



HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY

STUDENT BOOK

▶ **8th Grade** | Unit 2

HISTORY & GEOGRAPHY 802

British America

INTRODUCTION | **3**

1. ENGLISH COLONIES **5**

NEW ENGLAND | **6**

MIDDLE COLONIES | **17**

SOUTHERN COLONIES | **21**

SELF TEST 1 | **25**

2. COLONIAL GROWTH **29**

GOVERNMENT | **30**

LIFESTYLES | **33**

RELIGION | **40**

HISTORY | **44**

SELF TEST 2 | **47**

3. WARS WITH FRANCE **49**

REPEATED CONFLICTS | **49**

FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR | **53**

AFTER THE VICTORY | **59**

SELF TEST 3 | **62**



LIFEPAC Test is located in the center of the booklet. Please remove before starting the unit.

Author:

Theresa Buskey, B.A., J.D.

Editor:

Alan Christopherson, M.S.

Westover Studios Design Team:

Phillip Pettet, Creative Lead

Teresa Davis, DTP Lead

Nick Castro

Andi Graham

Jerry Wingo



804 N. 2nd Ave. E.

Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

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British America

Introduction

The first successful British colony was launched in Virginia in 1607. From that time on, the British presence in America expanded steadily and, sometimes, very rapidly. The first settlements in the original thirteen colonies were established over the next one hundred and thirty years. The British settlements began as follows:

Virginia	1607
Massachusetts	1620
New Hampshire	1623
Connecticut	1633
Maryland	1634
Rhode Island	1636
Carolinas	1670
Georgia	1733

The British also took over the Dutch settlements around the Hudson River area in 1664. These included settlements begun in two colonies:

New York	1624
New Jersey	1660

In 1655, the Dutch had taken over a colony begun by Sweden called New Sweden, which also fell to the British in 1664. They included settlements begun in:

Delaware	1638
Pennsylvania	1643

Thus, at the end of the 1600s, with the exception of late starting Georgia, the British colonies were established and growing.

The colonies of British America were each unique, founded by different people with different purposes. Each eventually had its own government under the faraway British crown. Section one of this LIFE PAC® will show how and why each colony began. Section two will present how people lived in the colonies. The last section will describe the growing conflict between France and Britain in North America and how it was resolved.

Objectives

Read these objectives. The objectives tell you what you will be able to do when you have successfully completed this LIFE PAC. When you have finished this LIFE PAC, you should be able to:

1. Describe how each British colony was settled and name the key organizers of the colony.
2. Discuss the crops, laws, political organization, and religion of the colonies.
3. Describe life in the three sections of the colonies.
4. Describe the Great Awakening and name the key men involved in it.
5. Name the major historical developments in the colonies before 1763.
6. Name the British-French Wars that involved the colonies (European and American names).
7. Describe the course and results of the French and Indian War.

1. ENGLISH COLONIES

Between 1607 and 1733 thirteen colonies were established by the English on the east coast of North America. In each case the king, or Parliament, issued a charter to a group or person that effectively gave them the land. The holder of the charter had the right to set up any sort of government they wished. The charters sometimes included a few restrictions against laws that violated traditional English rights, but even these restrictions varied from colony to colony. The charter holders, for the most part, could set the laws, establish the courts and choose the rulers in their land. They could sell the land,

rent it or give it away. A charter was, in effect, a grant of one's own kingdom!

However, most of the colonial organizers realized that to attract colonists they needed to offer fair government. Therefore, on the example of the House of Burgesses in Virginia, all the colonies eventually had an elected assembly. Most also had some guarantee of basic rights, such as trial by jury. Many, but not all, had some kind of religious toleration. However, complete freedom of conscience was rare. This section will show who chartered each individual colony, how the colonies were set up, and how they were settled.

SECTION OBJECTIVES

Review these objectives. When you have completed this section, you should be able to:

1. Describe how each British colony was settled and name the key organizers of the colony.
2. Discuss the crops, laws, political organization, and religion of the colonies.
5. Name the major historical developments in the colonies before 1763.

