



# 3 Founding the Middle and Southern Colonies

## TERMS & NAMES

Peter Stuyvesant  
patroon  
Duke of York  
proprietary colony  
William Penn  
Quaker  
royal colony  
James Oglethorpe

### MAIN IDEA

The founding of the Middle and Southern colonies provided settlers with many economic opportunities.

### WHY IT MATTERS NOW

America is still a place where immigrants seek freedom and economic opportunity.

## ONE AMERICAN'S STORY

The Dutch had founded the colony of New Netherland (later New York) on the eastern coast of North America in 1624. **Peter Stuyvesant**, the new governor, arrived in the city of New Amsterdam in May 1647. Because of his harsh personality and rough manner, he soon lost the support of the Dutch colonists. In 1664, a British fleet ordered the city of New Amsterdam to surrender itself to British control. Stuyvesant was unable to gain the support of the Dutch colonists against the British. He surrendered and then defended his decision to his superiors back in the Netherlands.

### A VOICE FROM THE PAST

Powder and provisions failing, and no relief or reinforcements being expected, we were necessitated [forced] to come to terms with the enemy, not through neglect of duty or cowardice . . . but in consequence of an absolute impossibility to defend the fort, much less the city of New Amsterdam, and still less the country.

Peter Stuyvesant, quoted in *Peter Stuyvesant and His New York*

After the surrender, Stuyvesant retired to his farm. This land later became part of New York City. In this section, you will read about the founding of the Middle Colonies (such as New York) and the Southern Colonies. You will learn who settled there and why they came.

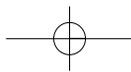


Peter Stuyvesant, governor of the Dutch colony of New Netherland, lost his leg in 1644 during a military action against the island of St. Martin in the Caribbean.

## The Middle Colonies

The Middle Colonies were New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. They were located between New England to the north and the Chesapeake region to the south. (See the map on page 86.) Swedes, Dutch, English, Germans, and Africans were among the groups who came to these colonies.

Religious freedom attracted many groups, including Protestants, Catholics, Quakers, and Jews. The Hudson and Delaware rivers supported shipping and commerce. The river valleys had rich soil and mild winters. These conditions were favorable for farming and raising livestock.



## New Netherland Becomes New York

In 1624, Dutch settlers financed by the Dutch West India Company founded the colony of New Netherland. New Netherland included the Hudson River valley, Long Island, and the land along the Delaware River.

To attract more settlers, the Dutch West India Company employed the patroon system. A **patroon** was a person who brought 50 settlers to New Netherland. As a reward, a patroon received a large land grant. He also received special privileges in hunting, fishing, and fur trading on his land.

In the early years, many different kinds of people settled in New Netherland. Twenty-three Jewish settlers arrived in 1654, and others soon followed. Later, Africans were brought to the colony as slaves and indentured servants. Many Puritans also came.

Peter Stuyvesant, the colony's governor, wanted to add land to New Netherland. He attacked the nearby charter colony of New Sweden in 1655. This colony was located along the Delaware River. The main settlement was Fort Christina (later named Wilmington, Delaware). It had been settled by Swedes in 1638. After an attack by the Dutch, the Swedes surrendered Fort Christina.

England's King Charles II decided that his brother, the **Duke of York**, should drive the Dutch out of New Netherland. The Dutch colony was a threat to England because of its trade. It was also a threat because of its expanding settlements and its location. There were English colonies in New England to the north and Virginia to the south. As you have seen, when the duke's ships appeared off New Amsterdam in August 1664, the colony surrendered. New Netherland became the **proprietary colony** of New York. The Duke of York was now the proprietor, or owner, of the colony.

## New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware

The Duke of York had become the largest single landowner in America. He gave part of his claim, the province of New Jersey, to his friends Sir George Carteret and Lord John Berkeley in 1664. They encouraged settlers to come by promising freedom of religion. They also promised large grants of land and a representative assembly.

**William Penn** became another large landowner in America. Born into a wealthy English family, Penn joined the **Quakers**, to his father's disapproval. The young Penn was attacked for his Quaker beliefs. King Charles II owed the Penn family money. In repayment, in 1681 he gave Penn a large piece of land in America that came to be called Pennsylvania. The name means "Penn's woods."

## America's HERITAGE

### THE LOG CABIN

Swedish colonists living in Delaware built the first log cabin in America in 1638. The log cabin was the perfect house to build where there were many trees. Settlers needed few tools to build such cabins, which were made of round logs with curved notches at the ends. After the ends were placed in the notches, the logs were secured. After 1780, the log cabin became the typical frontier home.

