**General US History Chapter 2**

***Section 1- Spain and France Begin Colonies***

**conquer**- to take over and control

**mission**- a settlement, built by a church, from which people teach their religion to others

**convert**- to change from one religion or belief to another

During the 1500’s, explorers from Spain and France set out to find riches in the Americas. They claimed large parts of the Americas for their countries. Each country had different ways to reach its goal.

It was the year 1519 when the Spanish explorer Hernan Corts led his army into Mexico. This band of men planned to **conquer** the Aztec Empire. Once the Spaniards had control, they would claim the Aztec gold and silver.

How did such a small group of men win a battle against thousands of Aztecs?

1.) The Spaniards used cannons, guns, and swords. These weapons were more powerful than the bows, arrows, and spears that the Aztecs used.

2.) The Aztecs had never seen horses. They were frightened by the Spaniards on horses.

3.) The Aztecs had no resistance to European diseases. Many died from measles and smallpox.

By 1521, Cortes had destroyed the Aztec Empire and captured the Aztec king, Montezuma. Montezuma died two years after he was taken prisoner. Cortes and his soldiers then took most of the empire’s riches for Spain. In its place was a colony called New Spain. Mexico City became the capital of Spain’s new empire.

Throughout the 1500’s, Spain sent more and more conquerors to the Americas in search of gold. In South America, Francisco Pizarro destroyed the powerful Inca Empire. This defeat brought great wealth to the Spanish king and Spain grew into one of the most powerful countries in the world.

Stories spread about cities of gold in other parts of the Americas. In 1513, Juan Ponce de Leon sailed in search of gold and also for the Fountain of Youth. He had heard that the water from this fountain would make old people young again. Ponce de Leon never found the gold nor the Fountain of Youth. He did find a beautiful land of flowers and wildlife. He called this land Florida. *Florida* means “full of flowers” in Spanish.

Spanish explorers also explored areas farther west. In 1540, Francisco de Coronado claimed a large area of what is now the United States for Spain.

Not all those who traveled with the explorers were conquerors. Some were Catholic priests who set up **missions**. By building missions, Spain hoped to **convert** Native Americans to Christianity.

As Spain’s power grew in the Americas, more settlers came. Spaniards who settled in New Spain wanted to live the way they had lived in Europe. That meant that they would run large farms cared for by workers.

The Spaniards forced Native Americans to work for them. The workers were often treated poorly and paid only enough to stay alive. Many Native Americans died from diseases brought by the settlers.

Native Americans were also forced to work in silver mines. In 1546, a Spanish miner discovered silver in Mexico. Soon thousands of silver mines across Mexico were sending this valuable metal back to Spain. Many Native American miners died from work accidents, poor treatment, and disease.

Since the need for workers in New Spain was so great, Spaniards brought Africans to their colonies. Africans worked as slaves on the farms and in the mines. The practice of slavery spread throughout the Spanish lands and other places in European colonies.

Spain was not the only country to claim lands in the Americas. France sent explorers to North America to find a water route that would lead to Asia. In 1534, French explorer Jacques Cartier explored the St. Lawrence River. He hoped it would lead to the Pacific Ocean. Cartier claimed the St. Lawrence and the land we now call Canada for France.

In 1608, another French explorer, Samuel de Champlain, sailed up the St. Lawrence River. There he built a small fort, which he named Quebec. Fishing and fur trading with Native Americans soon developed. This helped Quebec grow into a large settlement. Champlain named the land he explored New France.

French settlers came slowly to New France. Some settlers hoped to become rich from the fur trade. Others came to set up Catholic missions. The French got along well with Native Americans. They did not make Native Americans slaves, as the Spanish had done. The fur trade helped to make France a rich country.

***Section 2- The First English Colonies***

**joint-stock company**- a company in which people give money to share costs

**charter**- a written agreement giving certain rights

**cash crop**- a crop grown for sale rather than for use by a farmer

**indentured servant**- a person who signs a contract to work for others

The English began to settle colonies in North America nearly 100 years after Spain did. To pay for the cost of starting a colony, **joint-stock companies** were formed. In this way, many people gave money to share the costs. As part owners, in the colony, the people also shared the profits and risks.

The London Company was a joint-stock company. The owners had a **charter** from the king of England. It gave the settlers the right to form a colony. In 1607, three English ships landed in what is today called Virginia. The settlers name the colony Jamestown to honor King James of England.

The Jamestown settlers faced problems right away. The land was filled with swamps and was too poor for growing food crops. There was hardly any fresh water. Many settlers died from hunger and disease that first year.

