



# Settlement of the Middle Colonies

## MAIN IDEA

The Dutch settle New Netherland; English Quakers led by William Penn settle Pennsylvania.

## WHY IT MATTERS NOW

The principles of tolerance and equality promoted in the Quaker settlement remain fundamental values in America.

## Terms & Names

- William Penn
- New Netherland
- proprietor
- Quakers

## One American's Story

**William Penn** had frustrated his father, Admiral Sir William Penn. In 1667, at age 22, the younger Penn committed himself to the Society of Friends, or Quakers, a Protestant sect whose religious and social beliefs were radical for the time.

Ironically, his late father would play a key role in helping William Penn realize his dream—establishing a haven for Quakers in America. King Charles II had owed Penn's father money, which the younger Penn asked to be repaid with American land. Charles agreed, and in 1681 he gave Penn a charter for Pennsylvania. Penn had big plans for his colony—a government run on Quaker principles of equality, cooperation, and religious toleration. As he confided to a friend, however, Penn did not reveal the true nature of his plans before receiving the charter.



▲ This chalk drawing shows William Penn around 1695, at about the age of 50.

### A PERSONAL VOICE WILLIAM PENN

“For matters of liberty and privilege, I propose that which is extraordinary, and [I intend] to leave myself and successors no power for doing mischief, [in order] that the will of one man may not hinder the good of a whole country; but to publish those things now and here, as matters stand, would not be wise. . . .”

—quoted in *A New World*

While Penn only partially realized his “extraordinary” plans, the tolerant Quaker principles on which he established his colony attracted many settlers of different faiths.

## The Dutch Found New Netherland

While English Puritans were establishing colonies in New England, the Dutch were founding one to the south. As early as 1609, Henry Hudson—an Englishman employed by the Dutch—sailed up what is now known as the Hudson River. In 1621, the Dutch government granted the newly formed Dutch West India Company permission to colonize **New Netherland** and expand the thriving fur



trade. New Amsterdam (now New York City), founded in 1625, became the capital of the colony. In 1655, the Dutch extended their claims by taking over New Sweden, a tiny colony of Swedish and Finnish settlers that had established a rival fur trade along the Delaware River.

**A DIVERSE COLONY** Although the Dutch company profited from its fur trade, New Netherland was slow to attract Dutch colonists. To encourage settlers to come and stay, the colony opened its doors to a variety of people. Gradually, more Dutch as well as Germans, French, Scandinavians, and other Europeans settled the area. The colony also included many Africans, free as well as enslaved. By the 1660s, one-fifth of New Netherland's population was of African ancestry.

These settlers generally enjoyed friendlier relations with Native Americans than did the English colonists in New England and Virginia. The Dutch were less interested in conquering the Native Americans than in trading with them for furs. The first Dutch traders had the good sense not to anger the powerful and well-organized Iroquois, who controlled a large territory between Dutch traders to the south and French traders to the north. However, the Dutch did engage in fighting with various Native American groups over land claims and trade rivalries. **A**

**ENGLISH TAKEOVER** To the English, New Netherland had become a “Dutch wedge” separating its northern and southern colonies. In 1664, King Charles II granted his brother James, the duke of York (who later became King James II), permission to drive out the Dutch. When the duke's fleet arrived in New Amsterdam's harbor, Peter Stuyvesant, the autocratic and unpopular Dutch governor, raised a call to arms. The call was largely ignored. Severely outmanned, Stuyvesant surrendered to the English without anyone firing a shot. The duke of York, the new **proprietor**, or owner, of the colony, renamed it New York. The duke later gave a portion of this land to two of his friends, naming the territory New Jersey for the British island of Jersey.

### MAIN IDEA

#### Summarizing

**A** What were the important characteristics of the colony of New Netherland?



## Middle Colonies to 1700



### GEOGRAPHY SKILLBUILDER

**Region** What major river partially separated New Netherland from the English middle colonies?

New Netherland (ceded to England in 1664)

0 50 100 miles

0 50 100 kilometers

## The Quakers Settle Pennsylvania

The acquisition of New Netherland was an important step in England's quest to extend its American empire after the restoration of the monarchy. The colony that took shape was a marked contrast to England's other North American settlements.

