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Note: Arrows have been placed throughout the module to indicate areas where students should interact with the module.

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Colonial Content Module

This guide is designed to walk you through the Colonial Era. As you read you will be answering questions and completing activities. **Pay attention to the bolded words because they represent key ideas.**

After reading the description of the Colonial Era below, draw a picture that represents what you read.

**Colonization** of the New World began in 1492 when Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas and claimed the land for Spain. France, the Netherlands, and England competed with Spain for land, riches, and power in the New World. However, it was not until 1607 that the English gained a permanent foothold in the New World with the establishment of **Jamestown**.

The British came for many reasons such as, **land, riches, trade, opportunity, adventure, and religious freedom**. As the English began to settle the North American continent, conflicts among settlers, war with the Native Americans, as well as disputes with the Spanish and French for control occurred.

English colonies began to develop a distinct American colonial and regional identity as they developed early forms of representative government and unified against outside European forces.

My Colonial Picture
Draw It Out! The following chart contains significant vocabulary terms and definitions for the Colonization unit. Read the term and definition. As you do, picture what that term looks like. Then create a drawing in the box provided next to the definition that illustrates the meaning of the term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Draw It Out!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mercantilism</td>
<td>European economic ($) policy which stated that colonies existed for the good of the mother country. Raw materials, gold, silver, and furs were taken out of the colonies and back to enrich the mother country. Spain used the gold to buy what they needed; England used the raw materials to manufacture goods for sale.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Compact</td>
<td>An formal agreement supported by the people involved</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Charter</td>
<td>Document from the king giving permission to colonize</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colony</td>
<td>Group of settlers who leave the mother country to settle in another place</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Representative Government</td>
<td>Government in which people choose other people to vote or represent them</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Colonial Vocabulary**

**Draw It Out!** The following chart contains significant vocabulary terms and definitions for the Colonization unit. Read the term and definition. As you do, picture what that term looks like. Then create a drawing in the box provided next to the definition that illustrates the meaning of the term.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Vocabulary Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
<th>Draw It Out!</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Indentured Servant</td>
<td>A person who agreed to work for 3 to 7 years for passage to America</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Slave</td>
<td>A person who was bought and sold as property and forced to work</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Crop</td>
<td>Crops, such as cotton or tobacco, grown in order to be sold for a profit (money earned)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Import</td>
<td>Trade product brought into a country</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Export</td>
<td>Trade product sent to markets outside a country</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plantation</td>
<td>A large farm or estate on which a cash crop such as tobacco, cotton, or rice was grown and harvested usually by forced or slave labor</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Beginnings of English Colonization

As you read, please do the following:

- highlight the reasons that people wanted to go to the new world AND
- underline the dangers they faced.

Jamestown

The first permanent English colony was located in Jamestown, Virginia. In 1607, a group of merchants formed the Virginia Company of London and settled in Jamestown, named after King James I. Many of the settlers spent their time looking for gold and did not prepare for the winter. The first winter was very harsh and many of the settlers faced starvation and disease. This was called “The Starving Time.” Settler John Smith helped colonists survive by establishing a work ethic (“He that shall not work, shall not eat”).

Thanks to John Rolfe, settlers eventually discovered that Jamestown was ideal for growing tobacco because of the fertile soil. Tobacco became one of the South’s largest cash crops. The first Africans arrived in Jamestown in 1619 to help with planting and harvesting of the crops.

Pilgrims, Puritans, and the Great Migration

In England, a group of Puritans, or Separatists, were being persecuted for their religious beliefs. In 1607 they left England for the Netherlands for more religious freedom. In a few years, they noticed that their children were becoming more Dutch than English. It was also difficult for them to find work.

They decided to come to the New World for religious freedom and the chance at a better life. They called themselves Pilgrims since they were on a journey with a religious purpose. In the winter of 1620, after a long two-month journey they landed in what is today Massachusetts and called their settlement Plymouth. Landing in the winter caused a hardship because they could not plant crops in the frozen ground and almost starved to death.

Meanwhile, the Puritans who stayed in England were continuing to be persecuted because they wanted to “purify” the Church of England of certain practices and beliefs that were too much like the Catholic Church. A group of wealthy Puritans received a charter for a settlement in the Massachusetts Bay area. In 1630 they left England and the Great Puritan Migration began. By the 1640’s over ten thousand Puritans had migrated to Massachusetts. They spread out all over New England to Connecticut, Rhode Island, and New Hampshire.
Will You Move To The Colonies?

Look closely at the illustration. You have been given the chance to get on one of these ships when they return to the Colonies. Are you willing to cross the Atlantic Ocean in one of these ships?