VOCABULARY

Study these words to enhance your learning success in this section.

appease (u pēz'). To make calm; quiet.

aristocrat (u ris' tu krat). A person having a high position in society because of birth, rank or title.

liberal (lib' er ul). A person favorable to progress and reforms.

liturgy (lit' er jē). Prescribed forms or ritual for public worship.

orthodox (ôr' thu doks). Having generally accepted views or opinions, especially in religion.

pacifist (pas' u fist). One who refuses to fight or bear arms for moral or religious reasons.

paternalism (pu tern' l iz um). A system under which an authority acts like a father towards its citizens.

philanthropist (fu lan' thru pist). A person who helps people, often by giving large sums of money to worthy causes.

precursor (prē ker ser). One that precedes and indicates the approach of another.

preemptive (prē emp' tiv). An action done first, before another can act.

proprietor (pru prī u ter). An owner.

quitrent (kwit rent). Money paid in place of feudal duties, like working in the lord's field and harvesting his crops.

squatter (skwot ur). One who settle's on another's land without title or right.

Trinity (trin' et ē). In the Christian religion; the unity of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit in one Godhead.

Note: All vocabulary words in this LIFEPAAC appear in **boldface** print the first time they are used. If you are not sure of the meaning when you are reading, study the definitions given.

Pronunciation Key: hat, āge, cāre, fār; let, ēqual, tērm; it, īce; hot, ōpen, ōrder; oil; out; cup, pūt, rüle; child; long; thin; /ʒh/ for then; /zh/ for measure; /u/ represents /a/ in about, /e/ in taken, /i/ in pencil, /o/ in lemon, and /u/ in circus.

New England

Plymouth Plantation. The most famous American colony began in 1620 with the landing of the *Mayflower* at Plymouth Bay, Massachusetts. A hundred and two colonists had come to start a new life in the wilderness. Theirs was a long and difficult journey that did not begin when the *Mayflower* started across the Atlantic nor end when it landed. The Pilgrim's journey had begun in the stormy waters of British religious turmoil.

Elizabeth I (ruled 1558-1603) and James I (ruled 1603-1625) led the English state church known as the Anglican Church. All British citizens were required to attend and support it. The Anglican Church had a set **liturgy** that was identical in every church in the land. The priest wore robes and the service was very elaborate, much like the Roman Catholic Church which Henry VIII (Elizabeth's father) had broken from in 1534.

The Roman Catholic faith was deeply hated and mistrusted by most Englishmen of the era. Many of the Protestants of England objected to the "popish" trappings of the Anglican Church. The Puritans wanted to stay in the Anglican tradition and "purify" the church of its Catholic veneer. Another group, the Separatists, decided that it was hopeless. They believed the only way was to leave the church and establish their own congregations, under their own chosen

pastors, using simple forms of worship. The Pilgrims were Separatists.

The Pilgrims came from a church that was first organized in England in 1606. They were subject to harsh persecution in their homeland. James I was even more determined to enforce uniform religious practices than Elizabeth I, who had also harassed nonconformists. Separatists were subject to arrest, imprisonment and fines. The Pilgrim congregation decided to illegally immigrate to the Netherlands, where they could worship in peace.

The congregation arranged for passage to Holland in 1606. However, the dishonest English captain robbed them of all of their possessions and turned them over to the authorities. They spent time in prison and tried again in 1608, this time hiring a Dutch ship. The men went aboard first while the women, children and their belongings waited on the shore. While the men were meeting with the ship's crew, the women were arrested and their goods seized by an official raiding party. The ship's captain sailed away with the distraught men to prevent the ship from being seized as well. Eventually, the women and children were allowed to leave and they all settled in the Dutch city of Leyden.

The English Separatists were not happy in the Netherlands, however. They did not want their children to become Dutch, which was

happening more and more the longer they lived there. They also feared a resumption of war between the Netherlands and Catholic Spain, which claimed the Lowlands. In the end, they decided to emigrate to the newly established colony in Virginia where they could worship in peace in an English environment.

The Pilgrims received permission from the king and a patent from the London Company, which owned Virginia, to settle there. They organized financial backing through a joint stock company, promising to work for the company for seven years. Their agreement required that a large number of their party be non-Separatist, called “strangers” by the Separatists, who would share in the building of the settlement. Two ships, the *Mayflower* and the *Speedwell*, were obtained for the voyage. Arrangements completed, they sailed from England on August 5, 1620.

They were hardly out into the English Channel when the next series of problems began. The *Speedwell* began to leak and they were forced to turn back. After two attempts to repair her and sail, the *Speedwell* was finally sold in England. A few of the colonists agreed to stay behind until the next year, while the remainder boarded the *Mayflower*, which finally sailed on September 6th.