### PENN'S “HOLY EXPERIMENT”

William Penn well knew that England in the late 1660s was no place for Quakers. The **Quakers** believed that God's “inner light” burned inside everyone. They held services without formal ministers, allowing any person to speak as the spirit moved him or her. They dressed plainly, refused to defer to persons of rank, and embraced pacifism by opposing war and refusing to serve in the military. For their radical views, they were harassed by Anglicans and Puritans alike. **B**

### Background

A Commonwealth headed by Oliver Cromwell ruled England from 1649 until 1658. The monarchy was restored under Charles II in 1660.

### MAIN IDEA

#### Comparing

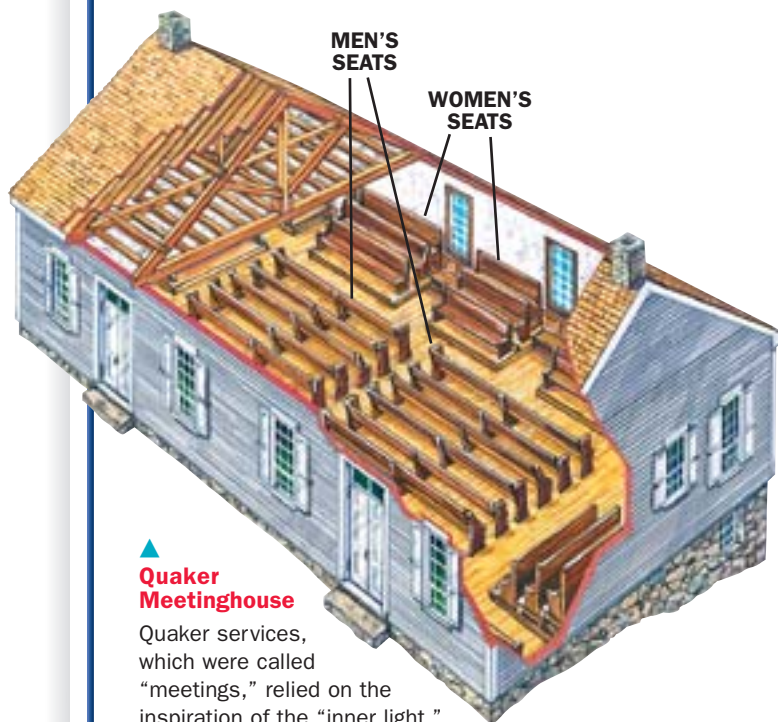
**B** How did Quaker beliefs compare to Puritan beliefs?



## History Through Architecture

### COLONIAL MEETINGHOUSES

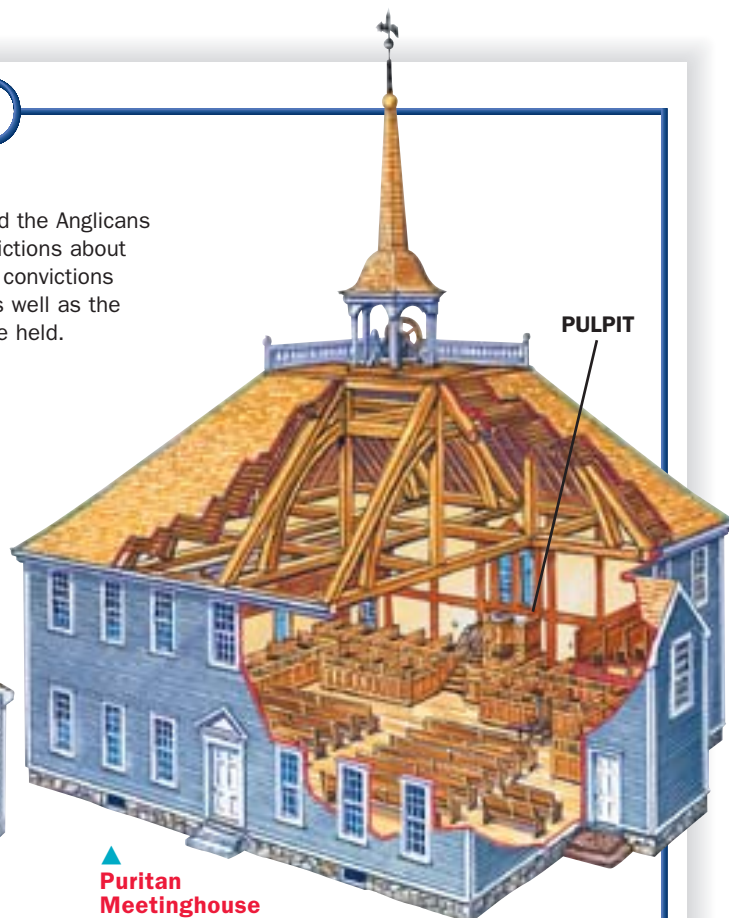
The Puritans of the northeast, the Quakers of Pennsylvania, and the Anglicans of the southern colonies held profound but often different convictions about community, social responsibility, and individual freedom. These convictions were often expressed in the religious services of each group as well as the architecture of the places of worship where these services were held.



