HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

European exploration and colonization of America precipitated changes in the new as well as the old world. Old world powers, realizing what the discovery of new land could mean in terms of their power and influence, rushed to claim as much land as they could. Colonists who occupied this land ranged from conquistadores to Quakers, people of fame and fortune to people looking for their fame and fortune. The new world to many people was a new start and a place where they could make their mark.

For others the discovery of the new world was not so optimistic. The Atlantic Slave Trade boomed as colonies in America increasingly relied on forced labor to meet the demand that indentured labor could not fill. Native Americans faced deadly disease and encroachment as a result of European arrival in America. Outlier religious groups faced discrimination from more mainstream institutions. Their hardships and perseverance play a large role in the history of Colonial America.

SUGGESTED LINKS

- Colonial America (1492-1763)
- Exploring the Early Americas
- Colonial Settlement, 1600-1763
- Thanksgiving Primary Source Set
- Colonial America: TPS Newsletter
- American Indians Primary Source Set (TPS)

ALSO SEE:

- Colonial Williamsburg
- Tennessee 4 Me
- Teach Tennessee History : Exploration and Colonization
- Native American Dolls–Lesson Plan (Smithsonian)

SUGGESTIONS FOR TEACHERS

Enclosed in this primary source set are a wealth of great Colonial America sources taken from the Library of Congress Web site. Included in this collection is the first recorded map of the Americas in 1550, a Quaker book of discipline, a treaty with Native American signatures from 1713, and a 1746 image of a slave factory in Nigeria. The sources in this primary source set are great exercises in determining author’s purpose as well as comparing and contrasting. For authors purpose, have the students examine a source like the above picture or the image of Mary Dyer on page 5. Have them think about why the author depicts the characters in the images like they are and what the author hopes to accomplish. For more examples of author purpose, see our August 2016 newsletter. For compare and contrast, have the students examine the various maps on page 2 and compare them with modern maps of the same area. Use our Teacher’s Guide: Analyzing Maps to assist you. As an extension, have the students recreate a map of the community they live in and see how their map compares with the real thing.
Die neuwen Inseln, so hinder Hispanien gegen Orient bey dem land India ligen. [c. 1550?]

This map of North America, [1715]

Virginia, Marylandia et Carolina in America septentrionali Britannorum [c. 1759?]

A relation of Maryland : reprinted from the London edition of 1635 [1865]

This map of the peninsula between Delaware & Chesopeak Bays, with the said bays and shores adjacent drawn from the most accurate surveys. [c. 1778?]

Die neuwen Inseln, so hinder Hispanien gegen Orient bey dem land India ligen. [c. 1550?]
Old Church at Jamestown, Virginia. [c. 1902]

Thomas Mathew, 1705, The Beginning, Progress and Conclusion of Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia. . . . [1705]

Pocahontas [c. 1900-1912] (For more on Pocahontas, see this website)

Plan du terrain à la rive gauche de la rivière de James vis-à-vis Jamestown en Virginie où s'est livré le combat du 6 juillet 1781 entre l'armée américaine commandée par le Mis. de La Fayette et l'armée anglaise aux ordres du Lord Cornwallis. [1781]

The generall historie of Virginia, New England & the Summer Isles : together with The true travels, adventures and observations, and A sea grammar / [1907]
The "General Fundamentals" of the Plymouth Colony [1685]

Plymouth in 1622 / W.L. Williams, [c. 1901]

Plymouth Rock, Plymouth, Massachusetts [c. 1980-2006]

The Whole Booke of Psalms Faithfully Translated into English Metre [1640]
A declaration of the General Court of the Massachusets holden at Boston, in New-England, October 18, 1659. Concerning the execution of two Quakers ... [1659]

All Slave Keepers that Keep the Innocent in Bondage .... [1737]

New-England’s Spirit of Persecution Transmitted to Pennsylvania and Pretended Quaker Found Persecuting the True Christian Quaker. [1693]

A Quaker Book of Discipline [1763]

Mary Dyer led to execution on Boston Common, 1 June 1660. [n.d]
The history of Virginia, in four parts. [1722]

Treaty between William Penn and the Indians [n.d.]

Indian treaty signed at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 13 July 1713, and addendum signed at same location, 28 July 1714. [1713-1714]

John Eliot preaching to the Indians [1856]

The Holy Bible: Containing the Old Testament and the New, Translated into the Indian Language. [1663]
Sales contract between Thomas Jefferson and James Madison for an indentured servant's remaining term, 19 April 1809. [1809]

Stowage of the British slave ship Brookes under the regulated slave trade act of 1788 [ca. 1788?] (For more on the Atlantic Slave Trade, see this website)

Verbindnis eines Lehrjungen (indentured servant form) [1776]

[Slave factories, or compounds, maintained by traders from four European nations on the Gulf of Guinea in what is now Nigeria] / N. Parr, sculp. [1746]
Teachers: Providing these primary source replicas without source clues may enhance the inquiry experience for students. This list of citations is supplied for reference purposes to you and your students. We have followed the Chicago Manual of Style format, one of the formats recommended by the Library of Congress, for each entry below, minus the access date. The access date for each of these entries is 5/6/15.


Churchman, John. This map of the peninsula between Delaware & Chesopeak Bays, with the said bays and shores adjacent drawn from the most accurate surveys. Map. Philadelphia: 1778. From Library of Congress, Rochambeau Map Collection. https://www.loc.gov/item/gm71000974/


Indian treaty signed at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, 13 July 1713, and addendum signed at same location, 28 July 1714. Manuscript. From Library of Congress, Manuscript Division. http://lcweb2.loc.gov/cgi-bin/query/r?ammem/mcc:@field(DOCID+@lit(mcc/059))


