

Study Guide



Chapter 2, Section 2

For use with textbook pages 58–64

ENGLISH COLONIES IN AMERICA

KEY TERMS AND NAMES

- John Cabot** Englishman who explored North America for England (page 58)
- Puritans** people who wanted to purify the Anglican Church of all Catholic elements (page 60)
- joint-stock company** company that pooled the money of many investors for big projects (page 61)
- privateer** privately owned ships licensed by the government to attack ships of other countries (page 61)
- Walter Raleigh** Englishman who sent an expedition that established a colony in Roanoke (page 61)
- Powhatan Confederacy** Native American group that lived in the area of Jamestown (page 62)
- burgesses** representatives to Virginia’s legislative body (page 63)
- headright** a system whereby land was given to settlers to entice them to go to Virginia (page 64)
- proprietary colony** a colony governed by the proprietor, or owner, of the colony (page 64)

DRAWING FROM EXPERIENCE

The United States Constitution guarantees freedom of religion. What does that freedom mean? Why is having this freedom important to a democracy?

The last section discussed Spanish and French settlement of the Americas. This section discusses the English exploration and settlement of North America.

ORGANIZING YOUR THOUGHTS

Use the diagram below to help you take notes. The English people had religious and economic reasons for coming to America. List the reasons below.

Reasons

English Go to America	1. _____
	2. _____

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READ TO LEARN

- **England Takes Interest in America** (page 58)

In 1497 England sent **John Cabot** to find a western route to Asia. He landed in what is today Nova Scotia and sailed southward along the Atlantic coast. Although Cabot had arrived in America only a few years after Columbus had, the English government did not attempt to establish colonies there for another 80 years. In the late 1500s, however, changes in England occurred that led to English colonization in America.

One change had to do with religion. In the early 1500s, western Europe was Catholic. In 1517 a German monk named Martin Luther accused the Church of corruption. This started the Protestant Reformation. Luther founded the German Protestant Church, which became the Lutheran Church. The Reformation spread to other parts of Europe. In England, the Reformation occurred when the pope refused to annul King Henry VIII's marriage. The king broke with the Church and declared himself the head of England's church, which became known as the Anglican Church. Some people wanted the Anglican Church to keep the organization of the Catholic Church. Others wanted to "purify" the Church of all Catholic elements. These people were known as **Puritans**. They wanted every congregation to appoint its own leaders, rather than having the king appoint them. In 1603 King James I refused to let the Puritans change the organization of the Church. As a result, many Puritans left England for America in order to practice their religion in their own way.

England also experienced economic changes. Much of England was divided into large estates. The nobles rented their land to tenant farmers. Then in the 1500s, Europeans began to buy English wool. English landowners realized that they could make more money by raising sheep than by renting their land. They enclosed their land for sheep farming and forced the tenant farmers to leave the land. Some of these poor people left England for a better life in America.

When England began producing more wool than Europe would buy, merchants began to look for new markets. They began to organize **joint-stock companies** in which many investors pooled their money to use for large projects. Doing so allowed English merchants to trade with and colonize other parts of the world without financial support from the government.

3. What caused some English tenant farmers to leave England for America?

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• England Returns to America (page 61)

England needed new markets for its wool, so it again became interested in America. At the same time, the Reformation had changed Europe's balance of power. England had become the leading Protestant power, while Spain was the leading Catholic power. The two countries became enemies. By the 1560s, most Dutch people, who lived in part of the Spanish empire, had become Protestants. When the Spanish tried to stop Protestantism in the Netherlands, the Dutch rebelled. England came to the aid of the Dutch. Queen Elizabeth allowed **privateers** to attack Spanish ships. Privateers are privately owned ships licensed by the government to attack ships of other countries.

English privateers had a difficult time against the Spanish in the Caribbean because they had no bases in the area. Queen Elizabeth's advisers urged her to establish bases in America. As a result, the queen gave **Walter Raleigh** a charter to explore the American coastline. His ships landed on Roanoke, an island off the North Carolina coast. He named the land Virginia.

4. Why did England and Spain become enemies in the mid-1500s?

• Jamestown Is Founded (page 62)

In 1606 King James I granted the Virginia Company, a group of investors, a charter to start colonies in Virginia. The company sent 144 colonists, who founded the settlement of Jamestown. The settlement faced many problems. The colonists knew nothing about farming. Many of the colonists were not used to manual labor and refused to do it. They also argued with one another and were not able to make decisions. As a result, sickness and food shortages killed many of the settlers.

Captain John Smith, the leader of the settlement, began trading with the **Powhatan Confederacy**, the local Native Americans. Their chief, Powhatan, helped the colony survive. To increase the population of Jamestown, the Virginia Company offered free land to people who worked for the colony for seven years. About 400 new settlers arrived in 1609. However, there was not enough food for these settlers, and by winter they began to steal food from the Native Americans. In response, the Native Americans attacked the settlers. By 1610 only 60 settlers were still alive. By 1614 the colony still had not found something it could produce that could be sold in England for a profit. It looked to growing tobacco.

The Jamestown colonists tried growing tobacco, but the crop grown there was too bitter. John Rolfe, one of the colonists, experimented with seeds from

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Trinidad, a Caribbean island. His tobacco sold for a good price, and the Jamestown settlers began planting large amounts of it.

In 1618 the head of the Virginia Company gave Jamestown the right to elect its own legislative assembly. The new government included 20 representatives, called **burgesses**. The assembly was called the House of Burgesses. To attract new settlers to Virginia, the company also started the system of **headrights**. New settlers who bought a share in the company or who paid for their passage were given 50 acres of land and 50 more acres for additional family members. In 1619 the Virginia Company sent 90 women to the colony to provide for marriage opportunities. That same year, the settlers purchased 20 Africans as servants.

The changes introduced by the Virginia Company attracted many new settlers to Virginia. This increase upset the Native Americans, and they attacked the settlers. Hundreds of settlers died. The king, upset about the colony's failures, took back the Virginia Company's charter. He made Virginia a royal colony and appointed a governor to run the colony.

5. What changes made by the Virginia Company attracted settlers to Virginia?

• Maryland Is Founded (page 64)

In England, Catholics did not accept the king as head of the Church. As a result, many were persecuted. Lord Baltimore, who had been a member of the English Parliament until he converted to Catholicism, decided to found a colony in America where Catholics could practice their faith without persecution. In 1632 King Charles granted Baltimore an area of land northeast of Virginia, which he named Maryland. Baltimore owned Maryland, making it a **proprietary colony**. The proprietor, or owner, could govern the colony as he saw fit. Although Lord Baltimore hoped that Maryland would become a refuge for Catholics, most of the settlers were Protestant.

6. What kind of colony was Maryland?
