Beginning in the early 1600s, the English established colonies along the eastern coast of North America.

- **1607: Jamestown** was first to be settled permanently!
- John Smith led this group of settlers.
- Colony struggled at first, then was saved by Tobacco crop.
PURITANS CREATE A “NEW ENGLAND”

- The 16th century Reformation caused a split in the Christian Church; Catholics and Protestants
- One extreme group of Protestant reformers – the Puritans sought to cleanse or “purify” their religion of all traces of Catholicism
COLONISTS MEET RESISTANCE

- **New England Colonists (Puritans)** soon conflicted with the Native Americans over land & religion.

- **King Philip’s War** was fought in 1675 between the Natives and Puritans ending a year later with many dead and the Natives retreating.
SETTLING THE MIDDLE COLONIES

- Dominated by Dutch and Quaker settlers, the Middle Colonies were founded in the mid-1600s

- William Penn led Quakers as they colonized Pennsylvania and Delaware
Throughout the 1600s and 1700s, more British Colonies were established.

By 1752, the English Crown had assumed more & more responsibility for the 13 colonies.

Mercantilism & Navigation Acts were two such ways that the English government controlled the colonies.
MERCANTILISM: AN ECONOMIC SYSTEM IN WHICH NATIONS SEEK TO INCREASE THEIR WEALTH BY OBTAINING GOLD & SILVER AND WITH A FAVORABLE BALANCE OF TRADE
NAVIGATION ACTS


These laws restricted the colonies' shipping & trade.

Ships, destinations, crews, goods: All strictly regulated by the English.

The colonies were developing a spirit of self-determination. Therefore, they were NOT happy with these restrictions.
THE COLONIES COME OF AGE

- New England, Middle Colonies, and the South – all developed distinct economies and societies
- In the South, rural Plantations with a single cash crop were common
- Small Southern farmers (Germans, Scots, Irish) and African slaves made up the majority of people
During the 17th century, Africans endured a transatlantic crossing from Africa to the North American Colonies. Cruelty characterized the months long journey – 13% died on route.
AFRICANS MAINTAIN PARTS OF THEIR CULTURE

► Despite enslavement, Africans coped with the horrors of slavery via music, dance, and storytelling

► Slaves also resisted their position of subservience by faking illness, breaking tools, or work slowdowns

► Others were more radical and tried escape & revolt
The development of cities, expansion of trade, and diverse economies gradually made the North radically different from the South.

- Philly was the 2nd largest British port.
- Farming differed from the South: smaller, more diverse crops in North.
1700s: An intellectual movement known as the **Enlightenment** began in Europe and a religious movement known as the **Great Awakening** started in the Colonies.

The Enlightenment emphasized reason, science, and observation and led to the discovery of natural laws.

Copernicus, Galileo, Franklin and Newton were key figures in science.
RELIGIOUS REVIVAL: THE GREAT AWAKENING

- A series of religious revivals aimed at restoring devotion & piety swept through the colonies in the mid-1700s.

- Jonathan Edwards was a Puritan priest from New England who was instrumental in the movement.

- Fire & Brimstone style of worship; large, emotionally charged crowds.

- Like the Enlightenment the movement stressed the importance of the individual.
FRENCH AND INDIAN WAR

► Competition in North America led to a war (1754-1763) between old rivals, France and England.
► Referred to as the Seven Years War in the rest of the world.
► The French in North America were tradesmen (furs) not long-term inhabitants.
► The Ohio River valley was the site of the beginning of the conflict.
► Mostly, the Colonists supported the British while the Natives “Indians” supported the French.
While the French had early victories, the British led by William Pitt and George Washington eventually defeated the French.

- Treaty of Paris ends the war in 1763.
- Brits claim most of North America including Florida (from French ally Spain) & Canada.
- Native Americans also realized a French loss was a Native American loss.
REVOLUTION AND THE EARLY REPUBLIC
PROCLAMATION LINE OF 1763

- To avoid further costly conflicts with Native Americans, the British government prohibited colonists from settling west of the Appalachian Mountains.
- The Proclamation established a line along the Appalachian that colonists could not cross (They did anyway).
This was one of many measures passed by the English Parliament that would be strenuously opposed by the American Colonists.
Huge debt from the French-Indian War caused the English Parliament to impose a series of taxes on the colonists.

The **Sugar Act** and the **Stamp Act** were two such taxes.