The *Mayflower* was badly overcrowded on its voyage. The 102 passengers were crammed into the area below the deck. The crossing was stormy, partly because they sailed so late. As a result, the below deck area was sealed up for most of the trip. Conditions rapidly became unsanitary and the air foul. The passengers were unable to get exercise or fresh air. One person died and one, named Oceanus, was born during the crossing. They finally spotted the coast of America on Nov. 9th.

The travelers discovered that they were north of the land owned by the Virginia Company.



| The Pilgrims Leaving Holland

They had landed instead in the region of Cape Cod, Massachusetts. They decided against working their way south for a couple of reasons. They desperately needed to build shelters before winter worsened and conditions on board the ship were horrible. They decided to settle where they were (without permission). That meant the colonists would be **squatters**—without any form of government. The more rational among them realized it would be a disaster to settle without a government to maintain discipline and organize the needs of the community.

Therefore, on November 11, 1620 the Pilgrims wrote and signed an agreement called the *Mayflower Compact*. It was signed by forty-one of the men representing themselves, their wives, children and servants. It is hailed historically as a **precursor** of the constitution of the United States. It was not intended to interfere with the power of the king, but simply, as a matter of expediency, to deal with the immediate needs of the settlers. The Pilgrims first act under the agreement, quoted in full on the next page, was to elect John Carver as their governor.

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, &c. Having undertaken for the Glory of God, and Advancement of the Christian Faith, and the Honour of our King and Country, a Voyage to plant the first Colony in the northern Parts of Virginia; Do by these Presents, solemnly and mutually, in the Presence of God and one 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 do enact, constitute, and frame, such just and equal Laws, Ordinances, Acts, Constitutions, and Officers, 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 hereunto subscribed our names at Cape-Cod the eleventh of November, in the Reign of our Sovereign Lord King James, of England, France, and Ireland, the eighteenth, and of Scotland the fifty-fourth,

Anno domini; 1620.

The Mayflower Compact

**Answer these questions.**

1.1 What was the difference between Puritans and Separatists? _____

1.2 Which were the Pilgrims? _____

1.3 What happened when the Pilgrims tried to go to the Netherlands? _____

1.4 Why didn't the Pilgrims remain in the Netherlands? _____

1.5 Why didn't the *Speedwell* make the crossing? _____

1.6 What problems did the immigrants experience on the *Mayflower's* crossing?

1.7 Where did they arrive in America and why was that location a problem?



Look at the *Mayflower Compact* itself to answer these questions.

1.8 Why did the Pilgrims come to America?

1.9 In whose presence was the agreement made?

1.10 What was the length the King's reign over Ireland and Scotland?

1.11 What did the signers agree to do and why?

As soon as the Compact was signed, the settlers began to look for a good spot to begin building their colony. The *Mayflower* also needed a protected harbor, because it had to stay through the winter. It was not until December 11th that a suitable site was found in Plymouth Bay. It had good soil, a harbor, fresh water, and mysteriously cleared fields that had been abandoned. That riddle was cleared up later when the Pilgrims learned that the local Patuxet Indians had made contact with European fishermen and almost the entire tribe had died from disease. The *Mayflower* finally anchored in Plymouth Bay on December 16, 1620.

Weather was deteriorating fast, as were conditions onboard the ship. The men worked furiously to build a fort and houses while they continued living on the *Mayflower*. The work was hampered by the cold and rain. The Pilgrims previously had no way to exercise during

the crossing. They were weak and conditions did not permit them regular, hot meals. Plague broke out among them and they began to die. Almost half of the people died before spring, including Governor Carver and fourteen of the eighteen married women. At one point only seven people of the entire company were fit enough to tend to the remaining colonists, who were too ill to do anything.

The land they were on was unoccupied because of the earlier plague among the Indians, but there were several other tribes nearby. The Pilgrims selected "Captain" Miles Standish to organize the defense of the colony and deal with the Indians. They were aided by Squanto, an English speaking Patuxet survivor. Squanto had been captured by an unscrupulous English captain, sold as a slave, escaped in English waters, lived in England for a time and then succeeded in returning home only to find his entire village dead! He was a tremendous help

to the Pilgrims. He became their friend, lived with them, helped them negotiate with the nearby tribes and taught them how to raise Indian corn (which saved them from starving, because their European crops failed).

