

# The Middle Colonies

## Settling the Middle Colonies

The Dutch and Swedish started the first middle colony. The Dutch named it New Netherland (NETH-uh-land). King Charles II was the king of Great Britain. He wanted New Netherland. He said that he would take it by force. But the people did not want to fight. They gave up the land in the year 1664. The king gave it to his brother James. James split it into two colonies. They were New York and New Jersey.

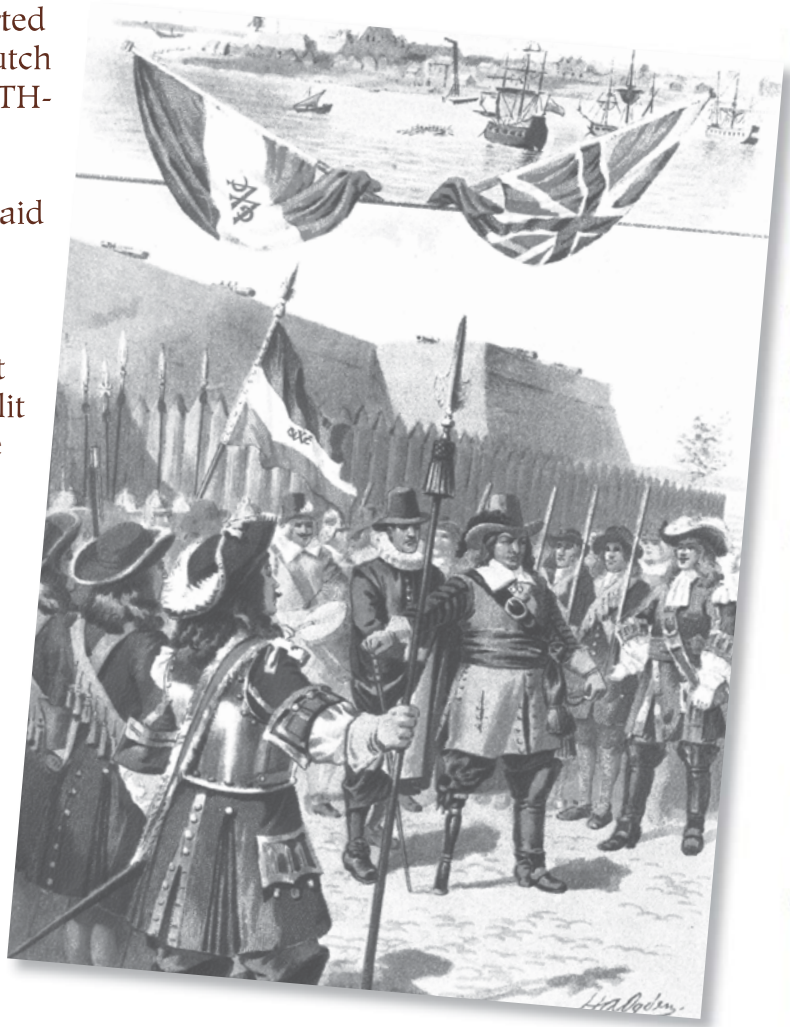
William Penn started Pennsylvania and Delaware. They were the other two middle colonies.

## William Penn's Woods

William Penn was a Quaker. The Quakers were a group of people. They said that all people were equal. They did not believe in war. The people in Great Britain did not like them. So, Mr. Penn wanted to go away.

William Penn's father had lent money to King Charles II. Penn went to the king. Penn said that he did not want the money. He wanted land in the New World. So the king gave land to Penn in 1681. There were many trees on the land. People called it Penn's Woods. It is now called Pennsylvania.

William Penn let the people be free. They did not have to belong to a church. Any man could vote or hold office. Pennsylvania was the center of colonial America. In the late 1700s, important things happened there. Its capital city was Philadelphia.



## Bread Basket Colonies

The people cleared the land for farms in the middle colonies. They grew grain. Grain is used to make bread. So, people called them the “bread basket” colonies. The farmers sold grain and cows to the other colonies. The people in the middle colonies also made iron. They used it for guns and tools.