#### Quaker Meetinghouse

Quaker services, which were called "meetings," relied on the inspiration of the "inner light." Meetings reflected a respect for conscience and freedom of speech.

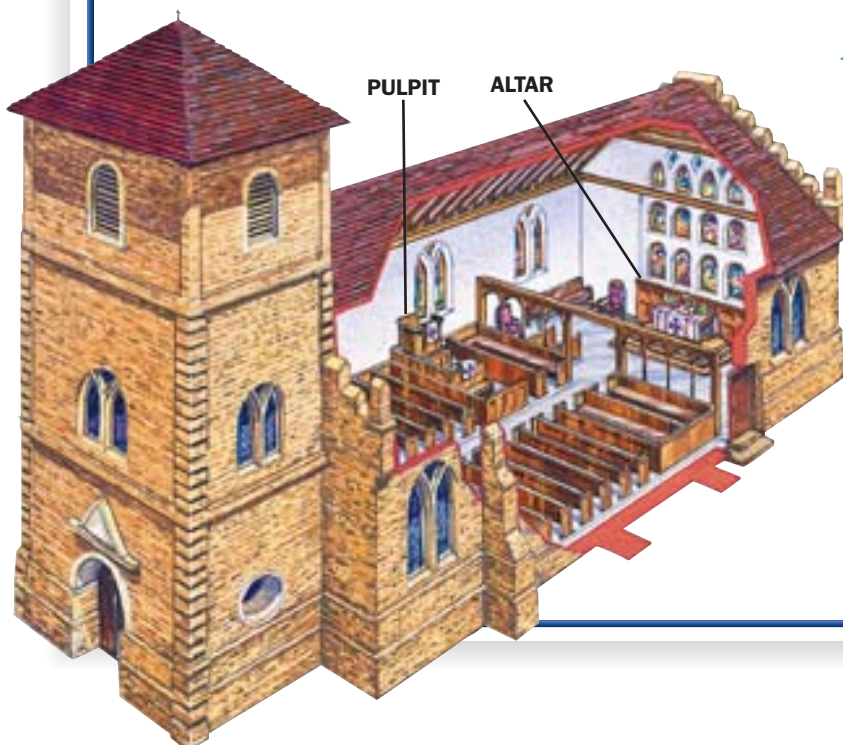
Men and women entered by separate doors and sat on opposite sides, facing each other. In some meetinghouses, women sat in slightly elevated seats. Both men and women could speak during the meeting.



#### Puritan Meetinghouse

Puritan services focused on preaching. Sermons, which sometimes lasted for hours, instructed the individual conscience to be mindful of the common good.

The pulpit was the focal point of the meetinghouse. A plain interior reflected a value for austerity and simplicity. Meetinghouses were also used for town meetings.



#### Anglican Church

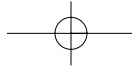
The head of the Anglican church was the British monarch. Anglican services valued ritual. Their churches stressed the importance of authority and status.

