[When and where were the colonies established?](#9245-1560821033016)

[Christopher Columbus](#1764-1560821050335)

[Amerigo Vespucci](#9890-1560821108621)

[Colony](#4991-1560821365911)

[History](#5140-1560821462040)

[Direct Causes](#4282-1560821512637)

[Who were the first settlers and why did they come to America](#1953-1560821487634)

[New England Colonies](#9226-1560821610521)

[Middle Colonies](#2340-1560821734644)

[Southern Colonies](#7724-1560821867338)

[Why did the 13 colonies declare independence from Great Britain?](#2327-1560821928523)

[French and Indian War (also known as the Seven Years War)](#4228-1560822037742)

[Relationship between the colonies and the home country](#6387-1560822045771)

[-- Ties between the colonies and their mother country were good before the Seven Years War ended. The American colonists needed the British protection against possible French attack.](#4198-1560822088459)

[-- Before the American Revolution, the thirteen colonies had long enjoyed high degrees of autonomy, liberties and democracy unseen in other European colonies. Things began to change after the Seven Years War.](#6065-1560822115604)

[Boston Tea Party Incident](#8173-1560822406918)

[The US Declaration of Independence](#7340-1560822795505)

[Significance of The Declaration of Independence](#3887-1560822830367)

[-- The Declaration announced the colonists’ belief that all people are equal and have some rights that cannot be violated such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.](#2436-1560822839636)

[Significance of the War of Independence](#8778-1560822862694)

[How did America grow?](#3333-1560822952532)

[The Westward Movement](#9089-1560822959812)

**When and where were the colonies established?**

**Christopher Columbus**

-- In 1492,Columbus landed at one of the Caribbean islands

-- Columbus called the local people Indians

**Amerigo Vespucci**

-- He was not the discoverer of the new continents , but it was he who first confimed the fact that a new continent rather than Asia had been discovered. The New America to honor Amerigo Vespucci

A "New World"

-- Ferdinand Megellan(麦哲伦)was the first explorer to sail around the tip of south america and go around the globe

-- the lands that were discovered on there explorations were known as the "New World".Before there journeys, the continent of the Americas was not known to have existed

**Colony**

-- The first permannent British colony - Jamestown, Virginia - was established in 1607 by the Virginia Company in the hope of finding gold or a trade route with China through North America.

-- The second colony – Plymouth, Massachusetts - was established in 1620 by separatist Puritans who wanted to free themselves from religious persecution in Britain.

**History**

-- In 1620, 102 Puritan pilgrims boarded a ship called the Mayflower and sailed for the New World. The strong wind brought them further north of the planned destination.

**Direct Causes**

Political(GLORY) Religious(GOD) Economic(GOLD)

**Who were the first settlers and why did they come to America**



-- The thirteen colonies were generally grouped as the New England colonies, the Middle colonies and the Southern colonies according to their locations.

**New England Colonies**

-- New England Colonies include New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut.

-- Puritans in New England were pious(虔诚的) and strictly followed the Bible for religion guidance. Therefore they attached great importance to education so that people could read the Bible directly. Education remains highly developed today in this region.

-- Many well-known universities are located in today’s New England, such as Harvard, Yale, MIT, Brown, Dartmouth, to name a few, the highest concentration of well-known top 40 universities in the world.

**Middle Colonies**

-- Middle colonies include New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.

-- Here, the societies were more diversified, cosmopolitan (国际化的) and tolerant than in New

England.

**Southern Colonies**

-- The southern colonies included Virginia, North and South Carolinas and Georgia.

-- They were mostly rural. Long summers, fertile and flat land were favorable for farming. The people in the south were mostly devoted to farming. Large farms developed. Grain, tobacco, cotton were the main produce.