Many rivers flowed through the middle colonies. This made trading easy. Farmers put their crops on boats. The boats sailed to big ports. The biggest ports were in New York City and Philadelphia. There, the crops were loaded onto large ships.



### Comprehension Question

Name at least two ways that the middle colonies were important to colonial America.

# The Middle Colonies

## Settling the Middle Colonies

The Dutch and Swedish settled the first middle colony. The Dutch named the colony New Netherland (NETH-uh-land). King Charles II of England wanted New Netherland. In the year 1664, he said that he would take the land by force. But the settlers gave up without a fight. Then the king gave the land to his brother James. James split the land into New York and New Jersey.

William Penn owned Pennsylvania and Delaware. They were the other two middle colonies.

## William Penn's Woods

William Penn belonged to a group known as the Quakers. They said that all people were equal. They did not believe in fighting. The people in Great Britain did not like the Quakers. So Penn wanted to leave.

King Charles II had once borrowed money from William Penn's father. Penn asked the king to repay him with land in the New World. In 1681, the king gave Penn land. People called it Penn's Woods. Today it is called Pennsylvania. Penn let the people there have freedom. They did not have to belong to a church. Men of any religion could vote or hold office.



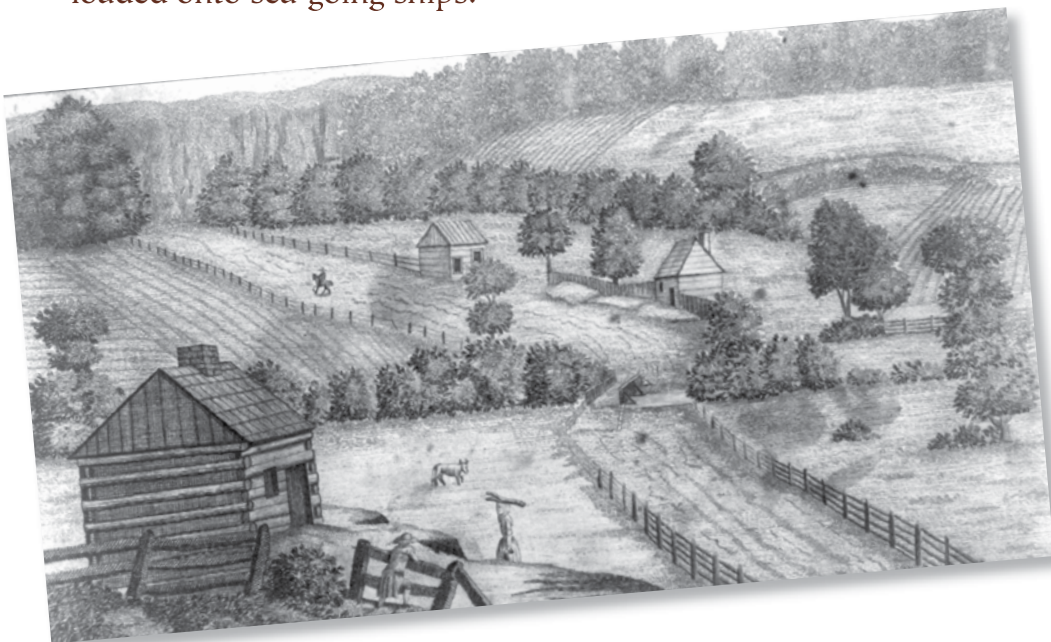
This colony became the center of colonial America. During the late 1700s, important things happened there. Its capital city was Philadelphia.



## Bread Basket Colonies

The middle colonies had hills and rich soil. The colonists cleared the land for farms. They grew a lot of grain. Grain is used to make bread. So, people called them the “bread basket” colonies. The farmers sent wheat, barley, oats, and cows to the southern colonies and to the British West Indies. These colonies also made iron. Iron was used for guns and tools.

Many rivers flowed through this area. They made trading easy. Farmers who lived inland sent their goods on boats. The boats sailed to the big port cities in New York and Pennsylvania. There, things could be loaded onto sea-going ships.



## Comprehension Question

In what ways were the middle colonies important to colonial America?

# The Middle Colonies

## Settling the Middle Colonies

The Dutch and Swedish settled the first middle colony. The Dutch named its colony New Netherland (NETH-uh-land). New York City was called New Amsterdam.