The Pilgrims generally developed good relations with the nearby Indians. They did take some corn they found cached in an abandoned village when they first landed, but they later replaced it from their own harvest. With Squanto's help they negotiated a treaty with Massasoit, the chief of the Wampanoag Confederacy, a treaty that both sides honored for many years. Miles Standish led several **preemptive** strikes on other tribes when it was established they were planning attacks on the colony. For the most part however, the Pilgrims traded peacefully with the Indians for furs and food. (The furs were to be sent to Europe as profit for the company that sponsored the colony.) Their honest dealings and alert defenses kept the colony from facing a major Indian attack until King Philip's War in 1675.

The colony did well during the summer of 1621 under the leadership of William Bradford, the new governor. The first harvest was bountiful. The settlers followed the custom of their day by setting aside a day to thank God. They invited Massasoit and many of his warriors to join them in what turned into a three day feast, the first Thanksgiving.

However, the situation was threatened in November by the arrival of thirty-five new settlers who came without any tools, equipment, and more importantly, food. The harvest was now inadequate to feed the colony. They came near to starvation again that winter. Moreover, they did not own individual property, and the Pilgrims were required to share the work and harvest amongst themselves. The hard working members of the colony began to object to supporting the idle. Governor Bradford eventually acted without orders from the company and gave each man land for the sole support of himself and his family. This substantially improved the colony's prospects as the families began to work vigorously, knowing they would keep the fruits of their labor.

Over a period of ten years, the remainder of the Separatist church in Leyden was brought over to Plymouth. The colony grew and prospered. Later settlers arrived to find their Christian brothers had built houses for them and laid in enough food to last them until their first harvest.

The colony received a new patent giving them legal title to their land in 1621. However, they never did obtain a royal charter which would have guaranteed their independence. The financial sponsors permitted the colonists to buy out their contract in 1627. In 1691 Plymouth was absorbed by the growing, and religiously similar, Massachusetts Bay Colony.



Match these people.

1.12 _____ John Carver

1.13 _____ Squanto

1.14 _____ Miles Standish

1.15 _____ Massasoit

1.16 _____ William Bradford

a. chief of Wampanoag Indians

b. first governor of Plymouth

c. second governor of Plymouth

d. military leader of Plymouth

e. English speaking Indian, aided the Pilgrims

**Write true or false on the blank.**

- 1.17 _____ The land around Plymouth was not occupied because the Indians thought it was too poor to farm.
- 1.18 _____ About half of the Pilgrims died the first winter.
- 1.19 _____ The arrival of the new colonists in November of 1621 allowed the colony to survive the winter.
- 1.20 _____ The governor's decision to give the colonists their own land hurt the colony.
- 1.21 _____ The colonists bought out their contract in 1627.
- 1.22 _____ The Pilgrims did get legal title to their land but eventually became a part of the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

**Complete this exercise.**

- 1.23 Read some more about Plymouth Plantation. As a member of another 17th century Separatist church that is considering setting up their own colony nearby, write a two-page analysis of the way Plymouth was settled. Advise your church about what they should do the same or differently and why.

TEACHER CHECK

_____ initials

_____ date

Massachusetts Bay. The same persecution that drove the Separatists out of Great Britain soon fell on the Puritans as well. Charles I came to the throne in 1625 and quickly established a very anti-Puritan kingdom. Parliament, on the other hand, was largely controlled by Puritans; and many were wealthy, established members of the community. Conflict between the two sides grew. In 1633 Charles appointed William Laud as Archbishop of Canterbury, the highest office in the Anglican Church. Laud used all of his resources to force the Puritans to conform to Anglican worship which he made even more Catholic. Charles, in the meantime, prevented Parliament from meeting for over ten years. The intense distrust between the two sides

resulted in a civil war in 1642 and the execution of the king in 1649.

Thousands of Puritans fled England as the conflict with the king grew in intensity. Some of these settled in America. But unlike the Pilgrims, these were not destitute Separatists. Rich Puritan merchants set up the New England Company in 1628 and in 1629 reorganized it as the Massachusetts Bay Company. The king granted the company a charter giving them the right to govern and settle land north of Cape Cod. In a massive oversight, the charter failed to state that the company must meet in England where the king could supervise and change it.

The Puritan merchants quickly took advantage of the king's mistake. The stockholders who



Review the material in this section in preparation for the Self Test. The Self Test will check your mastery of this particular section. The items missed on this Self Test will indicate specific areas where restudy is needed for mastery.

SELF TEST 1

Name the colony most associated with each item (each answer, 3 points).

