

Exploration and Settlement Slides and Notes

I. Exploration

- A. Looking for a sea route to Asia in order to find wealth in spices and silk.
- B. Desire to carry Christianity to new people.
- C. Columbus landed on the Caribbean island of San Salvador on October 12, 1492
- D. Columbus named the people of the New World Indians thinking that he was in India.

II. Land Claims in the Americas

- A. Spain, Portugal, France, England, and the Netherlands claimed lands in the Americas.
- B. Countries formed colonies.
 - 1. A colony is a settlement begun by a group of people which is governed by their home country

III. Reasons for Colonizing

- A. Push Factor – events or circumstances that caused people to be pushed from their native countries
 - 1. Hunger, poverty, lack of opportunity, and religious intolerance.
- B. Pull Factor – people were pulled to the new world because of stories of its amazing abundance.
- C. Kidnapped and forced into slavery.
- D. British viewed the colonies as a place to dump their poor, criminals, and religious non-conformists.

IV. English Colonies

- A. New England Colonies
 - 1. Poor soil and harsh climate
 - 2. Puritans (Pilgrims) settled here seeking religious freedom.
 - 3. Farming: mostly subsistence
 - 4. Other Economic Activity: Fishing, lumber, shipbuilding, trapping

5. The New England Colonies: New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut

B. The Middle Colonies

1. Good soil and climate for farming.
2. Many different cultures and religions
3. Farming: small to medium-sized farms, cultivated native plants (corn, squash, and tomatoes) and introduced European plants (wheat and barley).
3. The Middle Colonies: New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware.

C. The Southern Colonies

1. Climate and soil for ideal for farming
2. Plantation farming system developed.
3. Labor Force: initially used indentured servants but later used African slaves
4. The Southern Colonies: Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

V. Native Americans and the Colonies

- A. Diseases brought to the Americas devastate the Native American population.
 1. 1500 A.D. -- 10 – 12 million population
1900 A.D. -- 500,000 population
 2. Smallpox, influenza, and tuberculosis.
- B. Wampanoag help the first pilgrims to survive.
- C. Land disputes with Native Americans lead to bitter battles in the colonies.