**Why did the 13 colonies declare independence from Great Britain?**

**French and Indian War (also known as the Seven Years War)**

Dates

1754 – 1763

Location

North America

Outcome

British Victory over France; Treaty of Paris

Territorial changes

France ceded New France and east of the Mississippi River

to Great Britain, retaining Saint Pierre and Miquelon, and

transfers Louisiana to Spain

**Relationship between the colonies and the home country**

-- Ties between the colonies and their mother country were good before the Seven Years War ended. The American colonists needed the British protection against possible French attack.

-- Before the American Revolution, the thirteen colonies had long enjoyed high degrees of autonomy, liberties and democracy unseen in other European colonies. Things began to change after the Seven Years War.

-- In 1763, Britain won the Seven Years War but the war debts ran high. To pay off its debts and reduce its economic burden, the British government began to increase the economic exploitation of the colonies. A number of taxes were imposed on colonies and soldiers were sent to enforce their collection.

-- Having been used to self-rule, colonists claimed that only their elected representatives could impose tax on them, not the British Parliament in which they had not representation. The colonists protested by boycotting British goods and some other measures.

-- After several years of colonial resistance and under the pressure of British merchants who had suffered from the boycott, the British parliament repealed the taxes except on

tea as a symbol of authority. The colonists won a major concession.

**Boston Tea Party Incident**

-- At this time, the British East India Company, which brought a lot of profits to the British government, had trouble selling its tea stored in warehouses in large quantities. To help the company out of difficulty, the British parliament allowed it to undersell the tea in its American colonies without paying tax.

-- The act harmed the interests of local tea merchants. The radical colonists took advantage of the situation. On Dec. 16, 1773, 60 colonists disguised as Indians, boarded on the tea ship and poured the tea into the sea. The event is known as the Boston Tea Party Incident.

-- The British had to act, otherwise its authority would be damaged. Several laws were passed to punish the colonies, which the colonists found intolerable and named “Intolerable Acts”.

-- One act was to close the port of Boston until the tea loss was paid off. Another was aimed to deprive Massachusetts of its self-rule.

-- The acts threatened the economic life of some colonists and made other colonists fear that the British Parliament would also violate their interests and liberties one day. The colonists decided to act together to defend their interests and liberties.

-- Each colony sent their delegates to Philadelphia to find a solution in 1774. The event is known as the First Continental Congress.

-- The delegates tried to solve the crises peacefully by appealing to the English king George III to abolish the hated laws. The king refused. The colonies gradually determined to take up arms to defend their rights and liberty.

-- On April 19, 1775, the British general learned that militiamen were collecting weapons in Lexington, Massachusetts and sent several hundred soldiers to disarm them. \

-- Gun shooting broke out between them and grew into serious military clashes. Thus the armed struggle for American independence began.

-- At the beginning of the American Revolution, many colonists didn’t want to break away from their mother country. They simply wanted to defend their liberties and interests, but the British stubbornness gradually pushed them to independence.

-- In July, 1776, colonist delegates voted to break away from Britain and approved the Declaration of Independence.

**The US Declaration of Independence**

The Declaration of Independence was drafted by Thomas Jefferson.

It had two parts:

- The first part justified the rights of people to rebel against

a government that denied them their natural rights.

- The second part was a detailed indictment of King George

for cruelties, crimes and illegal political acts against

humanity and America.

**Significance of The Declaration of Independence**

-- The Declaration announced the colonists’ belief that all people are equal and have some rights that cannot be violated such as life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.

-- The document also establishes a principle: if a government violates people’s rights, people can overthrow it to preserve their rights and establish a new one to serve them well.

**Significance of the War of Independence**

-- The American Revolution gave birth to the first modern republic in the world.

-- It is the first time that colonies defeated tyrannical oppressors and won independence.

-- It sets a good example for other colonies to win independence from their oppressors.

**How did America grow?**

**The Westward Movement**

The Westward Movement refers to the continuous migration to the expanded territory of the U.S. and its development by the American people. Sometimes, the settlers occupied places even before they became American territory such as Florida and California. The process was called the Westward Movement because the new territory was mostly west of the original thirteen colonies.