Using your highlights and underlines from the previous reading, use the decision-making tool (below) to help you make a decision on whether or not to leave home and move to the colonies.

In one box, list the reasons you should go. Then in the other box, list the reasons to stay. Finally, after considering both arguments, put you final decision the box provided.

**Reasons to Go**

1. 

2. 

3. 

**Dangers of Going**

1. 

2. 

3. 

**My Decision**
Origins of Self-Government in the Colonies

**Directions:** After you read about the documents and institutions that played a part in the origins of self-government, select between 2 to 5 words that explain their significance. Record the words you selected in the boxes below.

*To help you get started we have done the Magna Carta as an example of what you have to do.*

**Magna Carta**

King John of England signed this document in 1215. The Magna Carta limited the power of the king and stated that not even the king was above the law. It also guaranteed important rights to noblemen and freemen. For example, they could not have their property seized by the king or his officials; they could not be put on trial based only on an official’s word without witnesses; and they could only be punished by a jury of their peers. The Magna Carta influenced many future documents, such as the English Bill of Rights, the U.S. Constitution, and the U.S. Bill of Rights.

- document
- limited
- power
- guaranteed
- rights

**Virginia House of Burgesses**

The Virginia House of Burgesses was created, in Jamestown, in 1619 and was the first representative assembly in the American colonies. Made up of free white men who were landowners, the first meeting was held in Jamestown where the House of Burgesses was empowered to enact legislation for the colony. Like the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut, the Virginia House of Burgesses was an early attempt at self-government in the New World.

**Mayflower Compact**

In 1620, Pilgrims seeking religious freedom travelled from England to the New World aboard the Mayflower. They landed off the coast of Cape Cod well outside the limits of the Virginia Company Charter. As a result, before they left the ship, the men drafted and signed an agreement called the Mayflower Compact. This document was an agreement among the men to create a government. The Mayflower Compact helped establish the idea that the people create government through an agreement among themselves.

-
-
Origins of Self-Government in the Colonies

**Directions:** After you read about the documents and institutions that played a part in the origins of self-government, select between 2 to 5 words that explain their significance. Record the words you selected in the boxes below.

**Fundamental Orders of Connecticut**

The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut was adopted in 1639 and was the first written constitution in North America. Thomas Hooker was the author of the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut. It helped to advance the idea of representative government. It provided that all freemen elect their representatives, and it put some limits on government’s power.

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**English Bill of Rights**

The English Bill of Rights was written in 1689. It states that the power to make laws and impose taxes belonged to Parliament. It also included the right of citizens to petition the government and the right to trial by jury. It influenced the U.S. Bill of Rights which drew upon many of the same ideas. For example, both the English Bill of Rights and the U.S. Bill of Rights protect citizens against excessive bail or fines and cruel and unusual punishment.

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The Thirteen Colonies

The Thirteen colonies are divided into three regions. These regions include the:

- Middle Colonies: New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware
- Southern Colonies: Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

Using the lists for the three colonial regions above, complete the following items on the map of the 13 Colonies below:

- Circle the New England Colonies in blue.
- Circle the Middle Colonies in pencil
- Circle the Southern Colonies in red.
- Label the body of water east of the colonies as the Atlantic Ocean
Three Colonial Regions

As more colonists migrated [moved] from England to the Atlantic coast of North America, they settled in three distinct regions. The three regions of the colonies included the New England, Middle and Southern regions of the British Colonies. There would eventually be thirteen colonies. Each of these regions had a unique culture based on religion, government, occupation, climate, soil, and way of life. However, they were united by language, tradition, and ancestry.

As you read the descriptions of the three colonial regions, use the following symbols to identify the characteristics in each region.

$ Economic - money, jobs, taxes. How a colony feeds itself?
% Social - people, relationships. - How people relate to each other?
# Political - government, politics, laws, rules - Who is in charge of colony?

For example, you would place a % next to the statement "Pilgrims were Separatists.” At end of the readings, you will be asked to identify examples of the three characteristics for each region.

New England Colonies

The New England Colonies grew along the Atlantic coastlines of what is today Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. The colony of Massachusetts was founded by the Puritans for religious freedom, though only the Puritan religion was allowed. Connecticut and New Hampshire followed the Puritan religion unlike Rhode Island which allowed religious freedom. When Roger Williams was exiled for disagreeing with the Puritan ministers, he said “Forced worship stinks in God’s nostrils.” Though some Puritans did not believe in slavery, it was allowed in the New England colonies.