**Colonists protest**
The Sugar Act (1764) placed duties (taxes) on certain imports that had not been taxed before. More importantly, it meant colonists accused of violating the Act were tried in Vice-Admiral Courts rather than Colonial Courts.
In March of 1765, Parliament passed the Stamp Act which imposed a tax on documents and printed items such as wills, newspapers, and cards (a stamp would then be placed on the item).
In May of 1765, colonists formed a secret resistance group called, Sons of Liberty, to protest the laws. Merchants agree to boycott British goods until the Acts are repealed.
More taxes and acts soon followed: Declaratory Act
The Townshend Acts
taxed goods brought into the colonies from Britain – including lead, paint, glass, paper and TEA
TENSION MOUNTS IN MASSACHUSETTS

- The atmosphere in Boston was extremely tense.
- The city erupted in bloody clashes and a daring tax protest, all of which pushed the colonists and England closer to war.

- **Boston Massacre** was in 1770 when a mob taunted British soldiers – 5 colonists were killed.

*BOSTON MASSACRE 1770 BY PAUL REVERE*
BRITS RESPOND TO TEA VANDALS

► After 18,000 pounds of tea was dumped by colonists into Boston Harbor, King George III was infuriated.

► Parliament responded by passing the Coercive Acts, called the Intolerable Acts by the colonists; which included the closing of the Harbor, the Quartering Act, Martial law in Boston.
THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION

- Colonists start to organize and communicate
- **First Continental Congress** met in 1774 and drew up rights
- Military preparation began
- England reacts by ordering troops to seize weapons

FIRST CONTINENTAL CONGRESS - 1774 PHILLY

ATTENDEES INCLUDED SAMUEL ADAMS, PATRICK HENRY, AND GEORGE WASHINGTON
LEXINGTON AND CONCORD

► With Paul Revere’s announcement, the Colonists and the British began fighting in April of 1775

► The first battle of the American Revolution lasted only 15 minutes, but its impact has lasted for over 200 years
May 1775, Colonial leaders met for a Second Continental Congress.

Some called for Independence, some for reconciliation.

The Congress appointed George Washington as head of the Continental Army.

Patrick Henry addresses Congress.
BATTLE OF BUNKER HILL

► British General **Thomas Gage** decided on an attack on Breed’s Hill (near Boston)

► **Deadliest battle** of war as over 1,000 redcoats and 450 colonists died

► Battle **misnamed** Bunker Hill (Breed’s Hill would have been more accurate)

June 1775
Battle of Bunker Hill
Public opinion shifted toward Independence

Why? Enlightenment ideas (John Locke’s Social Contract, and Thomas Paine’s Common Sense)

HUGE BEST SELLER, “COMMON SENSE” 1776
On July 2, 1776, the Continental Congress voted unanimously that the American Colonies were free and they adopted the Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776.

The Colonists had declared their independence— they would now have to fight for it.
IN CONGRESS, July 4, 1776.

The unanimous Declaration of the thirteen united States of America.

When in the Course of human Events, it becomes necessary for one People to dissolve the political Bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the Earth, the separate and equal Station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them; a decent Respect to the Opinions of Mankind requires that they should declare the Causes which impel them to an Separation.

They are, therefore, Representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, pursuant to the Resolution of Congress, of the 4th of July, in the Year of our Lord one thousand seven hundred and seventyfive, and for the Space of the Session of this present Congress, preceding the Almanack for the Year one thousand seven hundred and seventy-six. They do, therefore, in the Name, and by Authority of the United States of America, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all Political Connection between them and the State of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of Right do. 

And for the support of this Declaration, with街道, the United States, in every Thing necessary, now and hereafter, to be done. 

In Testimony whereof, We, the undersigned Representatives, have hereunto subscribed our Names, at the Seat of our Congress. 

The undersigned Representatives, have hereunto subscribed their Names, at the Seat of our Congress.
Colonists divided between Loyalists and Patriots

1/3 - were Loyalists (supported our Mother country)

1/3 - were Patriots (supported independence)

1/3 - didn’t care
WINNING THE WAR

► With French military leader Marquis de Lafayette’s help, Colonial troops became effective fighters

► May 1780, British troops successfully take Charles Town, S.C.

► However, it was the last major victory for the British as General Cornwallis finally surrendered at Yorktown, Va. on October 18, 1781

► The Americans victory shocked the world

Cornwallis surrenders
TREATY OF PARIS

► Peace talks began in Paris in 1782

► American negotiating team included John Jay, John Adams, and Ben Franklin

► Treaty signed in September of 1783 and officially recognized the independence of the United States and set boundaries
After the Revolution, many favored a Republic.

Some supported a strong federal government (Federalists) while others were cautious about a strong central government and favored states rights (Anti-Federalists).
The Second Continental Congress ratified the first constitution of the United States, the Articles of Confederation in 1781.

