops in the region.
- Many workers were needed to tend to these large farms, or **plantations**. At first, indentured servants did this work. But as the plantations grew, the need grew. Plantation owners became reliant on enslaved Africans' labor.
- Small farms thrived further inland. Though these small farms outnumbered the large plantations, the plantation owners had more power and controlled the region's economy and therefore the decisions of the representative assemblies.

VIRGINIA AND MARYLAND

- Jamestown marked the beginning of English colonization in North America
- Virginia began to grow, and the demand for workers increased because it took a lot of labor to plant, tend, and harvest the cash crop tobacco
- Virginian planters used enslaved Africans to meet this need.
- The first group of Africans arrived aboard a Dutch trading vessel in 1619, a year before the Pilgrims landed at Plymouth.
- In addition to enslaved Africans, England shipped criminals and prisoners of war to the colonies. Usually, they could earn their freedom after working for about 7 years.
- Many also came as indentured servants. They made agreements with a colonist who would pay for their travel, then these indentured servants worked for a set number of years to pay off that debt.

FOUNDING MARYLAND

- At the time, Catholics were being persecuted in England (a very Protestant colony)
- Sir George Calvert, Lord Baltimore, wanted a safe place for Catholics to practice their faith without fear.
- Calvert petitioned the king and received a proprietary colony north of Virginia
- After Calvert's death, his sons worked to start the colony, which they called **Maryland**.
- English aristocrats received large estates to settle in Maryland, while other settlers received smaller land grants.
- As with Virginia, as the number of plantations grew, the demand for workers grew as well. The colony imported slaves and indentured servants to fill this need.

FOUNDING MARYLAND

- The Calvert and Penn families constantly argued about the boundary between Maryland and Pennsylvania
- In the 1760s, they hired Charles Mason and Jeremiah Dixon to map the boundary between the two states. This became known as the Mason-Dixon Line.
- While the Calverts had originally started Maryland as a Catholic colony, they did welcome Protestants. Eventually those Protestants began to outnumber the Catholics. This caused conflict between the groups.
- In 1649, the colony established the Act of Toleration to protect the Catholics and ensure that both groups could worship freely.
- By 1692, Maryland was a royal colony with Protestantism as the official religion. Because of this, Catholics faced the same restrictions as they had in England.

REBELLION IN VIRGINIA

- Like its northern neighbor, Virginia also faced conflict.
- As the colony continued to grow, settlers moved west into Native American lands creating conflict with the Native Americans.
- In the 1640s, Virginia's governor, William Berkeley, pledged to the Native Americans that he would keep settlers from moving into their territory in exchange for a large piece of land.
- Unfortunately for Berkeley, not everyone agreed with his pledge.

REBELLION IN VIRGINIA

- Nathaniel Bacon was a farmer living in western Virginia.
- He didn't agree with the Virginia government because he felt it was dominated by easterners who didn't look out for the inhabitants of Western Virginia.
- Like many westerners, when he heard about the governor's pledge, he resented it. Some moved into forbidden Native American territory anyway, then blamed the government for not clearing the Native Americans out.
- In 1676, Bacon led an attack on Native American villages. Then, Bacon's army marched to Jamestown to drive out Berkeley, burning the town to the ground.
- On the verge of taking over the colony, Bacon became sick and died, ending the rebellion.
- England sent troops to restore order, but Bacon's Rebellion had made its message clear: Governments cannot ignore the demands of its people.

THE CAROLINAS

- In 1663, King Charles II created a proprietary colony south of Virginia called Carolina (Latin for Charles's Land)
- John Locke wrote the constitution for Carolina which covered topics like land division and social rank.
- Carolina didn't develop as planned, splitting into two separate parts with distinct exports
- Northern Carolina grew tobacco, and sold timber and tar. They used Virginia's ports because they lacked a good port
- In southern Carolina, they used the harbor town of Charles Town to trade deerskin, lumber, and beef. They also produced rice and indigo.
- Carolina formally split in 1729 and became two royal colonies.

GEORGIA

- In 1733, Georgia was set up. It was the last British colony established.
- James Oglethorpe received a charter from the British king to create a colony where debtors and poor people could make a fresh start.
- In addition to giving these people a fresh start, England hoped that this colony would dissuade the Spanish from trying to move into English territory in North America.
- After a series of setbacks, Oglethorpe gave up and gave the colony back to the king in 1751.

STOP & CHECK

1. Why did George Calvert establish the colony of Maryland?
2. Why was Georgia founded?
3. Why did Nathaniel Bacon oppose the government?