Anglican churches emphasized the altar through ornamentation and elaborate windows. A screen separated the altar from the congregation. Elaborate pews were reserved for wealthy church members.

#### SKILLBUILDER Interpreting Visual Sources

1. In what ways do the Puritan and Quaker meetinghouses resemble each other? In what ways are they different?
2. How does the interior of the Anglican church show a respect for hierarchy?

 SEE SKILLBUILDER HANDBOOK, PAGE R23.



Penn saw his colony as a “holy experiment” in living, a place without a land-owning aristocracy. He guaranteed every adult male settler 50 acres of land and the right to vote. Penn’s plan for government called for a representative assembly and freedom of religion. As a lasting symbol of his Quaker beliefs, Penn also helped plan a capital he called the “City of Brotherly Love,” or Philadelphia.

Penn’s constitution also provided for a separate assembly for the three southern counties along the Delaware Bay. Delaware thereby gained a somewhat separate existence. However, it continued to have the same governor as Pennsylvania.

**NATIVE AMERICAN RELATIONS** Like most Quakers, Penn believed that people approached in friendship would respond in friendship—sooner or later. So even before setting foot in North America, Penn arranged to have a letter read to the Lenni Lenapi, or Delaware, the tribe that inhabited his settlement area.

Aware that the Delaware had already been ravaged by European diseases and war, Penn wrote,

### **A PERSONAL VOICE** WILLIAM PENN

“Now I would have you well observe, that I am very sensible of the unkindness and injustice that has been too much exercised towards you by the people of these parts of the world, who have sought . . . to make great advantages by you, . . . sometimes to the shedding of blood. . . . But I am not such a man. . . . I have great love and regard toward you, and I desire to win and gain your love and friendship by a kind, just, and peaceable life.”

—quoted in *A New World*

To be sure that his colonists treated the native peoples fairly, Penn regulated trade with them and provided for a court composed of both colonists and Native Americans to settle any differences. The Native Americans respected Penn, and for more than 50 years the Pennsylvania colony had no major conflicts with Native Americans who lived in the colony. **C**

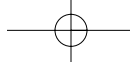
#### **MAIN IDEA**

#### **Contrasting**

**C** How did Penn’s attitudes and actions toward the Native Americans differ from those of the Puritans?

William Penn’s ►  
1682 treaty  
with the Native  
Americans is  
commemorated in  
this Edward Hicks  
painting from the  
1840s.





**A THRIVING COLONY** Penn faced the same challenge as the Dutch West India Company; he needed to attract settlers—farmers, builders, and traders—to create a profitable colony. After initially opening the colony to Quakers, he vigorously recruited immigrants from around western Europe. Glowing advertisements for the colony were printed in German, Dutch, and French. In time, settlers came in numbers, including thousands of Germans who brought with them craft skills and farming techniques that helped the colony to thrive.

Penn himself spent only about four years in Pennsylvania. And, despite the colony's success, he never profited financially as proprietor and died in poverty in 1718. Meanwhile, his idealistic vision had faded but not failed. His own Quakers were a minority in a colony thickly populated by people from all over western Europe. Slavery was introduced and, despite Penn's principles, many prominent Quakers in Pennsylvania owned slaves. However, the principles of equality, cooperation, and religious tolerance on which he founded his vision would eventually become fundamental values of the new American nation.

**THIRTEEN COLONIES** Throughout the 1600s and 1700s, other British colonies in North America were founded as well, each for very different reasons. In 1632, King Charles I granted a charter for land north of Chesapeake Bay to George Calvert, the first Lord Baltimore. Calvert's son Cecil, the second Lord Baltimore, named the colony Maryland, after Queen Henrietta Maria, Charles's queen. Lord Baltimore, who was a Roman Catholic, obtained a religious toleration law from Maryland's colonial assembly, and the colony became famous for its religious freedom. In 1663, King Charles II awarded a group of key supporters the land between Virginia and Spanish Florida, a territory that soon became North and South Carolina.

