

# Discovery & Settlement

*“Columbus's discovery . . . was probably the most important event in the history of western civilization since the birth of Christ.”*

—Historian John Garraty

## **GETTING THE PARTY STARTED: NATIVE AMERICANS**

- ◆ So-called “land bridge” across Bering Strait (aka Beringia)
- ◆ Migrated during Ice Age 10-30,000+ years ago



- **Sea level 350+ feet less.**
- **Tundra perhaps 600 miles wide.**
- **Journeyed in small groups.**
- **Gatherers, hunters, fishermen.**

- ◆ Cahokia (near today's \_\_\_\_\_) was first urban center in “U.S.” (c. 1000 AD)
- ◆ 1500: S. Amer. = 50-60 million; N. Amer. = 1/10th
- ◆ Vast cultural diversity among tribes
  - ✓ Climate, soil conditions, war, pure chance
  - ✓ Most advanced tribes inhabited \_\_\_\_\_

## ***THANKS, BUT NO THANKS: VIKINGS***



- ◆ Bjarni Herjulfson (c. 985 AD)
- ◆ Leif Ericson (1000)
- ◆ Bogus historical finds
  - ✓ Newport Tower (Rhode Island)
  - ✓ Kensington Stone (Minnesota)

## ***SAY HELLO TO THE NEW NEIGHBORS: SPAIN***

- ◆ Late Middle Ages (1300-1600)
  - ✓ Renaissance (intellectual/artistic)
  - ✓ Crusades & Protestant Reformation (religious)
  - ✓ Marco Polo's travels (economic/business)
  - ✓ Rise of nation-states (political/military)
- ◆ \_\_\_\_\_ was first to explore beyond Mediterranean
  - ✓ Prince Henry "the Navigator" (1394-1460)
  - ✓ Bartolomeu Dias around the Cape of Good Hope (1487)



- ◆ Spain amassed huge New World empire
  - ✓ Christopher Columbus #1 (1492)
    - clash of cultures (never reconciled)
    - reason (discovery vs. existence)
    - conflicting concepts of land occupation
    - did not end grandiose Indian Shangri-La
  - ✓ Treaty of Tordesillas (1494)
  - ✓ Hispaniola hub of Spanish activity
  - ✓ Goal was exploitation of land & people
  - ✓ Spain dominated New World thru mid-1500s
    - seized best areas
    - internal tranquility
    - dominated European continent

<b>COMPARISON OF NORTH AMERICAN CULTURES</b>		
 <b>NATIVE AMERICANS</b>	<b>CLASH?</b>	 <b>WHITE EUROPEANS</b>
	Reason for being in the Western Hemisphere?	
	Relationship with the environment (inc. land occupation)?	
	Est'd societies & type of rule?	
	Material wealth?	
	Violence?	
	Spirituality?	
	Chauvinism?	

- ◆ So-called “Columbian Exchange”
  - ✓ Natural consequence when alien cultures first meet
  - ✓ Exchange of \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_
  - ✓ Deliberate & happenstance; beneficial & harmful



## **WELCOME TO THE PARTY: FRANCE & GREAT BRITAIN**

- ◆ Spain’s domination of New World began to disappear in mid-1500s
  - ✓ Seized best areas ← 1550 → riches damaged economy
  - ✓ Internal tranquility ← 1550 → corruption & inefficiency
  - ✓ Dominated Europe ← 1550 → military defeats
- ◆ France was first to challenge Spain in New World
  - ✓ Giovanni da Verrazano #1 (1524)
  - ✓ St. Lawrence River & Gulf of Mexico
  - ✓ Fur trade paramount
- ◆ England lagged far behind Spain & France
  - ✓ John Cabot #1 (1497)
  - ✓ Failures of Frobisher, Gilbert, Raleigh
  - ✓ Defeat of \_\_\_\_\_ (1588)
  - ✓ Charter of 1606 (by James I)



◆ Jamestown (London Company, 1607)

low and swampy . . . outbreaks of malaria  
dense woods . . . difficult to cultivate  
neighboring Indians . . . potential threats  
well-to-do settlers . . . unwilling to get hands dirty



- ✓ John Smith, John Rolfe, Pocahontas
- ✓ Winter “starving time” of 1609-10
- ✓ House of Burgesses (1619)



