

COLONIAL SETTLEMENT

What do you know about Colonial Settlements?

Europe was a leader in the settlement of colonies in America. Although their attempts were not always successful, by the turn of the 17th century they had a pretty firm start in the New World.

Jamestown, the first successful settlement, was founded in **1607** by a stock company searching for gold.

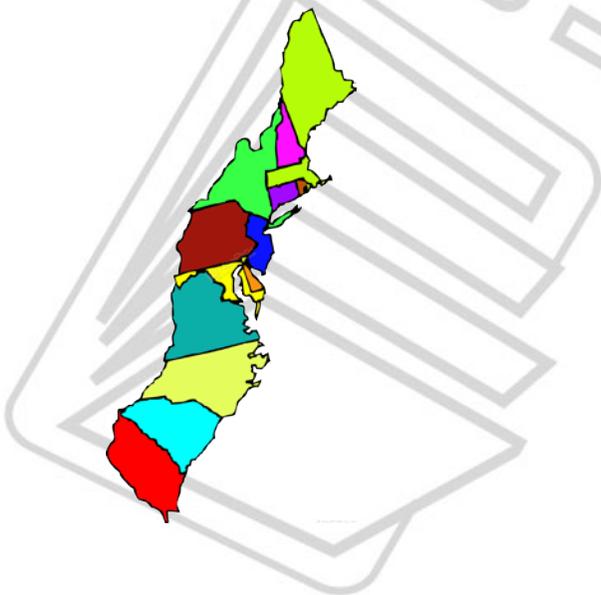
Another colony, **Plymouth**, is the famous site of the **first Thanksgiving**. The Plymouth Colony was also responsible for the **Mayflower Compact**, one of the first governing documents of the colonies.



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The early colonies were divided into three regions: the **New England Colonies**, the **Middle Colonies** and the **Southern Colonies**. Each had different social and economic features that were defined in part by their environments.



The reasons for settlement were mainly for financial gain, but not everyone that settled in America was seeking riches. Many people, such as the Pilgrims, were looking for **religious freedom** in the hope of starting a new life. While seemingly harmless, their move to the New World had a devastating impact on the people that were already living in North America- the Native Americans. While some settlements got along and benefitted from the Native Americans, it was not always this way. Disease killed a great number of people during the establishment of the early colonies.



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