Jamestown was saved by John Smith, the leader of the colony. Smith made friends with the Native Americans. He met with Powhatan, the powerful chief of the Algonquins, and traded with him for corn. He got enough food to help the colonists live through the winter. When spring arrived, Smith warned the colonists that anyone who did not work to pant crops would not get food to eat.

In 1612, some settlers decided to grow a crop that they had seen Native Americans grow. The crop was tobacco. It grew well in the swampy soil. By 1619, tobacco was Jamestown’s biggest **cash crop**.

Tobacco was an important crop for Jamestown. As the colony grew, more workers were needed to plant and care for the tobacco fields. Tobacco growers offered to pay for workers to come from England to Jamestown. The workers would work for up to seven years to pay off the cost of travelling from England. Then they were free to settle and farm on their own. These people are known as **indentured servants**.

In 1619, the first African arrived in Jamestown. They had been captured from their homeland and forced into slavery. Soon African slaves were doing much of the work in the tobacco fields and farms of the growing colony. Most farmers found it better to have slaves than indentured servants.

In the 1500’s and early 1600’s, people in England could be punished for their religious beliefs of the Church of England. One group that separated from the Church of England was the Pilgrims. In September 1620, the Pilgrims were among the 101 passengers on the ship *Mayflower*. The Pilgrims were going to America because they wanted to be free to follow their own religious beliefs. The Pilgrims first thought of settling in South America. They decided against it because of the hot climate.

About two months later, the *Mayflower* sailed into the area we know today as Massachusetts. Before leaving the ship, the leaders of the Pilgrims wrote an agreement saying that the laws of the new colony would be fair and equal. All the men on board voted to follow the laws. This agreement was called the Mayflower Compact. It established the idea in America that people are allowed to govern themselves.

The Pilgrim colony was named Plymouth. It faced serious problems. The settlers had come to America with only a few supplies. Since they had landed in November, it was too late to plant crops. The weather was cold, there was not enough food, and many settlers became ill. However, they were lucky. The Native Americans living in that area helped the Pilgrims through the first winter. Still, by spring, more than half of the Pilgrims had died. As the weather became warmer, Native Americans helped the colonists survive.

Native Americans showed the Pilgrims

1.) how to grow corn.

2.) where to hunt turkey and deer.

3.) ways to fish for food.

By the fall of 1621, the Pilgrims had made it through one full year in Plymouth. They were happy about having lived through this difficult time. To celebrate, the Pilgrims held a three-day harvest festival. This is what many people today think of as the first Thanksgiving.

Self-government in America began with the Mayflower Compact. A vote was taken to decide if the laws of the Mayflower Compact should be followed.

As the New England Colonies grew, citizens took part in town meetings. They discussed issues that effect their towns. They voted on laws that would be part of their government.

Town meetings are still held today. Whenever necessary, people in communities gather to discuss, debate, and vote on local issues.

In 1628, another group of settlers came to New England. Like the Pilgrims, members of this group wanted to be free to follow their religious beliefs. They called themselves the Puritans because they wanted to make the Church of England more “pure”. By 1630, the Puritans had settled a large colony they called the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

By 1630, the Puritans began to build settlements near their most important town, Boston. At the center of each town was a Puritan meetinghouse.

Even though Puritans came to America for religious freedom, their leaders did not want to give other people a choice. Other groups living in the colony had to follow Puritan ways. Only Puritans were allowed to vote. Anyone who did not follow church laws was punished. Because of the strict laws of Puritan leaders, many settlers began to move to other areas of New England.

***Section 3- The Growth of the Thirteen Colonies***

**treaty**- a written agreement between two or more nations

**detour**- a person who owes money to others

There were 13 English Colonies established along the Atlantic coast between 1607 and 1733. The 13 English colonies were divided into three regions; the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies.

***The New England Colonies***

***Massachusetts***

In the last section you read that the Massachusetts Bay Colony became the first of the New England colonies. At that time, the colony included all the land in present-day Massachusetts and part of present-day Maine. The other New England colonies grew out of the Massachusetts colony.

***Rhode Island***

After Massachusetts was settled, many people who were unhappy with Puritan life moved to other areas. Others were forced to leave. In 1635, a minister, Roger Williams, was ordered to leave Massachusetts. This is what Williams believed.

1.) The established churches had too much power.

2.) The state, or government, should be separate from the church, or religion.

3.) All people should be free to practice their own beliefs.

Williams and his followers built a settlement called Providence. The colony of Rhode Island grew out of that settlement. Here all people were free to follow their religious beliefs.

Anne Hutchinson was also forced to leave Massachusetts. She did not agree with the religious ideas of the Puritan leaders.

