

- **The First Peoples (Pre-1500s):**
 - **Migration:** The very first people arrived in the Americas by crossing the **Bering Sea** from Asia.
 - **Major Civilizations:**
 - **Mesoamerica (Central America): Mayas, Incas, and Mexica (Aztecs)** were the dominant civilizations before the Europeans arrived.
 - **North America:**
 - **Southwest: Pueblo-Hohokam-Anasazi** cultures.
 - **Ohio Valley: Adena-Hopewell** peoples.
 - **Mississippi Valley: Mississippian culture**, with **Cahokia** as a major city.
 - **Eastern Woodlands: Algonquian, Iroquois, and Muskogean** tribes.
- **The Europeans (Late 1400s - 1700s):**
 - **The Spanish:**
 - **Late 1400s: Christopher Columbus**, sponsored by Spain, landed in the **Bahamas and Hispaniola**, marking the beginning of sustained European contact.
 - **The Treaty of Tordesillas (1494):** Spain and Portugal agreed to divide the newly discovered lands between them.
 - **The French:**
 - **1600s:** Established a vast trading empire in **Canada and along the Mississippi River**, often forming alliances with Native American tribes.
 - **The English:**
 - **1607: Jamestown** was founded in the **Chesapeake Bay area of Virginia**. This was the first permanent English settlement.
 - **1620: The Pilgrims** established the **Plymouth** colony in **New England**.
 - **1630: The Puritans**, led by John Winthrop, founded the **Massachusetts Bay Colony**.
 - **Restoration Colonies (late 1600s):**
 - **The Carolinas, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and Georgia** were established, attracting a diverse mix of settlers.

Religious Groups: Beliefs and Differences 🙏

Religion was a major driving force for many colonists. Here's a look at the key groups:

- **Pilgrims (Separatists):**
 - **Who they were:** A group of English Protestants who wanted to completely separate from the Church of England.
 - **Where they settled: Plymouth, New England.**
 - **Why they were different:** They believed the Church of England was too corrupt to be reformed and that they needed to start fresh.

- **Puritans:**
 - **Who they were:** A larger group of English Protestants who wanted to "purify" the Church of England of its Catholic practices.
 - **Where they settled:** **Massachusetts Bay Colony.**
 - **Why they were different:** Unlike the Pilgrims, they did not want to leave the Church of England entirely but rather reform it from within. They had a strict moral and religious code that heavily influenced their government and society.
- **Quakers (Society of Friends):**
 - **Who they were:** A religious group that believed in the "Inner Light," or the presence of God in every person.
 - **Where they settled:** **Pennsylvania**, founded by William Penn.
 - **Why they were different:** Quakers were pacifists (they refused to fight in wars) and believed in religious freedom for all. They also had more egalitarian views, with women playing a more prominent role in the church than in other denominations.
- **Catholics:**
 - **Who they were:** Members of the Roman Catholic Church.
 - **Where they settled:** **Maryland** was founded as a safe haven for Catholics who were being persecuted in Protestant England.
- **The Great Awakening (mid-1700s):**
 - This was not a specific religious group but a widespread religious revival that affected all the colonies. It emphasized a more personal and emotional connection to God, leading to the growth of new denominations like the Baptists and Methodists.

Disease and its Impact 🤒

The arrival of Europeans had a devastating impact on the Native American population due to the introduction of new diseases.

- **The Columbian Exchange:** This refers to the widespread transfer of plants, animals, culture, human populations, technology, and ideas between the Americas and the Old World in the 15th and 16th centuries.
- **Impact on Native Americans:**
 - Native Americans had no immunity to European diseases like **smallpox, measles, and influenza.**
 - These diseases spread rapidly, causing massive epidemics that killed an estimated **90% of the Native American population.** This is often referred to as the "Great Dying."
- **Impact on Colonists:**
 - The early colonists, especially in the Chesapeake region, also faced high mortality rates due to diseases like **malaria and typhoid fever**, as well as malnutrition and harsh living conditions.

