

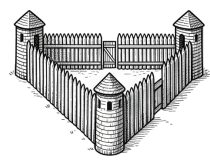
13 COLONIES

THE FIRST COLONIES, 1607 TO 1625

In 1607 a small group of English colonists built a fort in Virginia. Over the next 18 years, English and Dutch colonists started a few more small settlements along the coast, in lands where Native nations had lived for thousands of years.

The Powhatan

When the English arrived, more than 30 tribes around Chesapeake Bay paid **tribute** to one leader, Chief Powhatan. About 15,000 people lived in towns along the rivers. They grew corn, beans and squash, caught fish in woven traps and hunted deer in the forests.



Jamestown, 1607

In May 1607, three English ships sailed up a river the colonists named the James. About 104 men and boys came ashore and built a fort shaped like a triangle. A business called the Virginia Company had sent them to start a **colony** and look for gold. The water was bad and food ran short. By early 1608, only 38 were still alive.

Tobacco

In 1612, colonist John Rolfe planted tobacco seeds from the Caribbean. The leaves sold for a high price in England. Tobacco became Virginia's **cash crop**, and colonists spread out along the rivers to grow more. In 1614 Rolfe married Pocahontas, a daughter of Chief Powhatan.



A Big Year: 1619

In 1619, Virginia colonists elected men to the first **assembly** in English America, to help make the colony's laws. That same year, a ship brought the first recorded Africans to Virginia. They had been captured in Africa and were traded to the colonists for food.

The Pilgrims at Plymouth

In 1620, the Mayflower carried 102 passengers to Cape Cod. Many were Pilgrims who wanted to worship in their own way. Before landing, the men signed the **Mayflower Compact**, a promise to make fair laws together. They built Plymouth on the site of Patuxet, a Wampanoag village left empty by a sickness. In 1621 the Wampanoag leader Massasoit agreed to peace with them.



The Dutch on the Hudson

Dutch traders sailed up the Hudson River to buy beaver furs from Native hunters. In 1624 they built Fort Orange, where Albany, New York, is today. In 1625 they started the town of New Amsterdam on Manhattan Island. Their colony was called New Netherland.

TIMELINE



PEOPLE TO KNOW

Chief Powhatan	Leader of more than 30 tribes in Virginia
Pocahontas	Powhatan's daughter; married John Rolfe
John Smith	A leader of early Jamestown
John Rolfe	Grew Virginia's first tobacco to sell
Massasoit	Wampanoag leader who made peace with Plymouth
William Bradford	Governor of Plymouth for many years

WORDS TO KNOW

tribute	goods paid to a leader, like corn or furs
colony	a settlement ruled by a faraway country
cash crop	a crop grown to sell, not to eat
assembly	a group chosen to make laws
Mayflower Compact	the Pilgrims' promise to make fair laws together