

Parent Letter SOL USI.5 Colonial America

U.S. HISTORY I		TO 1865
<p>WHAT IS EXPLORED IN THIS CHAPTER?</p> <p>This chapter will develop your child's knowledge of colonial America. It discusses the events and conditions that led to the colonization of America, life in the different colonies depending on location, life in the colonies depending on social status, and the relationship between the colonies and Great Britain.</p>	 <p>SOL PARENT NEWS</p> <p><i>When Two Worlds Met</i></p> <p>CHAPTER FOUR</p>	<p>WHAT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO DISCUSS WITH MY CHILD?</p> <p>The following topics would be great to discuss at dinner or in the car.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Debate whether or not it would be a good idea for America to establish a colony today. If so, where would your child suggest it be?• Talk about the products in your lives that come from other places in the country or the world. Discuss how interdependent our world is and the consequences that has on our economy. Connect the conversation to colonial times by asking your child to explain how becoming interdependent affected the colonies.• Discuss how you would characterize your own community's social and political life in similar terms to those is the SOLs.• Have your child choose which colonies would be the best match for your family. Consider all aspects of life in the region when making the choice.
<p>WHERE COULD WE GO TO ENHANCE WHAT MY CHILD IS LEARNING?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bell Grove Plantation in Middletown• Claude Moore Colonial Farm in McLean• Colonial Williamsburg in Williamsburg• Jamestown Settlement and/or Historic Jamestown in Williamsburg• Mount Vernon in Mount Vernon• Shirley Plantation in Charles City		<p>WHAT QUESTIONS SHOULD I ASK TO HELP MY CHILD PREPARE FOR THE TEST?</p> <p><i>These are the SOL Essential Questions for this standard. Answers are on the next page.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Why did Europeans establish colonies in North America?• How did climate and geographic features and other available resources distinguish the three regions from each other?• How did people use the natural resources of their region to earn a living?• What are the benefits of specialization and trade?• How did political and social life evolve in each of the three regions?• How did people's lives vary among different social groups in colonial America?• How did Great Britain impose its political and economic control over the colonies?

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ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE FOR CHAPTER FOUR (USI.5)

The student will demonstrate knowledge of the factors that shaped colonial America by:

a) Describing the religious and economic events and conditions that led to the colonization of America.

- Roanoke Island (Lost Colony) was established as an economic venture. The first permanent English settlement in North America (1607), Jamestown Settlement, was an economic venture by the Virginia Company.
- Plymouth Colony was settled by separatists from the Church of England who wanted to avoid religious persecution. Massachusetts Bay Colony was settled by the Puritans for the same reasons.
- Pennsylvania was settled by the Quakers, who wanted to have freedom to practice their faith without interference.
- Georgia was settled by people who had been in debtor's prisons in England. They hoped to experience economic freedom and a new life in the New World.

b) Describing life in the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern colonies, with emphasis on how people interacted with their environment to produce goods and services, including examples of specialization and interdependence.

- Resources: natural, capital, and human
- Specialization: focusing on one or more products
- Interdependence: two or more people depending on each other for goods and services
- Specialization made the colonies interdependent.

Colonies	Resources	Geography	Specialization	Examples of Interdependence	Social/ Political
New England	Natural resources: e.g., timber, fish, deep harbors Human resources: e.g., skilled craftsmen, shopkeepers, shipbuilders	Appalachian Mountains, Boston harbor, hilly terrain, rocky soil, jagged coastline Moderate summers, cold winters	Fishing, shipbuilding, industry, naval supplies	New England depended on the Southern colonies for raw materials such as cotton and on the Middle Colonies for grain and livestock.	Village and church as center of life Religious reformers and separatists Civic Life: Town meetings
Mid-Atlantic	Natural resources: e.g., rich farmlands, rivers Human resources: e.g., unskilled and skilled workers, fishermen	Appalachian Mountains, coastal lowlands, harbors and bays Mild winters and moderate climate, wide and deep rivers	Livestock, grain, fish	The Mid-Atlantic colonies traded with both the Southern and New England colonies to get the products they didn't produce.	Villages and cities, varied and diverse lifestyles, diverse religions Civic Life: Market, towns
Southern	Natural resources: e.g., fertile land, rivers, harbors Human resources: e.g., farmers, enslaved African Americans	Appalachian Mountains, Piedmont, Atlantic Coastal Plain, good harbors and rivers Humid climate with mild winters and hot summers	Tobacco, cotton, indigo, wood products	The Southern colonies depended on the New England colonies for manufactured goods, including tools and equipment.	Plantations (slavery), mansions, indentured servants, few cities, few schools Church of England Civic Life: Counties