

Name: _____
Colonies Chart Reading

Date: _____
Colonization

***** Roanoke Fails-** The first attempt by England to colonize the new world was made in 1590 when Sir Walter Raleigh sent an expedition over to America. The English hoped to gain glory and wealth from this new settlement. Their ships landed and their travelers began to set themselves up in a community. They sent Captain John White back to England for more supplies but when Williams returned to the colony, he found no one. It is believed that the colonists were attacked or may have even joined with Native American tribes, never to return.

Virginia- (Jamestown)

The second attempt at an English colony came about in 1607. The Virginia Company was granted a charter from King James which allowed them to set up a community in the new land. The Virginia Company was a joint-stock company. Joint stocks allow a number of investors to pool their wealth in support of a colony that would hopefully make them a profit. The company landed in present day Virginia and named the land Jamestown, after the king of England. Unfortunately, the explorers were not rugged individuals who could fend for themselves. They were English gentlemen, perfumers, goldsmiths, etc. (no women because women did not work, so therefore would not make the Virginia Company a profit) they were only sent over to America to make England a profit. They did not know how to survive in a desolate new land. They landed and settled in wet, swampy land which bred mosquitoes that spread diseases to them like malaria. They did not plant crops and later struggled from starvation. They did not build permanent homes and suffered from the cold winter. They were also hostile to the local Native American tribes, believing that they were savages and did not make good use of their land.

Thankfully, John Smith was sent over from England to help the settlers of Jamestown survive and thrive. He helped them set up a true working community. Eventually, the discovery of the uses of tobacco allowed the colony to go from rags to riches. Tobacco was a cash crop that soon became high in demand. Private property was dispersed and farmlands and plantations grew. A labor supply was now needed. Poor citizens of Europe were invited over to Jamestown for a better life. The plantation owners would pay for their ship ride over to the new colony, house them, and feed them anywhere from 3-7 years. These people were called indentured servants. They worked for free until their debts were paid off, and then were free to set up a new life in the colony. Women were also allowed to come over to the new colony at this point.

Jamestown also began the first democracy in America. It was called the House of Burgesses. Virginia had 11 districts that sent two representatives to meetings which decided how to tax and make laws for the colony. There was also a governor of Virginia who also participated in the House.

Massachusetts-

Plymouth-

When King Henry set up the Church of England (the Anglican Church) many people felt that he did not change enough of the traditions and practices from the Roman Catholic faith. They believed that the religion was now in need of purification. These believers were eventually called the Puritans. Some Puritans stuck to the belief that over time the religion would slowly be reformed while they practiced it. Other Puritans were a bit stricter about their religious beliefs and thought that they needed to go off and practice their faith the way they wanted to, separate from the Anglican Church. These Puritans were later called Separatists (aka Pilgrims).

The Pilgrims were severely persecuted and harassed back in England. Finally, they set out for a new life, free to practice their religion the way they wished, and to make money. They sailed across the Atlantic in a ship called the Mayflower to Plymouth, Massachusetts. There were 41 Pilgrims and 41 strangers on the ship. When they finally landed, the Mayflower Compact was signed. This document stated that the new colony would be loyal to the King of England. It also created a civil government which was promised to be ruled by the majority and create the creation of an American democratic Government.