

Topic/Objective:  Settling the New World (1492? – 1760)	Name:
	Class/Period:
	Date:

**Essential Questions:**

1. Economics: Why did the British create colonies and why did they implement mercantilism?
2. Politics: How did the government of Great Britain differ from the rest of Europe? How did this impact the government that was created in the colonies?
3. Social: Compare and contrast British society and colonial society

Organize your notes (headings, questions, big ideas, key words)

Notes:

Describe the reasons that European countries established colonies.

- The 3 G's: Gold, Glory, God
  - Gold = economic reasons/resources
  - Glory = Nationalism
  - God = Spread religion
- Europeans want to find a fast, cheap way to Asia for the purposes of trade
  - Trade = wealth = power!
- 1492: Columbus stumbles upon North America trying to find a shortcut to the "Indies"
- Spain begins setting up colonies in the "New World"
  - Colony: land owned by another, more powerful country for the benefit of the powerful country (mother country)
  - Other European nations begin to seek out colonies motivated by the 3 G's
    - Portugal
    - England/Great Britain
    - France
    - Netherlands
  - North American colonies are VERY diverse and are settled for different reasons
    - Virginia: first settled in 1607 by a group of investors hoping to find gold. Colony nearly collapses before the introduction of tobacco in 1614
    - Massachusetts: first settled in 1620 by the Pilgrims, a religious minority fleeing persecution in England
      - Tens of thousands of "Puritans" will follow in the decades to come
    - New Amsterdam (NY): settled by the Dutch who partnered with Native Americans to trade for furs
      - Later seized by the British and renamed "New York"
    - Pennsylvania: settled by a religious minority (Quakers) who faced persecution in England
    - Canada (Montreal and Quebec): Settled by the French to get in on the fur trade
    - Caribbean islands: settled to grow sugar cane using slave labor on massive plantations
      - Most valuable colonies in British empire!!!!
    - South Carolina: settled with the intent of using slave labor to produce "cash crops" like rice and indigo

- Maryland : settled as a safe space for Catholics who were fleeing persecution in England
  - Georgia : Settled as a colony to give criminals and the unemployed a "second-chance"
- Q: If colonies exist for the good of the "mother country," how do they end up serving the mother country????
- A: mercantilism and triangular trade

Reading:  
Mercantilism

- A system of trade based on the theory that a nation's power depends on its wealth

What is  
Mercantilism?

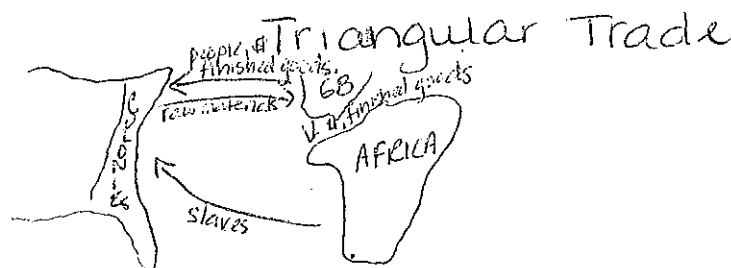
- Goal: Increase wealth and increase power

Why did the British  
(and other European  
nations) use  
mercantilism?

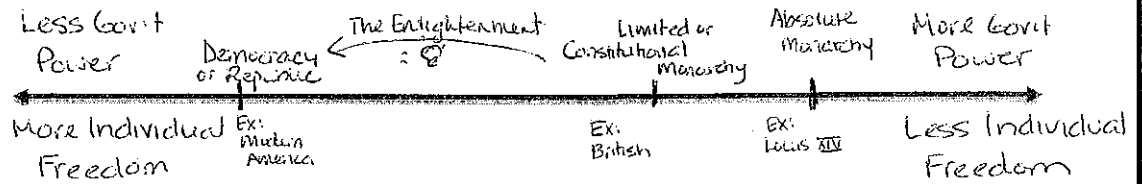
- Nations want to gain wealth by mining gold and silver and by trade
- Favorable Balance of Trade: export more goods than they import (Sell more than you buy - gain more wealth)
- Need raw materials to produce products to sell/trade: use colonies as a source of raw materials
- Colonies provide raw materials to mother country - then mother country sells finished goods back to colony

How did  
mercantilism impact  
the British? How did  
mercantilism impact  
the colonies?

