

The Southern Colonies

About 100 men and boys sailed to Virginia in 1607. They set up a settlement. They named their new home Jamestown. They did not plant crops. They looked for gold. Just a few of the men built good homes. So, most of them died the first year. Then John Smith took charge. He made a new rule. If a man did not work, he did not eat. The people began to work.



The South had four more colonies. In 1634, Lord Baltimore started Maryland. He was a Catholic who had been treated badly in Great Britain. He wanted Catholics to have a safe place to live.

In 1663, North and South Carolina were settled as one colony. They stayed one colony until the 1700s.

Georgia was the last colony settled. In 1732, James Oglethorpe (OH-guhl-thorp) went there. He built forts. This was to keep the English colonies safe from the Spanish. The Spanish lived in Florida. It is just south of Georgia.

Cash Crops and Plantations

The South had good soil. Men had big farms called plantations (plan-TAY-shuhns). They grew crops to get cash. They sold these crops to Great Britain. Virginia made a lot of money selling tobacco. The Carolinas grew tobacco and corn. Maryland did, too. South Carolina and Georgia planted rice. By the 1740s, South Carolina grew indigo. This plant is used to make a dark blue dye.

It was hard work to plant and take care of the crops. At first the farm owners had indentured servants (in-DEN-shured SIR-vuhntz). These men and women worked for years. They did this to pay for the cost of their trip to the New World. By the late 1600s, the farm owners had slaves. Most of the slaves came from Africa.



Early Southern Governments

The House of Burgesses (BURR-juhs-uhs) met in 1619. It was Virginia's first government. The men who owned land picked its members. Maryland had a government like this, too.

James Oglethorpe ruled Georgia for 20 years. He made every decision. Then, the British king said he wanted to control Georgia. After that, the king named the leaders.

Comprehension Question

What was the rule that John Smith made in Virginia?

The Southern Colonies

About 100 men and boys sailed to Virginia in the year 1607. They named their new settlement Jamestown. The men should have planted crops and built homes. Instead they spent their time looking for gold. Within a year, most of them had died of sickness or hunger. Then Captain John Smith took charge. Under his rule, those who did not work were left to starve. Slowly the colony grew successful.



The South had four other colonies. In 1634, Lord Baltimore founded Maryland. As a Catholic, he had been mistreated for his ideas. He wanted religious freedom. He kept this in mind as he set up Maryland.

North and South Carolina started as one colony in 1663. They stayed that way until the 1700s.

Georgia was the last colony settled. In 1732, James Oglethorpe (OH-guhl-thorp) went there and built forts. He did this to keep the English safe from the Spanish. The Spanish lived in Florida.

Cash Crops and Plantations

The land in the South was rich. The growing season was long. Rivers kept the soil moist. Big plantations (plan-TAY-shuhns) grew cash crops to sell to Great Britain. Virginia's main cash crop was tobacco. North Carolina, South Carolina, and Maryland raised corn and tobacco. South Carolina and Georgia planted rice. By the 1740s, South Carolina grew indigo. This plant is used to make a dark blue dye.

It was hard work to plant and tend crops. At first the owners had indentured servants (in-DEN-shured SIR-vuhntz). These men and women paid for their trips to the New World by working on the farms. But by the late 1600s, the plantation owners had slaves from Africa.



Early Southern Governments

In 1619, the House of Burgesses (BURR-juhs-uhs) became the ruling body of Virginia. The members of the government were chosen by the male landowners. Maryland had a similar elected assembly.

In Georgia, James Oglethorpe controlled the colonists for 20 years. He made every decision. Then the British king made the land a royal colony. After that, the king picked the leaders and council members.



Comprehension Question

Why was John Smith's rule important?

The Southern Colonies

The Virginia Company of London founded the first southern colony. In 1607, it sent about 100 men and boys to Virginia. They named their new home Jamestown after King James.

The men looked for gold instead of planting crops or building homes. And, the area they chose was swampy. Mosquitoes spread disease. By 1608, most of the men had died. Then, John Smith took charge. Under his rule, those who did not work were left to starve. Slowly the colony grew successful.



There were four other colonies in the South. In 1634, Lord Baltimore founded Maryland for religious freedom. As a Catholic, he had been mistreated in Great Britain.

North and South Carolina started as one large colony in 1663. They remained that way until the early 1700s.

Georgia was the last colony settled. In 1732, King George II granted the land to James Oglethorpe (OH-guhl-thorp). He settled it and built forts. This kept the English safe from the Spanish in Florida.

Cash Crops and Plantations

The land in the South was fertile, and the growing season long. Rivers kept the soil moist. Cash crops were grown on large plantations (plan-TAY-shuhns). Virginia's main cash crop was tobacco. The Carolinas and Maryland grew corn and tobacco. Rice proved profitable (PROF-it-uh-buhl) for South Carolina and Georgia. By the 1740s, South Carolina grew indigo. This plant is used to make a dark blue dye.



Planting and tending crops took lots of work. At first the planters used indentured servants. These men and women paid for the cost of their trip to the New World by working on the farms. But by the late 1600s, the plantation owners were using slaves from Africa.



Early Southern Governments

In 1619, the House of Burgesses (BURR-juhs-uhs) became the ruling body of Virginia. The members of the government were chosen by the male landowners. Maryland had a similar elected assembly.

In Georgia, Oglethorpe controlled the colonists for 20 years. He made every decision. Then, the British king made the land a royal colony. From then on, the king picked the leaders and council members.

Comprehension Question

Why did John Smith have to make rules for the men living in Virginia?

The Southern Colonies

The Virginia Company of London founded the first southern colony when it sent about 100 men and boys to Virginia in 1607. The men named their settlement Jamestown in honor of King James. At first, they searched for gold instead of planting crops or building homes. The area they settled was swampy, and within a year most of the men had died from hunger and diseases spread by mosquitoes. Finally, Captain John Smith took over leadership, and under his rule those who did not work were left to starve. Gradually, the colony grew successful.



Four other colonies made up the South. In 1634, Lord Baltimore founded Maryland for religious freedom because in Great Britain he was mistreated as a Catholic. North and South Carolina started as a single colony in 1663 and stayed that way until the early 1700s.

In 1732, King George II granted James Oglethorpe (OH-guhl-thorp) the land for the colony of Georgia. Oglethorpe settled it and built forts to protect the English from the Spaniards in Florida.

Cash Crops and Plantations

The South's land was rich and its growing season long. Rivers kept the soil moist. Cash crops grew on large plantations (plan-TAY-shuhns). Virginia's main cash crop was tobacco. The Carolinas and Maryland raised corn and tobacco. Rice proved profitable (PROF-it-uh-buhl) for South Carolina and Georgia. By the 1740s, South Carolina grew indigo, a plant used to make a dark blue dye.

Planting, tending, and harvesting crops took many laborers. The plantation owners started out using indentured servants. These men and women paid for their passage to the New World by working on the plantations for years. But by the late 1600s, plantation owners started purchasing African slaves instead of using indentured servants.



Early Southern Governments

In 1619, male landowners in Virginia elected the members of the House of Burgesses (BURR-juhs-uhs). This was the first elected representative government in North America. Maryland had a similar assembly.

James Oglethorpe controlled the colonists in Georgia for 20 years. He made every decision until the British king made the land a royal colony. From that point on, the king named the leaders and council members.

Comprehension Question

In what ways did John Smith's rule affect life in Virginia?