

Colonial America Timeline for Kids

1607 to 1750

Before there was a United States, people from England crossed the ocean to live in North America. Their towns grew into thirteen colonies. This timeline shows how that happened.



1607

Jamestown

About 100 men and boys from England build a town called Jamestown in Virginia. The first years are very hard, and many get sick or go hungry.

Why it matters: Jamestown was the first English town in North America that lasted.



1619

Africans Brought to Virginia

A ship brings about 20 people from Africa to Virginia. They were taken from their homes and forced to work.

Why it matters: This was the start of slavery in the English colonies. It lasted for more than 200 years.



1620

The Pilgrims Arrive

A ship called the Mayflower brings about 100 people to Plymouth, Massachusetts. They are called Pilgrims. They want to worship in their own way.

Why it matters: They made a set of rules that everyone agreed to follow. Their first winter was very hard.



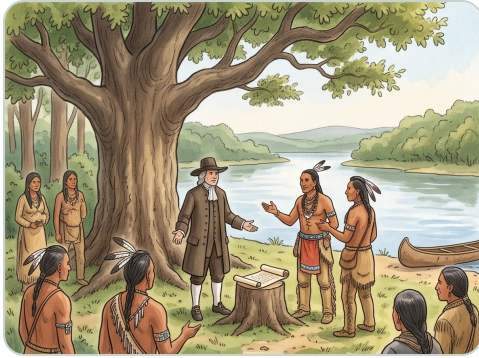
1621

A Harvest Feast

The Wampanoag people show the Pilgrims how to grow corn. In the fall, about 50 Pilgrims and 90 Wampanoag men share a feast for three days.

Why it matters: People remember this feast as the first Thanksgiving.

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1681

Pennsylvania

William Penn starts a colony called Pennsylvania. He says people of every religion are welcome there.

Why it matters: People came from many countries to live there. Its city, Philadelphia, grew fast.



1732

The Thirteenth Colony

Georgia becomes the last of the thirteen colonies. The colonies now reach along the coast from New Hampshire to Georgia.

Why it matters: Each colony had its own leaders and its own way of life.



1750

The Colonies Grow

More than one million people now live in the thirteen colonies. There are farms, towns, and busy ports like Boston and Philadelphia.

Why it matters: The colonies had grown strong. Soon they would want to rule themselves.

Words to know

colony: a place ruled by a country far away

settlement: a new town built by people who have just arrived

harvest: the time when crops are picked

port: a town where ships load and unload