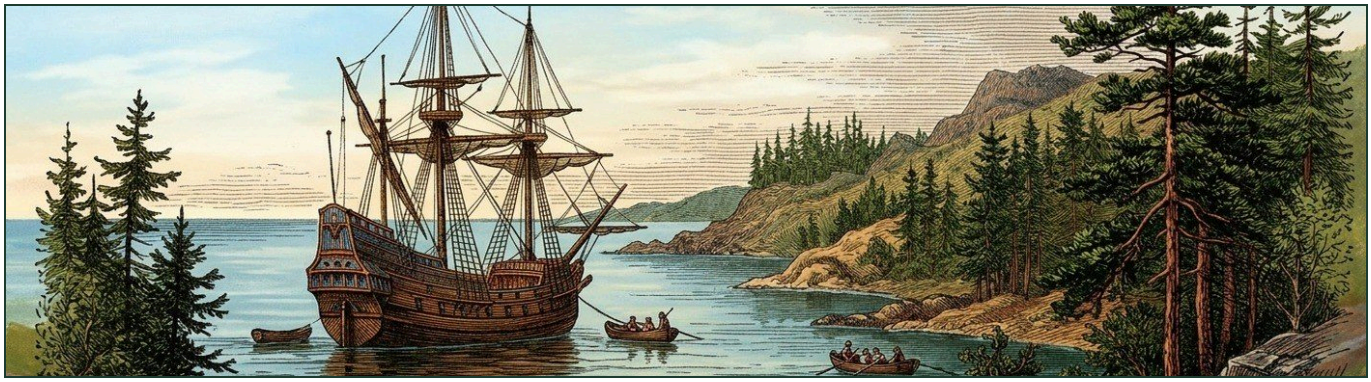


1607 – 1763

Colonial America Timeline

Colonial America is the period when European settlers built the thirteen colonies that would later become the United States.

1607 — Jamestown Founded

The first permanent English colony in America is founded in Virginia.

> **Why it mattered:** *It became the first lasting English colony, proving settlers could survive and stay in America.*

1619 — House of Burgesses

Virginia forms the first representative assembly in the English colonies.

> **Why it mattered:** *It was the first assembly of elected colonists making their own laws — an early seed of American self-government.*

1620 — Plymouth and the Mayflower Compact

The Pilgrims found Plymouth and sign an agreement to govern themselves.

> **Why it mattered:** *The Pilgrims' promise to make their own rules became another early model for democracy.*

1630 — Massachusetts Bay Colony

Puritans led by John Winthrop found a large colony around Boston.

> **Why it mattered:** *A big wave of settlers made New England a strong, fast-growing region of the colonies.*

1636 — **Rhode Island and Harvard**

Roger Williams founds Rhode Island; Harvard, the first college, is established.

> **Why it mattered:** *Rhode Island welcomed people of different beliefs, and Harvard began educating colonial leaders.*

1664 — **New Amsterdam Becomes New York**

The English take the Dutch colony and rename it New York.

> **Why it mattered:** *Taking the busy Dutch port linked England's colonies in one stretch down the whole coast.*

1681 — **Pennsylvania Founded**

William Penn founds Pennsylvania as a colony welcoming many faiths.

> **Why it mattered:** *Penn's colony became a model of religious tolerance that drew settlers from across Europe.*

1692 — **Salem Witch Trials**

Fear and false accusations lead to famous witchcraft trials in Massachusetts.

> **Why it mattered:** *The trials showed how fear and false accusations could spin dangerously out of control.*

1732 — **Georgia Founded**

Georgia becomes the thirteenth and last of the original colonies.

> **Why it mattered:** *With Georgia, all thirteen colonies that would one day unite as the United States now existed.*

1754 — **French and Indian War**

Britain and France fight for control of North America until 1763.

> **Why it mattered:** *Britain's costly victory led it to tax the colonies — sparking the anger that grew into the Revolution.*