Colonial America Overview

 Processing the Notes

How did they make their money?

Pilgrims vs Puritans:

Result of Native American Wars

There were two types of colonies that were created by the colonists who settled the east coast:

1. Royal Colonies were governed by the British King, through appointed royal governors.

2.Proprietary Colonies were founded by individuals who gained official ownership through the King.

When a King granted the colony a charter, this meant that they could rule themselves.

Each region of colonial America had very different characteristics due to the geography of the area.

New England Colonies:

\*The early colonists were the Pilgrims, led by William Bradford and the Puritans led by John Winthrop who came to this region seeking religious freedom and a new life.

\*The colonists knew they needed to govern themselves so they set up a system of town meetings that they discussed and planned while on the Mayflower. The agreement they came up with and signed was known as the Mayflower Compact (1620).

Problems in the North:

\*Although the north boasted this idea of democracy, the reality was that people were not free. The Puritans became religiously intolerant and many dissenters (those who did not agree with the main religious leaders) either started their own colonies or fled south.

* Anne Hutchinson (1638) who became an early leader in the church preached against the strict Puritan ideas and Roger Williams (1636) who believed people should worship in any way they could both had to flee. They and their followers help establish the colony of Rhode Island.
* Thomas Hooker disagreed with Massachusetts and went on to found Connecticut. He was also a believer in democracy and was the inspiration for the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, which was an early example of a colonial constitution.

\*1636-1637 The colonists and Native Americans often clashed at this time over numerous issues: land disputes, livestock causing damage to Indian crops, and competition over hunting grounds. In 1636, a dishonest trader was killed by a Pequot and a war began.

\*1675 Metacom, also known as King Philip, was upset with colonists who he felt were encroaching on their land. He led violent raids on colonists but was eventually defeated but at the cost of much bloodshed.

Middle Colonies:

Processing:

•The middle colonies (today known as the Mid-Atlantic States) were given the nickname of the bread basket because they produced so much wheat due to their mild climate.

* The area also had many natural ports so the people of the Middle Colonies made their money from both farming and trading.
* The middle colonies attracted all kinds of people so they were known for being very diverse, both culturally and religiously.
* One important colonist was William Penn. He was Quaker who was given the colony of Pennsylvania by the King.
	+ He wanted to establish an area where he could put his Quaker ideas of brotherly love and peace.
	+ His idea became known as the “Holy Experiment.”

Southern Colonies:

•The southern states boasted long, humid summers so the Plantation System was set up in the south to take advantage of the growing potential.

* The major cash crops grown on these farms were tobacco, rice, and indigo

\*Indentured servants were originally brought over to work the land. These people sold themselves for passage to America. They had to work a certain number of years but could then gain their freedom.

* Slaves replaced these workers when it became apparent that it would be cheaper in the long wrong to get people who could not leave.

Processing:

• Jamestown, which was founded in 1619, was the first permanent English settlement in the North American colonies.

* It was founded by a joint-stock company, which is a group of investors that put money into the settlement in hopes of getting rich off of the colonies success.
* Jamestown was a major failure at first. In fact, the first winter (1609-1610) is called the starving time because the colonists were running out of supplies (they came to find gold, not permanently settle). They had to eat their horses and some even turned to cannibalism.
* The colony eventually became a success when the colonists, mostly with the help of John Rolfe’s experiments, learned to cultivate tobacco. This crop made the investors of the Virginia Company quite rich.

Problems in the South:

\*The main problem in the south was gaining settlers.

* Jamestown created a program in 1619 known as the Headright System. This program would give away 50 acres to any interested, free settler to come and cultivate it.
* The colony of Maryland used religion to gain colonists. In 1620, it passed a law known as the Maryland Toleration Act. This law allowed both Catholics (of which Maryland was originally created to protect) and Protestants to practice their religion freely.
* Georgia gave land away to debtors in England to create a place where the poor could come and start a new life.

\*Problems with Native Americas

* As Jamestown began to use more and more land for tobacco, they began to encroach on Native living spaces. In 1622, the brother of the Powhatan tribe attacked settlers in the region. The wars would last until 1644, with the colonists eventually winning the battles.
* Virginia would continue to experience many issues throughout the colonial period and many times, the colonists would blame the Indians for the issues. In 1676, colonists called on the governor to take care of the situation. The governor told the colonists to refrain from taking action. One colonist, Nathaniel Bacon, disobeyed order and led an attack on natives anyway. This considered an early rebellion against a ruling power (governor/England).