- Navigation Acts: laws that forced the colonies to ONLY trade with Britain
  - Prevented colonies from making their own products
  - Only allowed colonies to ship on British ships
  - Did not allow colonies to sell materials to Dutch, French or Spanish
  - Forced colonists to buy British products at British prices
- Colonies gained protection from British Navy and a guaranteed market for their raw materials



## European Governments (1400s - 1700s)



Explain how the power of the British King was limited

Similar to parent giving teenager the car keys (Some independence)

Describe the impact of salutary neglect on the colonies

### The British Government: a Limited Monarchy

- Magna Carta (1215): English nobles force King John to sign a contract that limits his power as monarch and creates a legislature (Parliament) which is responsible for making laws
- Habeas Corpus: law stating King cannot throw people in jail without reason
- Glorious Revolution (1688): Parliament forces King James to step down and replaces him with a different king
- English Bill of Rights: basic rights for individuals (ex: trial by jury, no excessive fines, power to tax belongs to Parliament)

a group of people who make laws

### Government in the British American Colonies

- Salutary Neglect: British policy that allows colonies to establish their own local govts. and tax themselves (Beneficial ignoring)
- Effect of Salutary Neglect:

- English ideas about govt. are brought to the colonies
- Examples (p.29):

#### Virginia House of Burgesses (1619)

America's 1st representative assembly for making laws

#### Mayflower Compact (1620)

Pilgrims agree that laws for Plymouth colony will require colonists approval and consent.

#### Town Meetings (1620s)

Citizens in New England towns meet to discuss problems and vote directly on laws.

#### Power of the Purse

Power to either approve or reject proposal for a new tax

#### (Page 33) John Peter Zenger Trial (1733)

Established Freedom of the Press - press can criticize govt

Describe the  
primary  
beliefs of  
the  
Enlightenment

- Both the British monarchy AND colonists are influenced by the Enlightenment.
  - Enlightenment (1650s - 1750s): an intellectual/philosophical movement in Europe that challenged the authority of monarchs
    - Created ideas of self-government, democracy, individual rights that still exist today!!!!
- Enlightenment thinkers and their ideas (p. 24-25):
  - John Locke (1632-1704)
    - Natural Rights (Life, Liberty & Property) - rights that people are born with.
    - People give up freedom in exchange for protection from a ruler. (Social Contract)
    - If a ruler fails to carry out responsibilities - they are overthrown
  - Baron de Montesquieu (1689-1755)
    - Gov't should be separated into 3 Branches (Separation of Powers)
      - Legislative - Pass the Laws
      - Executive - Carry out the Laws
      - Judicial - Interpret the Laws
    - Prevent anyone group from becoming too powerful.
  - Voltaire (1694-1778)
    - Attacked abuses of French monarchy - condemned abusive power, class privilege, torture, slavery, censorship, religious intolerance (Freedom of Religion)
    - Best gov't is a monarchy with a constitution, strong parliament & civil rights for all
  - Jean-Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778)
    - Social Contract: the will of the people should guide the decisions of gov't
    - People are born good & are corrupted by society

## Social Development of the Colonies

Topic	British Society	Colonial Society
Land ownership	Only top 1%	Almost Everyone
Political Participation (right to vote)	Only land-owners ( <u>Wealthy</u> )	Only land-owners ( <u>majority</u> of population)
Equality	Belief that people are <u>NOT equal</u> ; last name matters (heredity)	Belief that people are <u>NOT equal</u> ; last name matters (heredity)
Social Mobility	<u>No mobility</u> due to limited land ownership	<u>widespread</u> land ownership offers mobility
Diversity	<u>one</u> religion; <u>one</u> ethnicity	<u>many</u> religions; <u>many</u> ethnicities

Compare &  
contrast  
social dev.  
in  
Britain &  
colonies