Other Key Concepts and Events

Here are some other important topics from your presentations that you should know for your exam:

- **The French and Indian War (1754-1763):** A war between Great Britain and France over control of North America. The British victory led to them gaining vast new territories but also created tensions with the colonies.
- **The Road to Revolution:**
 - **The Grenville Program:** A series of acts passed by the British to raise money from the colonies, including the **Sugar Act, Stamp Act, and Quartering Act**. These were met with widespread protest.
 - **The Townshend Acts:** More taxes on imported goods, leading to further unrest.
 - **The Boston Massacre and Boston Tea Party:** Key events that fueled the revolutionary fire.
 - **The Coercive (Intolerable) Acts:** Punitive laws passed by the British in response to the Boston Tea Party, which pushed the colonies closer to rebellion.
 - **The First Continental Congress:** A meeting of colonial delegates to coordinate a response to British actions.
- **Colonial Life:**
 - **Southern Colonies:** Economy based on large plantations and slave labor, with a hierarchical society.
 - **New England Colonies:** Society centered on towns and the church, with a diverse economy of farming, fishing, and trade.
 - **Middle Colonies:** The most diverse region, with a mix of religions, ethnicities, and economic activities.
 - **The Enlightenment:** An intellectual movement that emphasized reason and individual rights, influencing colonial leaders like Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin.

Chapter 1: The Collision of Cultures

- **The First Migration:** The first people arrived in the Americas by crossing the **Bering Sea**. Archaeologists and anthropologists have found evidence of these first people in the Americas, and it is believed they traveled to North America for various reasons.
- **Early Cultures in the Americas:**
 - **Paleo-Indian civilizations:**
 - Possible origins of Native Americans include Siberia (via the Bering Land Bridge) and Southwestern Europe.
 - They adapted to a warmer climate, with maize being a key crop.
 - **Pre-Columbian Indian civilizations:**
 - Early cultures included the **Mayas, Incas, and Mexica**.
 - Permanent towns emerged in Mexico around 2000 BCE.

- The classical Middle American culture of the Mayans farmed from 300-900 CE.
 - The Mexica and the Aztec Empire followed, and their culture was present when the Spanish arrived.
 - South American cultures included the Chibchas and Incas in the Andes Mountains.
- **North American Civilizations before 1500:**
 - Indian cultures in the present-day US reached several major cultural climaxes.
 - **Pueblo-Hohokam-Anasazi** cultures of the Southwest (400 BCE - present) had looser class structures.
 - Indians of the Pacific Northwest stretched from Alaska to California.
 - **Adena-Hopewell** peoples of the Ohio Valley (800 BCE - 600 CE).
 - **Mississippian culture** of the Mississippi Valley (600 - 1500 CE), with Cahokia as a dominant cultural center (1050-1250 CE).
 - **Native Americans in 1500:**
 - **Eastern Woodlands peoples:** Algonquian, Iroquois (Haudenosaunee), and Muskogean.
- **European Visions of America:**
 - **Viking arrival:**
 - Greenland settlement by **Erik the Red**.
 - Brief settlement of Newfoundland by **Leif Eriksson**.
 - **The Expansion of Europe:**
 - The **Renaissance** brought a rebirth of secular learning, intellectual curiosity, and the use of ancient Greek and Roman ideas, including geography. This led to improved navigational aids and shipbuilding.
 - The rise of a middle class and unified nation-states ruled by powerful monarchs encouraged exploration.
- **The Voyages of Columbus:**
 - Columbus's early life was in Italy, and he wanted to spread Christianity and earn riches.
 - His voyages were sponsored by **Ferdinand and Isabella of Spain**.
 - He set sail to reach the Indies in 1492, but instead reached the Bahamas and Hispaniola.
 - The **Treaty of Tordesillas (1494)** was signed by Spain and Portugal to divide the non-Christian world.