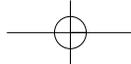


### Background

The Duke of York became King James II in 1685.

### ReadingHistory

**A. Forming Opinions** Why might the promise of religious freedom encourage a diverse population in a colony?



Penn used this land to create a colony where Quakers could live according to their beliefs. Among other things, the Quakers believed that all people should live in peace and harmony. They welcomed different religions and ethnic groups. In Pennsylvania, Penn extended religious freedom and equality to all. He especially wanted the Native Americans to be treated fairly. In a letter to them in 1681, Penn said, “May [we] always live together as neighbors and friends.”

Penn’s policies helped make Pennsylvania one of the wealthiest of the American colonies. Many settlers came to Pennsylvania seeking religious freedom and a better life. In 1704, Penn granted the three lower counties of Delaware their own assembly. The counties later broke away to form the colony of Delaware.

## The Southern Colonies

The new Southern Colonies were Maryland, the Carolinas, and Georgia. The Appalachian Mountains bordered parts of these colonies in the west. In the east, the colonies bordered the Atlantic Ocean. The soil and climate of this region were suitable for warm-weather crops such as tobacco, rice, and indigo.

## Maryland and the Carolinas

Lord Baltimore established Maryland in 1632 for Roman Catholics fleeing persecution in England. To attract

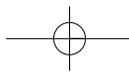
other settlers besides Catholics, Lord Baltimore promised religious freedom. In 1649, Maryland passed the Toleration Act.

Maryland based its economy on tobacco, which required backbreaking work. Every three or four years, the tobacco crop used up the soil, and workers had to clear new land. Most laborers came as either servants or slaves. Maryland attracted few women as settlers.

In 1663, Carolina was founded as a colony. English settlers from Barbados built Charles Town, later called Charleston, in 1670. They

### Reading History

**B. Comparing and Contrasting** How did Penn’s policies toward Native Americans compare with those of other colonies you have read about?



busied themselves cutting timber, raising cattle, and trading with the Native Americans. After 1685, Charleston became a refuge for Huguenots, French Protestants seeking religious freedom.

**Vocabulary**

**Carolina:** The name of the colony is based on a Latin form of "Charles," in honor of King Charles II.

Carolina's colonists needed laborers to grow rice and indigo. The English settlers encouraged the use of enslaved Africans. They also sold local Native Americans into slavery. As a result, wars broke out between the settlers and the Tuscarora and Yamasee tribes. The settlers' taking of tribal lands also fueled the wars.

Carolina's proprietors, or owners, refused to send help to stop a threatened Spanish attack on Charleston. Because of this, the colonists overthrew the colony's proprietary rule in 1719. In 1729, Carolina became a **royal colony**. Then it was ruled by governors appointed by the king. The colony was divided into North Carolina and South Carolina.

**Georgia**

In 1732, **James Oglethorpe** founded Georgia as a refuge for debtors. The English government wanted to use the colony as a military outpost against Spanish Florida to the south and French Louisiana to the west. In 1739, during a war between England and Spain, the Spanish tried to force the English colonists out of Georgia but were unsuccessful. English, German, Swiss, and Scottish colonists settled in Georgia. All religions were welcome. As the colony's leader, Oglethorpe set strict rules that upset the colonists. The king, in response to unrest, made Georgia a royal colony in 1752.

By the early 1700s, there were 13 English colonies along the eastern coast of North America. In the next chapter, you will read about how these colonies developed.



James Oglethorpe was the founder of Georgia.

**ReadingHistory**

**C. Reading a Map**

Use the map on page 86 to check the location of Georgia in relation to the Spanish territory of Florida.

Section **3** Assessment

**1. Terms & Names**

**Explain the significance of:**

- Peter Stuyvesant
- patroon
- Duke of York
- proprietary colony
- William Penn
- Quaker
- royal colony
- James Oglethorpe

**2. Taking Notes**

Identify an effect for each cause listed in the chart below.

Cause	Effect
New Netherland threat to English	
English attacked Quakers	
Laborers needed in Carolinas	
Oglethorpe too strict in Georgia	

**3. Main Ideas**

- a. What were the goals of the patroon system?
- b. What three Middle Colonies offered religious freedom?
- c. What were three crops grown in the Southern Colonies?

**4. Critical Thinking**

**Analyzing Causes** Why did colonists in Maryland and the Carolinas enslave Native Americans and use African slaves?

**THINK ABOUT**

- the crops being grown
- the nature of farm work

**ACTIVITY OPTIONS**

- LANGUAGE ARTS**
- SCIENCE**

What are the health effects of tobacco? Write a **news article** or give a **television report** for a science show about the effects of tobacco on the body.