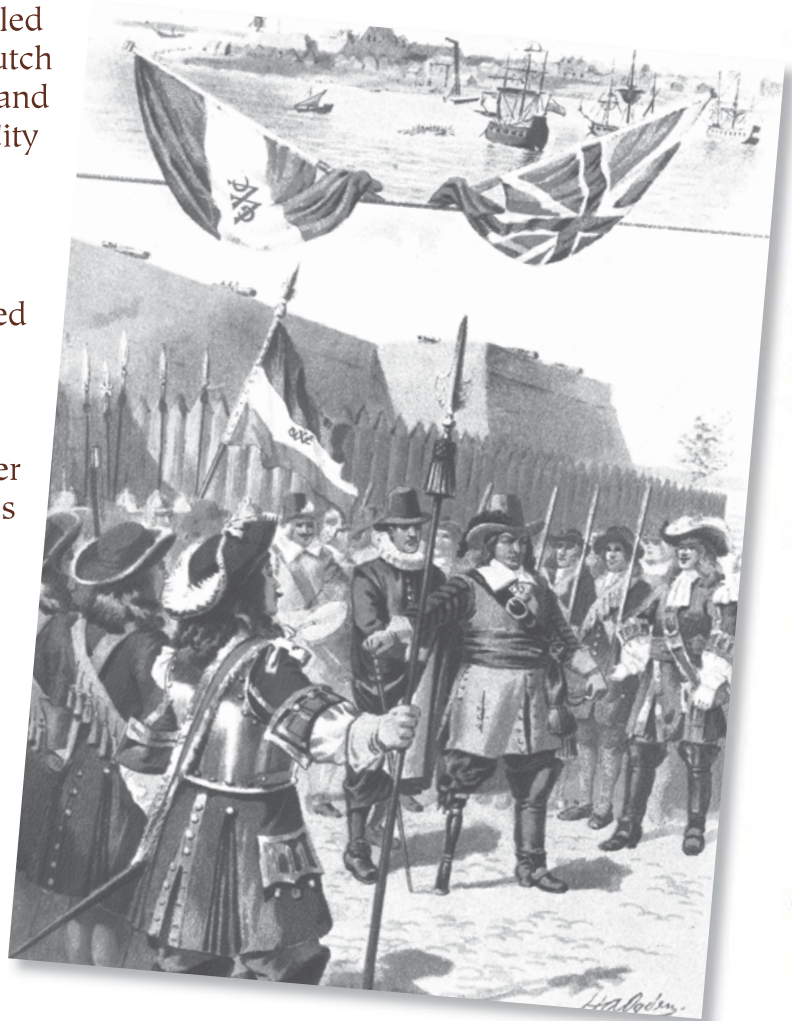
In 1664, King Charles II of England wanted to take over New Netherland. He threatened to start a war. The Dutch and Swedish settlers gave up the land without a fight. Then the king gave the land to his brother James, the Duke of York. James split the land into New York and New Jersey.

William Penn started the other middle colonies, Delaware and Pennsylvania.

## William Penn's Woods

William Penn belonged to the Society of Friends. This was a religious group known as the Quakers. Quakers thought that all people were equal. They did not believe in fighting. The Quakers were disliked in Great Britain, so Penn wanted to leave.

King Charles II had once borrowed money from William Penn's father. Penn asked the king to repay that debt with land in the New World. In 1681, the king gave him Penn's Woods. This is now called Pennsylvania. Penn made sure that in Pennsylvania, people had religious freedom. This meant that they did not have to belong to a specific church. Members of any religion could vote or be elected to office.



Pennsylvania grew to be the center of colonial America. The capital of the colonies was in Philadelphia. During the late 1700s, many important events occurred in this city.



## Bread Basket Colonies

The middle colonies had hills and rich soil. So, the people cleared the land for farms. People called these colonies the “bread basket” colonies because grain was so plentiful. The farmers exported wheat, barley, oats, and cows to the southern colonies and the British West Indies. These colonies also made iron, which was used to make guns and tools.