In 1732, an English philanthropist named James Ogelthorpe, and several associates received a charter for a colony they hoped could be a haven for those imprisoned for debt. Ogelthorpe named the colony Georgia, after King George II. Few debtors actually came to Georgia, and Ogelthorpe's policies, which prohibited both slavery and the drinking of rum, were reversed when the British crown assumed direct control of the colony in 1752. By that time, there were thirteen British colonies in North America, but a growing desire for independence would soon put a strain on their relationship with England.



▲ Quakers offered silver collars like the one above to local Native Americans as a token of peace.

## 4

## ASSESSMENT

**1. TERMS & NAMES** For each term or name, write a sentence explaining its significance.

• William Penn

• New Netherland

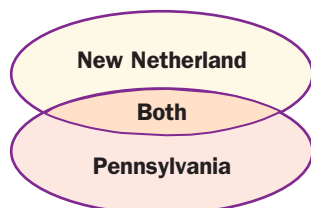
• proprietor

• Quakers

### MAIN IDEA

#### 2. TAKING NOTES

Compare the colonies of New Netherland and Pennsylvania, using a Venn diagram such as the one below.



Write a paragraph comparing and contrasting the two colonies.

### CRITICAL THINKING

#### 3. ANALYZING CAUSES

Why was Ogelthorpe's prohibition of slavery reversed?

#### 4. EVALUATING DECISIONS

Both New Netherland and Pennsylvania encouraged settlers to come from all over western Europe. Do you think this was a good decision for these colonies? Why or why not?

#### 5. DRAWING CONCLUSIONS

How did William Penn succeed in achieving his goals for Pennsylvania, and how did he fail? Explain.

##### Think About:

- Penn's actions toward Native Americans
- Penn's plans for representative government and freedom of religion
- Quakers who owned slaves