- Gave states one vote each in Congress regardless of population of state.
- Split power between National Government and State government, BUT gave most of the power to the states.
ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF ARTICLES OF CONFEDERATION

- America’s first Constitution
- Established National governments ability to wage war, sign treaties, coin money, run post office
- Land Ordinance of 1785 - made land parcels small & affordable
- Northwest Ordinance of 1787 - set requirement for states
Weaknesses of the Article of Confederation

- Congress could not collect taxes
- Each state had one vote regardless of population
- No executive branch
- No national court system
- Nine of thirteen states needed to agree to pass any law
- Lacked national unity
- Weak Central Government (if a state did not like a law, they did not have to enforce it)
An event that highlighted the weakness of the Central (National) government was **Shays’ Rebellion**

Farmers in western Massachusetts rose up in protest over increased taxes that caused many to lose their farms.

Daniel Shay led 1,200 farmers toward the arsenal in Springfield.

The event caused alarm throughout the republic.

1787
The delegates at the Constitutional Convention realized the need to strengthen the central government.

They soon decided to create an entirely new Constitution instead of amending the Articles.

Compromise was the order of the day.
VIRGINIA VS. NEW JERSEY PLANS

► Virginia Plan:
Bicameral Legislation based on state population

► New Jersey Plan:
Unicameral Legislation based on equal representation one state = one vote
A committee was created, after a long deadlock, to come up with a compromise. The head of the committee, Roger Sherman from Connecticut, suggested a compromise which satisfied both big & small states. It is called both the Connecticut Compromise and the Great Compromise.

It established a Bicameral Congress with a House of Representatives (lower house) based on population (VA Plan) and Senate (upper house) based on equal representation one state = one vote (NJ Plan).
THREE-FIFTHS COMPROMISE

- Next difficult issue: Slavery
- Southern states wanted slaves included in the population figures used to determine Representatives, but not taxed as property
- Northern states, which had few slaves, disagreed wanting the opposite.
- The compromise was to count each slave as $\frac{3}{5}$ths of a person
DIVISION OF POWERS

► Next issue: Should the National government or the states hold power? Who shall be sovereign?
► Delegates choose to split power but favor a strong central government.
► They developed a system of Federalism
► The federal government had delegated, or enumerated powers (Coin money, regulate interstate and international trade, declare war, etc.)
► States had reserved powers (create education programs, set legal age for marriage)
SEPARATION OF POWERS

CONSTITUTION

LEGISLATIVE
- The U.S. Capitol
- Congress
  - House of Representatives
  - Senate

EXECUTIVE
- The White House
- President
  - Vice President

JUDICIAL
- The Supreme Court
- Supreme Court
The Constitutional Convention adjourned in September of 1787.

Nine of thirteen states had to ratify the Constitution.

Supporters of the Constitution were Federalists.

Those who opposed it were Anti-Federalists.
Led by Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and John Jay, Federalists believed that while the Constitution was not perfect, it was far superior to the Articles of Confederation. They favored a strong central government.
The Anti-Federalist view was that the Constitution did not guarantee the rights of the people of the states.


The Anti-Federalists wanted a Bill of Rights added to the Constitution, and did not like the strong central government created by the Constitution.

Lee penned his views in the widely read, Letters from the Federal Farmers.
ADOPTION OF THE BILL OF RIGHTS

To satisfy the States and Individual Rights advocates, a Bill of Rights was added to the Constitution to guarantee the rights of the individual and the States.

The Bill of Rights was ratified in December of 1791 - three years after the Constitution was ratified.

The promise of a Bill of Rights convinced most states to vote in favor of the Constitution.

The Bill of Rights
Ratified December 15, 1791

Article I
Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

Article II
A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.

Article III
No Soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the Owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

Article IV
The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no Warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by Oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

Article V
No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any Criminal Case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

Article VI
In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right to a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which district shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining Witnesses in his favor, and to have the Assistance of Counsel for his defence.

Article VII
In Suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury shall be otherwise reexamined in any Court of the United States, than according to the rules of the common law.

Article VIII
Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

Article IX
The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

Article X
The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.

A reminder to be ever vigilant in the protection of these rights
Presented in loving memory of Corliss Sargent 1902-1995

National Emergency Civil Liberties Committee
New York, NY 10010

First Ten Amendments
The U.S. Constitution is the oldest written national constitution in the world.

- **Elastic Clause** key to flexibility

- Also ability to change, or “amend” the Constitution helps preserve it

- 27 Amendments have been added
The hero of the Revolution was the unanimous choice for the nation’s first president. Washington took office under the Constitution and with the Congress. He faced an enormous task of creating a new government.
The End