***Conneticut***

In 1636, another minister, Thomas Hooker, led a group of people out of Massachusetts. Hooker and his followers felt that Puritan leaders had become too powerful. This group settled a new colony that had a Native American name meaning “long river place.” That colony was Conneticut.

Anne Hutchinson lived in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. She was a Puritan. However, she did not agree with the church sermons. Those who followed here were also unhappy with the beliefs of the Puritan ministers.

Hutchinson began to hold meetings in her home. She discussed why she did not agree with the church sermons. Those who followed her were also unhappy with the beliefs of the Puritan ministers.

The Puritan leaders felt that anyone who went against them was wrong. They were also unhappy that a woman was spreading these different ideas.

Eventually, Hutchinson was put on trial. She was found guilty. As a result, she and her family had to leave the colony in 1638. With a group of followers, she helped to settle a new colony in Rhode Island.

In 1639, settlers in Connecticut wrote a document called the Fundamental Orders of Connecticut. This document allowed men in the colony to elect their leaders. The people of Connecticut agreed to live by the rules in this document. The Fundamental Orders became the first written system of government in North America.

***New Hampshire***

In 1623, King James I of England sent two fish merchants and others to explore the cost of present-day New Hampshire. Some people came to these fishing communities from Massachusetts. They did not want to follow the rules of the Puritan Church. New Hampshire became a colony in 1741.

***New York***

During the 1600’s, much of the land between Virginia and New Hampshire were claimed by people from the Netherlands. They were called the Dutch.

In 1609, Henry Hudson, an English explorer who was paid by the Dutch, sailed up a river that was later named for him. He claimed the land on both sides of the river. In 1626, the land was named New Netherlands.

The largest town in the colony was settled on an island where the Manhattan group of Native Americans lived. The new town was called New Amsterdam.

***New Jersey***

The land claimed by the Netherlands did not stay under Dutch control for long. In 1664, English forces took control of New Amsterdam and the rest of the colony. They broke the land into two colonies- New York and New Jersey. The large town at the mouth of the Hudson River was renamed New York City.

New Jersey, like New York, attracted people from different places. Many colonists from the New England colonies moved to New Jersey. They were looking for better farmland. People from many European nations also came to New Jersey.

***Pennsylvania***

In England, a religious group called the Quakers was led by a wealthy man named William Penn. Penn wanted to travel to America to follow his beliefs. He asked the English king to give him land in America. In 1681, the king allowed Penn to settle a colony called Pennsylvania.

The Quakers believed all people should be treated fairly. They were against slavery. The Quakers also believed that Native Americans should be treated with respect. When the Quakers landed in the new colony, they signed a peace **treaty** with Native Americans. Pennsylvania became a colony known for its freedom.

*Complete the Map Study “The Thirteen Colonies, 1733” on page 35.*

***Delaware***

Settlers from Sweden came to present-day Delaware in 1638. They built a settlement, which they named Fort Cristina. The Swedes built other settlements.

For a short time, the Dutch took over the Swedish settlements. Next, the English took over. In 1682, the Duke of York gave the Swedish settlements to William Penn. Some settlers in areas south of Pennsylvania asked for the right to set up their own colony. Penn and other Quaker leaders agreed. Delaware became a colony in 1704.

***The Southern Colonies***

***Virginia***

The first English colony of Virginia began with the Jamestown settlement in 1607, which you read about in section 2. Jamestown began to attract settlers from the New England and Middle colonies. More settlers also came from New England.

***Maryland***

In England, Catholics were punished for their religious beliefs. In 1632, Lord Baltimore, a rich English Catholic, was given a charter. He settled the colony of Maryland.

In 1649, Lord Baltimore saw to it that the Toleration Act was passed in Maryland. This act guaranteed freedom to religion to all Christians, both Catholic and Protestant, in the colony of Maryland.

***The Carolinas***

In 1663, King Charles of England gave eight rich English lords the right to settle land south of Virginia. The land was beautiful and the soil was good. It was named Carolina after the English king.

Settlers in Carolina were allowed religious freedom. Many people came to Carolina for that freedom. They also came to farm the rich soil in the area. So many people arrived that, in 1712, Carolina was broken into two colonies- North Carolina and South Carolina.

***Georgia***

The last of the 13 colonies, Georgia, was settled to give a home to **debtors**. An English general named James Oglethorpe felt it was unfair to put debtors in jail. He asked the king to allow people to settle in America and get a new start. In 1733, Georgia, named after King George II, became the 13th English colony.

It was not uncommon for 16-year-old boys to become taxpayers and serve in the army. 16-year-old girls were usually married.