

1.10 The Second Generation of British Colonies

The religious and civil conflict in England in the mid-17th century limited immigration, as well as the attention the mother country paid the fledgling American colonies.

In part to provide for the defense measures England was neglecting, the Massachusetts Bay, Plymouth, Connecticut, and New Haven colonies formed the New England Confederation in 1643. It was the European colonists' first attempt at regional unity.

The early history of the British settlers reveals a good deal of contention – religious and political – as groups vied for power and position among themselves and their neighbors. Maryland, in particular, suffered from the bitter religious rivalries that afflicted England during the era of Oliver Cromwell. One of the casualties was the state's Toleration Act, which was revoked in the 1650s. It was soon reinstated, however, along with the religious freedom it guaranteed.

With the restoration of King Charles II in 1660, the British once again turned their attention to North America. Within a brief span, the first European settlements were established in the Carolinas and the Dutch driven out of New Netherland. New proprietary colonies were established in New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania.

The Dutch settlements had been ruled by autocratic governors appointed in Europe. Over the years, the local population had become estranged from them. As a result, when the British colonists began encroaching on Dutch claims in Long Island and Manhattan, the unpopular governor was unable to rally the population to their defense. New Netherland fell in 1664. The terms of the capitulation, however, were mild: The Dutch settlers were able to retain their property and worship as they pleased.

As early as the 1650s, the Albemarle Sound region off the coast of what is now northern North Carolina was inhabited by settlers trickling down from Virginia. The first proprietary governor arrived in 1664. The first town in Albemarle, a remote area even

today, was not established until the arrival of a group of French Huguenots in 1704.

In 1670 the first settlers, drawn from New England and the Caribbean island of Barbados, arrived in what is now Charleston, South Carolina. An elaborate system of government, to which the British philosopher John Locke contributed, was prepared for the new colony. One of its prominent features was a failed attempt to create a hereditary nobility. One of the colony's least appealing aspects was the early trade in Indian slaves. With time, however, timber, rice, and indigo gave the colony a worthier economic base.

In 1681 William Penn, a wealthy Quaker and friend of Charles II, received a large tract of land west of the Delaware River, which became known as Pennsylvania. To help populate it, Penn actively recruited a host of religious dissenters from England and the continent – Quakers, Mennonites, Amish, Moravians, and Baptists.

When Penn arrived the following year, there were already Dutch, Swedish, and English settlers living along the Delaware River. It was there he founded Philadelphia, the "City of Brotherly Love."

In keeping with his faith, Penn was motivated by a sense of equality not often found in other American colonies at the time. Thus, women in Pennsylvania had rights long before they did in other parts of America. Penn and his deputies also paid considerable attention to the colony's relations with the Delaware Indians, ensuring that they were paid for land on which the Europeans settled.

Georgia was settled in 1732, the last of the 13 colonies to be established. Lying close to, if not actually inside the boundaries of Spanish Florida, the region was viewed as a buffer against Spanish incursion. But it had another unique quality: The man charged with Georgia's fortifications, General James Oglethorpe, was a reformer who deliberately set out to create a refuge where the poor and former prisoners would be given new opportunities.

Answer the following questions based on the reading and your knowledge of social studies.

1. Which of the following was **not** part of the New England Confederation?
 - a. Connecticut
 - b. Massachusetts Bay
 - c. New Amsterdam
 - d. Plymouth
2. During the Commonwealth period when England was controlled by Oliver Cromwell, the _____ was revoked in Maryland.
 - a. Bill of Rights
 - b. Magna Carta
 - c. Mayflower Compact
 - d. Toleration Act
3. With the restoration of King Charles II in 1660, new proprietary colonies were established in all but which of the following?
 - a. Delaware
 - b. New Jersey
 - c. New York
 - d. South Carolina
4. New Netherland fell to the English in _____.
 - a. 1659
 - b. 1664
 - c. 1669
 - d. 1674
5. The first town of the Albemarle Sound region of North Carolina was established by _____ in 1704.
 - a. French Huguenots
 - b. refugees from New Netherland
 - c. Scottish immigrants
 - d. Virginians
6. The first settlers arrived in what is now _____, South Carolina, in 1670.
 - a. Charleston
 - b. Jamestown
 - c. Myrtle Beach
 - d. Savannah
7. William Penn, founder of Pennsylvania, was a _____.
 - a. Baptist
 - b. Mennonite
 - c. Moravian
 - d. Quaker
8. William Penn made certain that the Delaware Indians were paid for land on which Europeans settled in Pennsylvania.
 - a. True
 - b. False