The weather was cold and rainy in the winter and cool in the short summer. The soil in New England was not as fertile as in the Middle and Southern Colonies. Since the soil was poor and the growing season short, New England did not develop the large farms of the Middle Colonies or the plantations of the South. The farms were smaller and small towns and villages developed near each other. Most towns and villages were near the coast where fishing, shipbuilding and trade developed as occupations. The coastline was good for the development of ports. Due to the existence of dense forests in New England, lumbering also developed. Aided by the many rivers and streams, lumber was transported to the coast for shipbuilding.

Colonists brought with them the belief in the rights of Englishmen and the rule of law passed down for centuries since the signing of the Magna Carta. The principle of self-government was first established in New England with the signing of the Mayflower Compact and further strengthened with the signing of the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut which was inspired by the founder of Connecticut, Thomas Hooker.
As you read the descriptions of the three colonial regions, use the following symbols to identify the characteristics in each region.

$ Economic - money, jobs, taxes. How a colony feeds its self?
% Social - people, relationships. - How people relate to each other?
# Political - government, politics, laws, rules - Who is in charge of colony?

Middle Colonies

The Middle Colonies are also along the Atlantic Coast. There are four Middle Colonies, New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Unlike the New England Colonies, people of various faiths could settle in the Middle Colonies, including people of the Jewish faith. William Penn founded the colony of Pennsylvania as a refuge for people of the Quaker religion. Even though the land was the kings, Penn had received a grant to settle it. This type of colony became known as a proprietary colony.

Not only did the Middle Colonies allow diverse faiths, they also allowed colonists from many European countries to settle there. Colonists came from England, The Netherlands, Scotland, Ireland, Wales, France, Sweden, and the German states. There were also the slaves brought involuntarily from Africa. The Dutch and William Penn established good relations with the Native Americans for their colonies. Unfortunately, this did not last.

Except for Pennsylvania, which was founded for religious freedom, the other colonies were settled for profit, trade, and farming. The Dutch established a successful fur trade with the Indians which became very profitable. Both Philadelphia on the Delaware River and New York on the Atlantic coast were excellent ports allowing for the growth of trade to and from England. They also developed shipbuilding and lumber industries.

The Middle Colonies became known as the “Breadbasket” of the colonies. The fertile soil, longer growing season, and milder climate allowed large farms to emerge. The main crops were wheat, barley, oats, corn, and rye. These grains, used to make flour for bread, were exported to England for sale. As England’s population grew, so did the demand for grain. Iron mining also emerged as a profitable industry. Since farms were larger than in New England, towns and villages were further apart. New York City became one of the leading ports in the world, a distinction it still has today.

New York had a royal governor and an assembly. Pennsylvania, and Delaware where William Penn wrote the Frames of Government and the Charter of Privileges established freedom of religion a and representative assembly. New Jersey was a royal colony that allowed male landowners to vote for the representatives to the legislature.
As you read the descriptions of the three colonial regions, use the following symbols to identify the characteristics in each region.

$ Economic - money, jobs, taxes. How a colony feeds its self? 
% Social - people, relationships. - How people relate to each other? 
# Political - government, politics, laws, rules - Who is in charge of colony?

Southern Colonies

The Southern Colonies included Virginia, Maryland, North and South Carolina and Georgia. Jamestown, Virginia was the first permanent English settlement in the colonies. The Virginia colonists were expected to be members of the Church of England. The Carolinas were also founded with the expectation that colonists would be members of the Church of England. Later, South Carolina allowed its settlers freedom of religion as did Georgia. Georgia was founded by James Oglethorpe as a haven for debtors (a place where people who owed money and couldn’t pay would have a new start) Maryland was founded as a colony for Roman Catholics who were being persecuted in England. However, Protestants could also settle in Maryland. In 1649, Maryland passed the Toleration Act which allowed religious freedom to all followers of Jesus Christ.

Since the soil of the Southern Colonies was rich and fertile, independent farms and large plantations were established. The mild climate and long growing season, along with the fertile soil, allowed for the success of cash crops. Tobacco became a major cash crop for the region along with cotton, rice and indigo. The existence of dense forests allowed for a lumbering industry. Fishing, shipbuilding, and trade were also important to the Southern Colonies. Charleston, South Carolina became a major port in the South for the colonies. The population of Charleston became diverse with colonists from different countries, backgrounds, and religions settlings. Though there were indentured servants in all thirteen colonies, there were not enough to meet the labor demands in the Southern Colonies. Therefore the Southerners had to turn to another source of labor. A large portion of this labor force came involuntarily as slaves from Africa, in the Transatlantic Slave Trade. Planting, cultivating and harvesting the cash crops only increased the demand for slaves. They also served as household servants for their owners.