Many rivers flowed through the area. They made trading easy for farmers who lived inland. These farmers sent their goods on boats to the big port cities of Philadelphia and New York. There, things were loaded onto sea-going ships.



## Comprehension Question

How did farming in the middle colonies affect the success of colonial America?

# The Middle Colonies

## Establishing the Middle Colonies

The Dutch and Swedish settled the first middle colony. The Dutch colonists named the colony New Netherland (NETH-uh-land). New York City was called New Amsterdam.

King Charles II of England announced that he wanted to own New Netherland in 1664. He threatened to send soldiers to take it by force. The Dutch and Swedish colonists did not want to fight. They simply gave up the land. The king gave the land to his brother James, the Duke of York. James divided it into New York and New Jersey.

Later William Penn founded the two other middle colonies, Pennsylvania and Delaware.



## William Penn's Woods

William Penn belonged to the Society of Friends, a religious group known as the Quakers. Quakers thought that all people were equal, and they did not believe in fighting. However, the Quakers were disliked in Great Britain, and Penn wanted to leave the country.

Years before, King Charles II had borrowed money from Penn's father. So, Penn asked the king to repay that debt with land in the New World. In 1681, the king granted him Penn's Woods, which is the area now called Pennsylvania. Penn made sure that people had religious freedom in his colony. Members of any religion could vote or be elected to office.

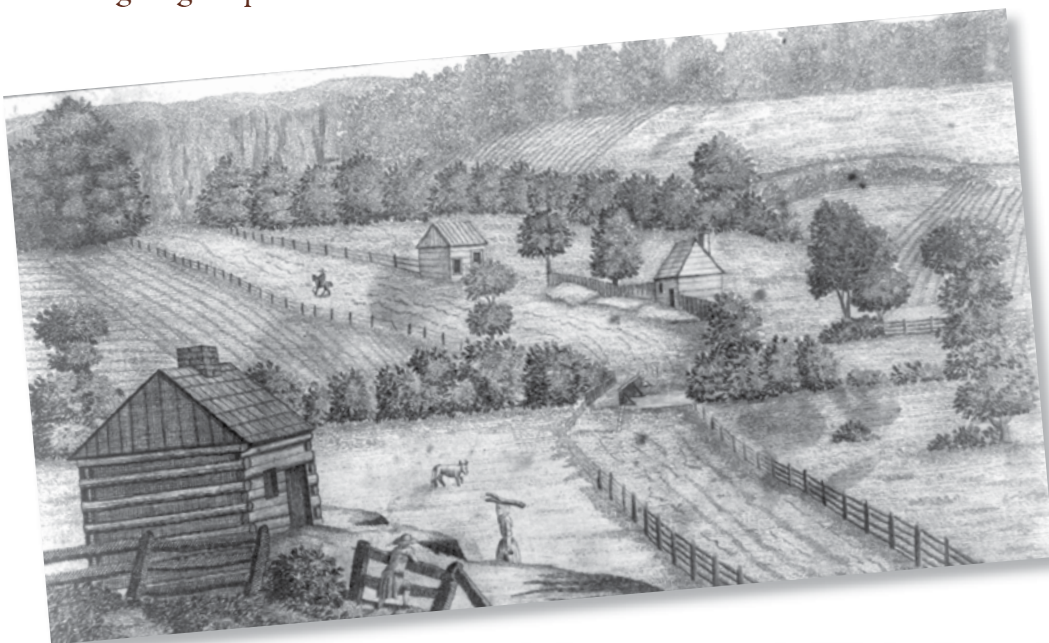
Pennsylvania became the center of colonial America. During the late 1700s, many important historical events occurred in Philadelphia, its capital city.

## Bread Basket Colonies



The middle colonies manufactured iron, which was made into guns, axes, and tools. There were hills with fertile soil, so the people cleared the land for farms. Farmers grew and exported wheat, barley, oats, and livestock to the southern colonies and the British West Indies. Grain was so abundant that people referred to these colonies as the “bread basket” colonies.

Many rivers flowed through this region, which made trading easy for farmers living inland. They shipped goods on boats to the ports of Philadelphia and New York City, where their products were loaded onto sea-going ships.



## Comprehension Question

In what ways did the middle colonies affect the success of the northern and southern colonies?