- | | | |
|-------|-------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1.01 | _____ | John Carver, Squanto, Miles Standish |
| 1.02 | _____ | Roger Williams |
| 1.03 | _____ | took over New Haven |
| 1.04 | _____ | Toleration Act |
| 1.05 | _____ | absorbed Plymouth Plantation |
| 1.06 | _____ | Thomas Hooker |
| 1.07 | _____ | James Oglethorpe |
| 1.08 | _____ | a buffer colony against the Spanish and French |
| 1.09 | _____ | controlled by the Calvert family |
| 1.010 | _____ | exiled Anne Hutchinson and Roger Williams |
| 1.011 | _____ | had the first true constitution, the Fundamental Orders |
| 1.012 | _____ | John Winthrop |
| 1.013 | _____ | captured from the Dutch and renamed after James Stuart |
| 1.014 | _____ | the first Quaker haven |
| 1.015 | _____ | “holy experiment” chartered by Charles II to pay off a debt |
| 1.016 | _____ | first colony established |
| 1.017 | _____ | outlet to the sea for Pennsylvania |
| 1.018 | _____ | last colony established |
| 1.019 | _____ | established by eight lordly proprietors, slave holding plantation economy |
| 1.020 | _____ | small farms, settled by poor of Virginia, no ports due to stormy coast |

Choose the best answer (each answer, 3 points).

- 1.021** The Mayflower Compact was intended to _____ .
- a. be a precursor of later constitutions
 - b. establish a government independent of the king
 - c. to deal with the fact they were outside Virginia's government authority
 - d. to give the Puritans control of the government
- 1.022** The settlers at Plymouth Plantation were _____ .
- a. Separatists seeking freedom to worship in an English environment
 - b. middle class Puritans driven out of England
 - c. missionaries to the Indians
 - d. Pilgrims traveling further away from the spiritual corruption of Europe
- 1.023** Massachusetts Bay Colony was _____ .
- a. a poorly planned colony
 - b. the source of settlers for much of New England
 - c. loyal in form and worship to the Anglican church
 - d. less successful than Plymouth
- 1.024** Puritans left England in the 1630s because of _____ .
- a. Catholic trappings in the Anglican service
 - b. the king was not Puritan
 - c. the growing conflict between the Puritans and the king
 - d. there was religious freedom in Massachusetts
- 1.025** One thing the American colonists all wanted and received was _____ .
- a. complete religious freedom
 - b. a representative assembly
 - c. slavery
 - d. universal male voting rights
- 1.026** William Penn established Pennsylvania to _____ .
- a. give Quakers one place in America as a haven
 - b. protect the Indians
 - c. get himself away from persecution in England
 - d. experiment with a colony that offered religious and political freedom

- 1.027** Freedom in America was limited by _____ .
 a. the inability to move away
 b. the lack of a voice for the people in the government
 c. traditional ideas that the upper classes should rule
 d. the one strong central government over all of the colonies
- 1.028** _____ was an extremely successful colony from the beginning.
 a. North Carolina b. Plymouth c. Georgia d. Pennsylvania
- 1.029** The cash crops of the south were _____ .
 a. tobacco, rice, indigo b. rice, cotton, corn
 c. wheat, corn, beef d. cotton, indigo, sugar cane
- 1.030** The original laws in Georgia _____ .
 a. developed slavery
 b. encouraged rapid settlement
 c. limited the size of land ownership
 d. established an elected assembly

Write true or false in the blank (each answer, 1 point).

- 1.031** _____ William Bradford was the proprietor of North Carolina.
- 1.032** _____ Squanto was the English speaking Indian who helped the Plymouth settlers.
- 1.033** _____ The Massachusetts Bay Company brought its charter to America with it.
- 1.034** _____ Roger Williams and William Penn were unusual in their belief that the land belonged to the Indians.
- 1.035** _____ Peter Stuyvesant was the second governor of Plymouth.
- 1.036** _____ Sir George Carteret and Lord John Berkeley were early owners of New Jersey.
- 1.037** _____ Quakers wanted the Anglican service to be more like the Catholic.
- 1.038** _____ The Duke's Laws were written for New York.
- 1.039** _____ The colonial proprietors had little trouble collecting rent from people thankful to have land.
- 1.040** _____ The Toleration Act gave the people of the colony freedom to follow any religion they chose.

	SCORE _____	TEACHER _____	initials _____	date _____
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 **Alpha Omega**
PUBLICATIONS

804 N. 2nd Ave. E.
Rock Rapids, IA 51246-1759

800-622-3070
www.aop.com