Some colonists tried to enslave the Native Americans but were not successful. As the colonists from all three sections of the colonies claimed more and more land, the Native Americans were pushed west towards the Appalachian Mountains. Relations remained tense between the two groups.

The first representative government in the colonies was established at Jamestown, Virginia in 1619. The idea of self-government was eventually established in all the Southern colonies. Each had a royal governor with a legislature that was elected.
### Evaluating Colonial Regions

**Identify the characteristics of each region by circling if it is more:**

**Political** - government, politics, laws, rules - Who is in charge of a colony?

**Economic** - money, jobs, taxes. How a country feeds itself?

**Social** - people, relationships. - How people relate to each other?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>P</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>S</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>New England Colonies:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Hampshire</td>
<td>Mostly came for religious freedom, Congregationalists (churches that were</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>independent and in control of their own affairs)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Family units</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rocky soil/cold weather</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Fishing and shipbuilding</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Merchants</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Church supported representative government</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Lumber</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Middle Colonies:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New York</td>
<td>Came for religious freedom and economic opportunities</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Jersey</td>
<td>Small grain and dairy farms</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pennsylvania</td>
<td>Major centers of shipping due to ports</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delaware</td>
<td>Mild weather</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>It was considered the “Bread Basket “</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Equalitarian (equality for all)</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Proprietary colonies (individually founded)</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Southern Colonies:</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Maryland</td>
<td>Mostly came for economic reasons</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Virginia</td>
<td>Corporate colonies, joint-stock companies, such as the Virginia Company of</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>North Carolina</td>
<td>London; later became royal colonies with the governor appointed by the king</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>South Carolina</td>
<td>Large farms and plantations with slave labor</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Georgia</td>
<td>Representative government: House of Burgesses</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tobacco, Rice, and Indigo</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hot and humid weather</td>
<td>P</td>
<td>E</td>
<td>S</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Which region would you most want to live in? Explain why.**
You are a printer in a colony. You have been asked to create a broadside (a large poster) to advertise for colonists to come to your colony. Most broadsides sent to England give reasons colonists should move to the colony. Sometimes they exaggerated or outright lied about their colony to encourage people to move there.

They included information such as weather, housing, soil, how to make a living, religion, government, and what the people in the area are like including Native Americans.

Using the next page, create your broadside. Make sure to include the following:

- **Name of the colony**—choose one of the 13.
- **4 reasons to move to your colony.**
- **2 exaggerated or false reasons to move to your colony.** For example, to try to get people to move to Texas you could say “Cool, breezy summers.”
- **Describe the government and religion in your colony.**
- **Draw and color 3 pictures representing your colony.**
Important Colonial People

Read the bios of the people living in the Colonial Era and highlight three significant ideas for each. After reading you are to prepare an analogy sentence for each. Select one of the following items to use in your analogy:

Key, Hole Punch, Tweezers, Battery, Flashlight, Ruler, Rubber Band, Glue Stick, Highlighter, White Out.

Fill in the blanks of the sentence to show how the item is similar to the beliefs or work of the person. Example—George Washington is like a FLASHLIGHT because as the Commander of the Patriot army he LED the way to victory over the British army in the American Revolution.

Thomas Hooker  Born in England in 1586, Thomas Hooker was raised in an ultra-conservative period in English history. After receiving degrees at Cambridge University, Thomas Hooker became a preacher whose sermons clashed with the established Church of England. He was eventually forced to leave England. He lived in Massachusetts and later founded the colony of Connecticut where he established a highly successful church in what is now Hartford, Connecticut. He aided in the adoption of the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut in 1639. Believing in the principle of equality for all mankind, Hooker is sometimes called “the father of American democracy.” Hooker advanced a more democratic view, favoring the vote for all men, regardless of any religious or property qualifications.

Thomas Hooker is like a (item)____ because __________________________________________________________

William Penn  was born in 1644 in London, England. He obtained a land grant in North America from King Charles II in 1681. He was a Quaker and established a colony in America called Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania was a haven for Quakers and welcomed people of diverse backgrounds to the colony. He insisted that women deserve equal rights with men. He implemented democratic principles through his Frames of Government. Penn gave Pennsylvania a written constitution which limited the power of government, provided a humane penal code, and guaranteed many fundamental liberties. His most famous works include No Cross, No Crown and Innocency with Her Open Face, which was written while he was in prison for his religious views (1668-70).

William Penn is like a (item)_______ because __________________________________________________________