# Surviving in a New World

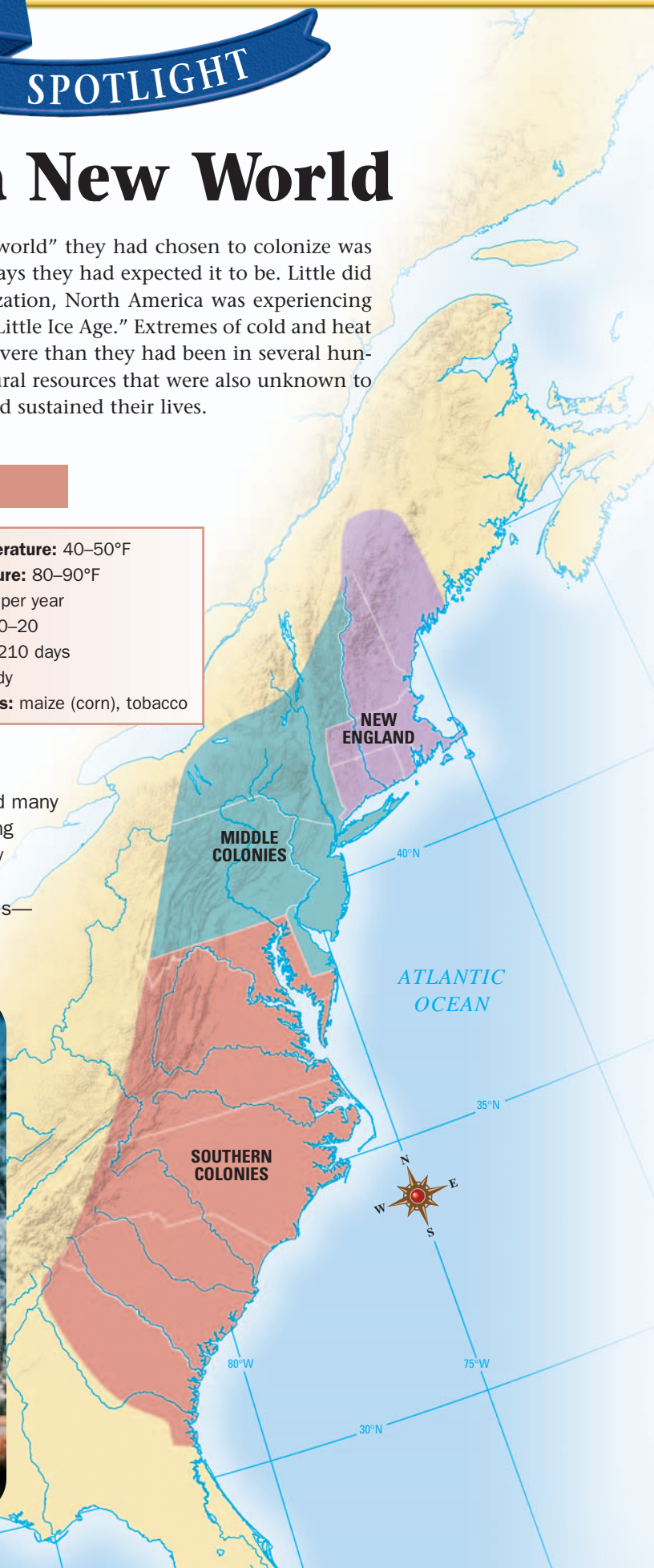
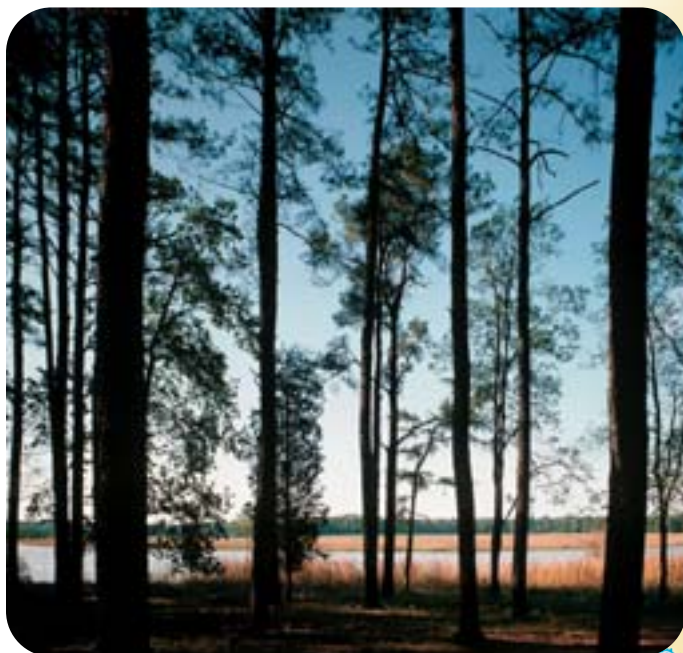
Early settlers quickly discovered that the “new world” they had chosen to colonize was indeed an extraordinary place, but not in the ways they had expected it to be. Little did colonists know that during the years of colonization, North America was experiencing the worst of what scientists now refer to as the “Little Ice Age.” Extremes of cold and heat up and down the eastern seaboard were more severe than they had been in several hundred years. In time, colonists learned about natural resources that were also unknown to them, foods and plants that ultimately saved and sustained their lives.

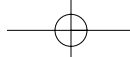
## The Southern Colonies

Jamestown colonists had counted on bartering for food with Native Americans in order to survive, but the Powhatan had little food to spare. The area was being hit with its worst drought in 800 years. The intense heat destroyed crops, and Native Americans were reluctant to trade what little they had.

The heat created other hardships as well. The swampy Jamestown peninsula bred malaria-bearing mosquitoes, and many colonists died from the disease. Soon, the colonists’ drinking water, supplied by the river, became contaminated with salty sea water. Eventually, the colonists’ export of tobacco—a crop that Native Americans had been growing for centuries—provided a source of income that attracted more colonists, whose arrival saved the colony.