Chapter 2: Britain and Its Colonies

- **Religious and Imperial Transformations:**

- **The Protestant Reformation:** Martin Luther and John Calvin were key figures.
- **Nations and Faith:** The Reformation had a significant impact on England, leading to the establishment of the Anglican Church.
- **The English in the Chesapeake:**
 - **Jamestown:** Captain John Smith was a key leader, and the colony faced many hardships. The cultivation of tobacco helped the colony survive.
 - **Maryland:** Established as a proprietary colony and a refuge for Catholics.
 - **Life in the Chesapeake:** Characterized by indentured servitude and a high mortality rate.
- **The English in New England:**
 - **Plymouth:** The Pilgrims, seeking religious freedom, established this colony.
 - **Massachusetts Bay:** The Puritans, led by John Winthrop, established this colony with a strong religious and civic purpose.
 - **Rhode Island:** Founded by Roger Williams, it was a beacon of religious freedom.
 - **The Pequot War:** A conflict between English settlers and the Pequot tribe.
- **The English in the Caribbean:**
 - **Sugar and the Transatlantic Slave Trade:** The demand for sugar fueled the growth of plantations and the transatlantic slave trade.
- **The Restoration Colonies:**
 - **The Carolinas:** Established with a focus on agriculture and trade.
 - **New Netherland to New York:** The Dutch colony of New Netherland was taken over by the English and renamed New York.
 - **New Jersey:** Formed from a division of New York.
 - **Pennsylvania:** Founded by William Penn as a Quaker colony, promoting religious tolerance and fair dealings with Native Americans.
 - **Delaware:** Originally part of Pennsylvania, it later became a separate colony.
 - **Georgia:** Established as a buffer between the English colonies and Spanish Florida, and as a place for debtors to start anew.

Chapter 3: Colonial Ways of Life

- **The Shape of Early America:**
 - **Population Growth:** Colonial America experienced rapid population growth.
- **Society and Economy in the Southern Colonies:**
 - The Southern colonies had a hierarchical society and an economy based on staple crops like tobacco, rice, and indigo, which were grown on large plantations with slave labor.
- **Society and Economy in New England:**
 - New England's society was centered around towns and the church, with a diverse economy that included farming, fishing, and trade.
- **Society and Economy in the Middle Colonies:**
 - The Middle Colonies were the most diverse, with a mix of religions, ethnicities, and economic activities, including farming and trade.
- **Race-Based Slavery in the Colonies:**

- Slavery in the colonies was race-based and became a fundamental part of the Southern economy and society.
- **The First Stirrings of a Common Colonial Culture:**
 - **Taverns:** Taverns were important social and political centers in colonial America.
 - **The Enlightenment:** The Enlightenment was an intellectual movement that emphasized reason and individualism, and it had a profound impact on colonial thought.
 - **The Great Awakening:** The Great Awakening was a religious revival that swept through the colonies in the mid-18th century, leading to a more emotional and personal form of Christianity.

Chapter 4: From Colonies to States

- **The French in North America:**
 - **The French and Native Americans:** The French established a vast trading empire in North America and often had better relations with Native Americans than the English.
 - **A Century of Warfare:** A series of wars between the French and the British, culminating in the French and Indian War, would determine the fate of North America.
- **The French and Indian War (1754-1763):**
 - **The Albany Congress:** A meeting of colonial leaders to discuss a unified defense against the French and their Native American allies.
 - **The War and its Consequences:** The British victory in the French and Indian War resulted in France losing its North American empire and Britain gaining vast new territories.
- **The British Empire and the Colonial Crisis:**
 - **The Grenville Program:** A series of acts passed by the British Parliament to raise revenue from the colonies, including the Sugar Act, the Stamp Act, and the Quartering Act, which led to widespread colonial opposition.
 - **The Townshend Acts:** Another series of acts that imposed taxes on goods imported into the colonies, leading to further protests and boycotts.
- **Toward Independence:**
 - **The Boston Massacre:** A deadly confrontation between British soldiers and colonists that further inflamed tensions.
 - **The Boston Tea Party:** A protest against the Tea Act in which colonists dumped tea into Boston Harbor.
 - **The Coercive Acts (Intolerable Acts):** A series of punitive measures passed by the British Parliament in response to the Boston Tea Party, which further united the colonies against British rule.
 - **The First Continental Congress:** A meeting of delegates from twelve of the thirteen colonies to discuss a response to the Coercive Acts.

