# United States History

## Unit 1 Terms and Big Ideas: Colonial America

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| Target 1.01 – I can evaluate the impact of successful and unsuccessful colonization attempts in North America. [p. 4-8] |

Key Terms:

Columbian Exchange

Conquistadores

Jamestown

Big Ideas:

1. The indigenous peoples of the Americas (Native Americans) differed from Europeans in ideas about religion, leaders, family structures, types of work men and women could do, and ownership and use of land.
2. Three different empires—England, France, and Spain—settled in North America between 1400 and 1700 for different reasons.
3. European conquest of the Americas started an immense exchange of goods, food, wealth, people, and diseases between the Old (Europe) and New (America) Worlds.
4. The English soon dominated America because they settled in the New World in large groups of people who wanted to own land and make new opportunities for themselves.

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| Target 1.02 – I can analyze the significance of the development of religious freedom in colonial America. [p. 9-12] |

Key Terms:

Maryland Toleration Act

Roger Williams

Anne Hutchinson

Quakers

First Great Awakening

Big Ideas:

1. Because Colonial America was a dumping ground for people who were not welcome in Europe, a lot of different religious groups came to America seeking religious freedom.
2. Diversity of religion encouraged different groups to respect each other’s religious traditions instead of forcing everyone to worship the same way, but not everyone believed in freedom of religion.

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| Target 1.03 – I can analyze economic development, including the use of indentured servitude and slavery, in the three regions of colonial America. [p. 9-11] |

Key Terms:

Indentured servitude

Middle Passage

Triangular Trade

Big Ideas:

1. Each of the three colonial areas—North, Middle, and South—came to have its own economic focus based on geography and access to labor.
2. Colonial Americans needed workers so badly that they accepted unfree labor—indentured servitude and slavery—as necessary to establish strong economies.
3. Over time, race and unfree labor came to be associated strongly in the Southern colonies, developing into African slavery.
4. Colonial Americans did not make all the products that they needed so they were dependent on trade with Europe, with each other, and the Caribbean islands to get needed products.

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| Target 1.04 – I can describe the development of hierarchical social structures in colonial America.  |

Key Terms:

Gentry

Aristocracy

Middle class

Big Ideas:

1. The earliest years of colonial settlement were the most equal in terms of opportunity and distribution of wealth; as the colonies matured, the gap between the rich and the poor increased.
2. Colonial America had no aristocracy like England (with lords, dukes, and princes), but there wealthy gentry class tried to live like the richest people in England.
3. Most Colonial Americans would have fallen into the middle class (“middling sort”)—neither very wealthy nor very poor.

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| Target 1.05 – I can explain the significance of the development of self-government in the colonies. [p. 11-12] |

Key Terms:

Mayflower Compact

House of Burgesses

Charter

Royal

Proprietary

1. England allowed its colonies a great deal of freedom to govern themselves and this led to colonies believing that they had certain rights to self-governance (such as taxing themselves to pay public officials).
2. Colonial American self-government imitated English governance and the colonists were very proud and jealous of their English “liberties” and heritage.



