

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- A. New advances in technology allowed Europeans to explore the oceans. They were motivated to find an all-water route to Asia.
- B. European rulers sponsored exploration to increase their wealth and power.
- C. **Christopher Columbus** unexpectedly “encountered” the Americas when he sailed west in search of an all-water route to Asia.
- D. The encounter between Europe and the Americas led to the **Columbian Exchange**. Europeans benefited from new foods and products. New plants and animals were also introduced to the Americas.
- E. Millions of Native American Indians died from new diseases, such as smallpox and measles, unintentionally introduced into the Americas by European explorers and settlers.
- F. Spain conquered the West Indies, Mexico, and Peru and established colonies. It grew rich from shipments of American gold and silver sent back to Spain.
- G. France, Holland, and England grew envious of Spain’s power and wealth, and sought to establish their own colonies in the “New World.”
- H. The first permanent English colonies were established at **Jamestown** (1607), **Plymouth** (1620), and **Massachusetts Bay** (1630).
- I. England established thirteen colonies along the Atlantic coast. These colonies were established for political, economic, religious, and social reasons.
- J. The **Mayflower Compact** and the **Fundamental Orders of Connecticut** encouraged the growth of representative government in the colonies.
- K. Different patterns of life developed in three regions of the colonies, based on differences in geography, climate, settler origins, and economic activities.
- L. In **New England**, a short growing season, cooler climates, rocky soil, and an influx of Puritan settlers encouraged the development of small farms and the growth of fishing, shipping and handicraft trades.
- M. In the **Southern Colonies**, a long growing season and warmer climate, as well as the arrival of mainly Anglican settlers seeking to make their fortune, encouraged the development of larger farms that often grew cash crops for sale to England. Along main water routes, large plantations developed.
- N. Part of the Southern Colonies’ economy was based on slave labor. Slaves grew cotton, tobacco, rice and indigo. They were taken by force from Africa and faced a horrific “**Middle Passage**” journey across the Atlantic. Most Southerners, however, did not own slaves.
- O. The **Middle Atlantic Colonies** had greater ethnic and religious diversity than either New England or the Southern Colonies. Some of these colonies had once been under Dutch rule and were conquered by the English in 1664. The Middle Atlantic Colonies had fertile soil and grew food crops.