The Columbian Exchange: A Two-Way Street of Transformation

While we touched on the devastating impact of disease, the Columbian Exchange was a much broader phenomenon that permanently reshaped both the Old World (Europe, Africa, Asia) and the New World (the Americas).

- **From the Americas to Europe:**
 - **New Food Sources:** Think about how central some of these foods are to European cuisine today: **tomatoes, potatoes, corn (maize), beans, squash, and cacao (the source of chocolate)**. These new, calorie-rich crops led to a population boom in Europe.
 - **Tobacco:** This became a major cash crop and a source of wealth for the colonies.
- **From Europe to the Americas:**
 - **Livestock: Horses, cattle, pigs, and sheep** were introduced to the Americas. Horses, in particular, revolutionized the lives of many Native American tribes on the Great Plains, changing the way they hunted and fought.
 - **Grains: Wheat, barley, and rye** were brought over, changing the agricultural landscape.
 - **Honeybees:** These were not native to the Americas.

Where Enslaved People Came From: West and Central Africa

The vast majority of enslaved Africans were taken from the western coasts of the continent. European traders established forts and trading posts in these regions, where they purchased captives from local African leaders and traders. The primary regions were:

- **West Africa:** This was the largest source of enslaved people. Key areas included:
 - **Senegambia:** The area around the Senegal and Gambia Rivers (modern-day Senegal, Gambia, Guinea-Bissau).
 - **The Gold Coast:** The region of modern-day Ghana.
 - **The Bight of Benin (often called the "Slave Coast"):** Including modern-day Togo, Benin, and western Nigeria.
 - **The Bight of Biafra:** The coast of modern-day eastern Nigeria and Cameroon.
- **Central Africa:** This was another major source of captives, particularly for the Portuguese slave trade. The main area was **West-Central Africa**, which includes modern-day Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

It's important to know that Europeans generally did not go deep into the African interior to capture people themselves. Instead, they relied on a network of African rulers and merchants who would capture people through wars or raids and bring them to the coastal forts to be sold.

Where Enslaved People Went: The Americas

While slavery existed in all of the American colonies, the destinations of the enslaved were overwhelmingly concentrated in places where large-scale plantation agriculture dominated the economy.

- **Brazil and the Caribbean (The Vast Majority):** Over **90%** of all enslaved Africans were transported to Brazil and the islands of the Caribbean.
 - **Brazil:** Received the largest number of enslaved people, approximately **4.8 million**. They were forced to work primarily on massive **sugar plantations**.
 - **The Caribbean:** Received about **4.7 million** people. Islands like Barbados (British), Saint-Domingue (French, now Haiti), and Jamaica (British) were major destinations, also dominated by sugar production.
- **North America (A Small Percentage):** A much smaller portion, estimated at around **388,000** people (or about 4-6% of the total), were brought directly to the British colonies that would become the United States.
 - Most enslaved people in the American colonies initially worked on **tobacco, rice, and indigo plantations** in the Southern colonies.
 - **Charleston, South Carolina**, was the main port of entry for enslaved Africans into North America.

The reason for the massive numbers in Brazil and the Caribbean was the brutal nature of sugar production. The death rates on these plantations were incredibly high, and the enslaved population could not sustain itself, leading to a constant and horrific demand for new captives from Africa.

The Triangular Trade and the Middle Passage

This entire system was part of a larger network known as the **Triangular Trade**.

1. **Leg 1:** Ships left **Europe** with manufactured goods (guns, cloth, tools) and sailed to **Africa**.
2. **Leg 2 (The Middle Passage):** These goods were exchanged for enslaved Africans, who were then packed onto ships for the horrific journey across the Atlantic to the **Americas**.
3. **Leg 3:** In the Americas, the enslaved people were sold, and the ships were loaded with raw materials produced by their labor (sugar, tobacco, cotton) to take back to **Europe**.

The **Middle Passage** was the journey from Africa to the Americas and was unimaginably brutal. People were chained and crammed into the holds of ships in unsanitary and inhumane conditions. Disease, starvation, and abuse were rampant, and it's estimated that **15-20%** of all captives died during the voyage. This journey was a central part of the traumatic experience of the slave trade.