**Average January Temperature:** 40–50°F  
**Average July Temperature:** 80–90°F  
**Rainfall:** 20–40 inches per year  
**Days of Snow Cover:** 10–20  
**Growing Season:** 180–210 days  
**Soil:** yellowish and sandy  
**Crops of Native Peoples:** maize (corn), tobacco





**Average January Temperature:** 20–30°F  
**Average July Temperature:** 60–70°F  
**Rainfall:** 20–40 inches per year  
**Days of Snow Cover:** 90–120  
**Growing Season:** 120–150 days  
**Soil:** gray to brown, gravelly, stony  
**Crops of Native Peoples:** maize (corn), beans, squash



## The New England Colonies

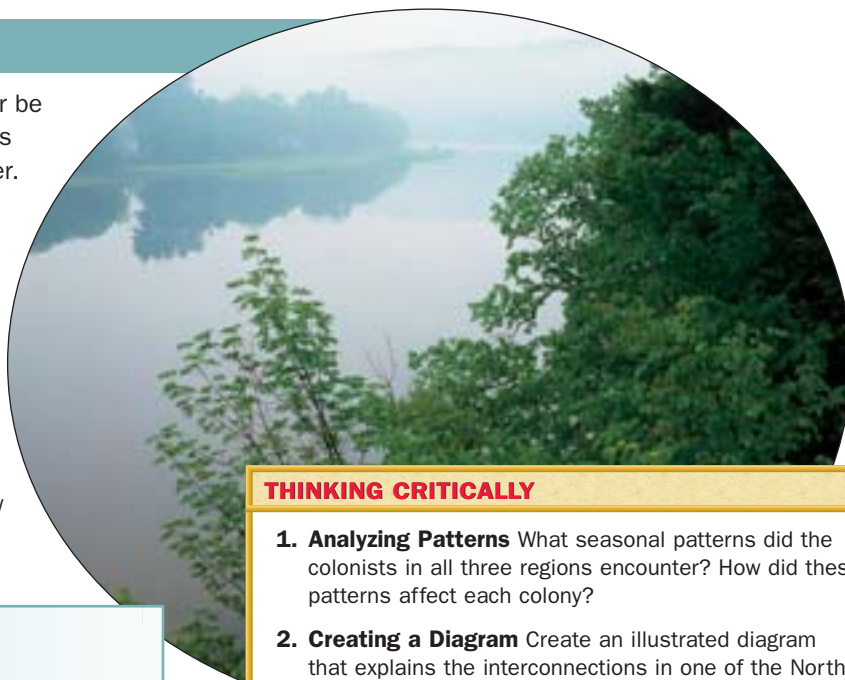
Colonists in New England likewise suffered from extreme weather conditions. The first hurricane recorded in North America occurred in Massachusetts Bay in 1635. Colonists noted in astonishment that it “blew down many hundreds of trees . . . overthrew some houses, drove ships from their anchors.” Seasonal temperatures were also extreme. In the summer of 1637 a number of colonists died of sunstroke. Yet, the following winter, three feet of snow covered the ground.

To cope with illnesses brought on by the climate, colonists heeded Native Americans and looked to local plants and herbs as medicines. For instance, colonists learned from Native Americans that the Boneset plant (*Eupatorium perfoliatum*), pictured at left, could be used to break fevers and chills and could treat diseases ranging from colds and influenza to malaria and typhoid.

## The Middle Colonies

The Delaware River Valley would later be a rich farmland, but in the mid-1600s it too was affected by severe weather. Late frosts and wet springs caused poor harvests because conditions were too cold and wet for grains to ripen. Swedish colonists near what is now Wilmington, Delaware, reported in 1657 that onslaughts of frigid temperatures froze the Delaware River in a single day. In time, colonists learned from Native Americans about the crops that grew in the rich soil surrounding the Delaware River.

**Average January Temperature:** 30–40°F  
**Average July Temperature:** 70–80°F  
**Rainfall:** 20–40 inches per year  
**Days of Snow Cover:** 30–40  
**Growing Season:** 150–180 days  
**Soil:** brownish and silty  
**Crops of Native Peoples:** maize (corn), beans, pumpkin



### THINKING CRITICALLY

- Analyzing Patterns** What seasonal patterns did the colonists in all three regions encounter? How did these patterns affect each colony?
- Creating a Diagram** Create an illustrated diagram that explains the interconnections in one of the North American colonies between colonists, Native Americans, and the land itself. Your diagram should include a reference to a particular crisis relating to the land, what the colonists learned from Native Americans, and how this new knowledge helped the colonists to survive.



SEE SKILLBUILDER HANDBOOK, PAGE R30.



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