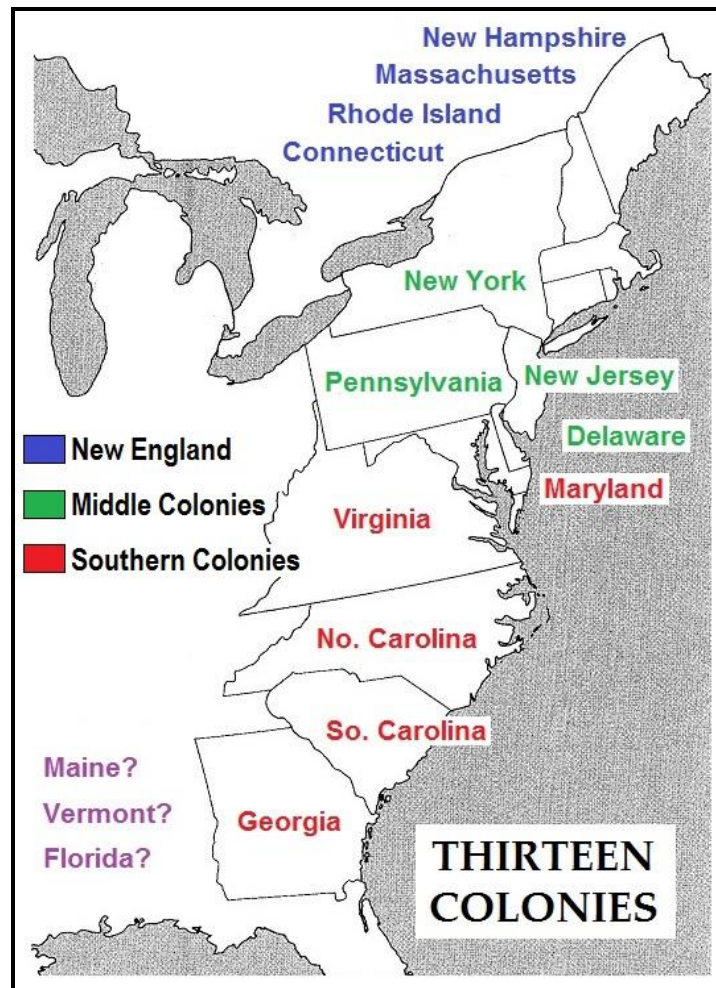
- ◆ Plymouth (Plymouth Company, 1620)
  - ✓ Mayflower Compact
  - ✓ Edward Winslow, William Bradford, Squanto
  - ✓ Thanksgiving tradition
- ◆ Britain’s deviation from Spanish colonization model
  - ✓ Agriculturally based
  - ✓ Large number of \_\_\_\_\_
  - ✓ Headright system & indentured servitude
- ◆ Holland was minor participant
  - ✓ Henry Hudson #1 (1609)
  - ✓ “Introduction” of slavery (1619)
  - ✓ Patroon system

<b>COMPARISON OF MAJOR NEW WORLD EUROPEAN POWERS:</b>			
	<b>SPAIN</b>	<b>FRANCE</b>	<b>BRITAIN</b>
Geographical Size and Topography			
Reasons for Exploration and Colonization			
Royal Control			
Treatment of the Indians			

## ***GREAT BRITAIN'S COLONIAL DEVELOPMENT***

- ◆ Southern Colonies (Chesapeake & “lowcountry”)
  - ✓ Export crops (esp. \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_; also indigo)
  - ✓ Steady year-round climate
  - ✓ Main labor force was \_\_\_\_\_ (“peculiar institution”)
  - ✓ Anglicanism official religion
  - ✓ Formal schooling absent
  - ✓ Extremely high mortality rate
    - mosquito-borne diseases
    - ave. death age for men = 40; women < 40
  - ✓ Charles Town (aka Charleston) largest town
  - ✓ “Backcountry”
    - Appalachian foothills to frontier fringe
    - settlement begun by 1700 (esp. Scotch-Irish)
    - climate & water = “seasoning” period
    - predominately male
    - no civic organization
- ◆ Middle Colonies (aka mid-Atlantic)
  - ✓ Farming for local consumption & export
  - ✓ Heterogeneous ethnicity evident
  - ✓ Fastest growing region
  - ✓ \_\_\_\_\_ & \_\_\_\_\_ thriving seaports

- ◆ New England Colonies
  - ✓ Maritime economy & overseas trade
  - ✓ Climate extremes
  - ✓ Puritan faith dominant religion
  - ✓ Education valued (Harvard est. 1636)
  - ✓ Town meeting characteristic social unit
  - ✓ Boston commercial hub; Hartford important



### **THREE COMMON MYTH-UNDERSTANDINGS**

- ◆ Colonies wanted independence from Britain → YES or NO?
- ◆ Colonies oppressed by British policies → YES or NO?
- ◆ Sense of unity among all 13 colonies → YES or NO?