

# The Middle Colonies

# 6



► Pennsbury Manor in Morrisville, Pennsylvania



Start  
with a  
Story

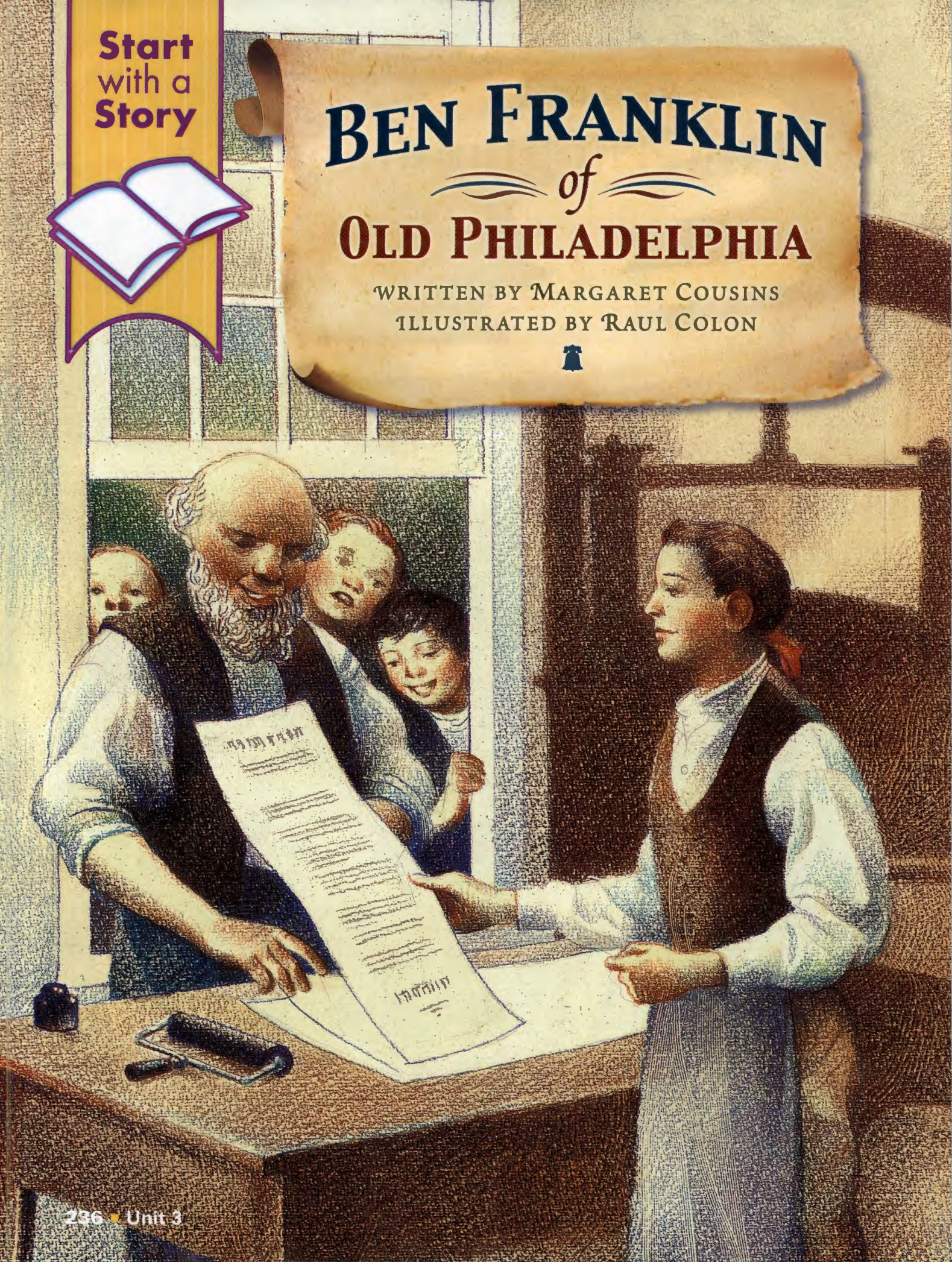


# BEN FRANKLIN

of

## OLD PHILADELPHIA

WRITTEN BY MARGARET COUSINS  
ILLUSTRATED BY RAUL COLON





Before Benjamin Franklin was an inventor, a printer, and one of the nation's greatest leaders, he was a son of a Boston soap-maker. By the age of 10, he was working with his father. Ben had little interest in soapmaking, but he did enjoy books. His father noticed this and arranged for Ben to work with his half brother James, a printer. In the print shop, Ben helped write pamphlets, set type, and even sell newspapers on the street.

After three years working for James, Ben decided to leave Boston. He traveled through New York and New Jersey, looking for work, but he didn't have much luck. Nearly penniless and in need of a job, Ben arrived in one of the most exciting cities in all of the American colonies—Philadelphia. After his arrival, Ben found work with another printer. Read now about Ben's first days in Philadelphia.

**B**en Franklin worked at many things and he was a good businessman, but he always thought of himself as a printer. He had come to Philadelphia to be a printer and no other kind of work entered his head.

After giving away his two extra rolls to an old lady and a boy who looked hungrier than he was, he followed the well-dressed crowds in the Philadelphia streets. It turned out that the crowd was going to the Quaker Meeting House.

Ben went in and sat down to think, but he fell fast asleep. He didn't wake up until somebody tapped him on the shoulder and told him church was over. Deciding that he had better catch up with his sleep before looking for work, he rented a room and slept for a long time. Then he hunted up Andrew Bradford, who was William Bradford's son.



"I just hired a hand," Mr. Bradford said, and this made Ben very sad. It seemed to him he was always just missing the boat.

"Maybe Samuel Keimer could use you," Mr. Bradford said, looking Ben over and liking what he saw.

They went to see Mr. Keimer, another printer.

"Neighbor," said Mr. Bradford to Samuel Keimer, "I have brought to see you a young man of your business; perhaps you may want such a one."

Mr. Keimer fingered his long beard and looked at Ben, whose looks had now been considerably improved by washing and clean clothes. He finally decided to give the boy a job, and Ben at last began to earn real wages.

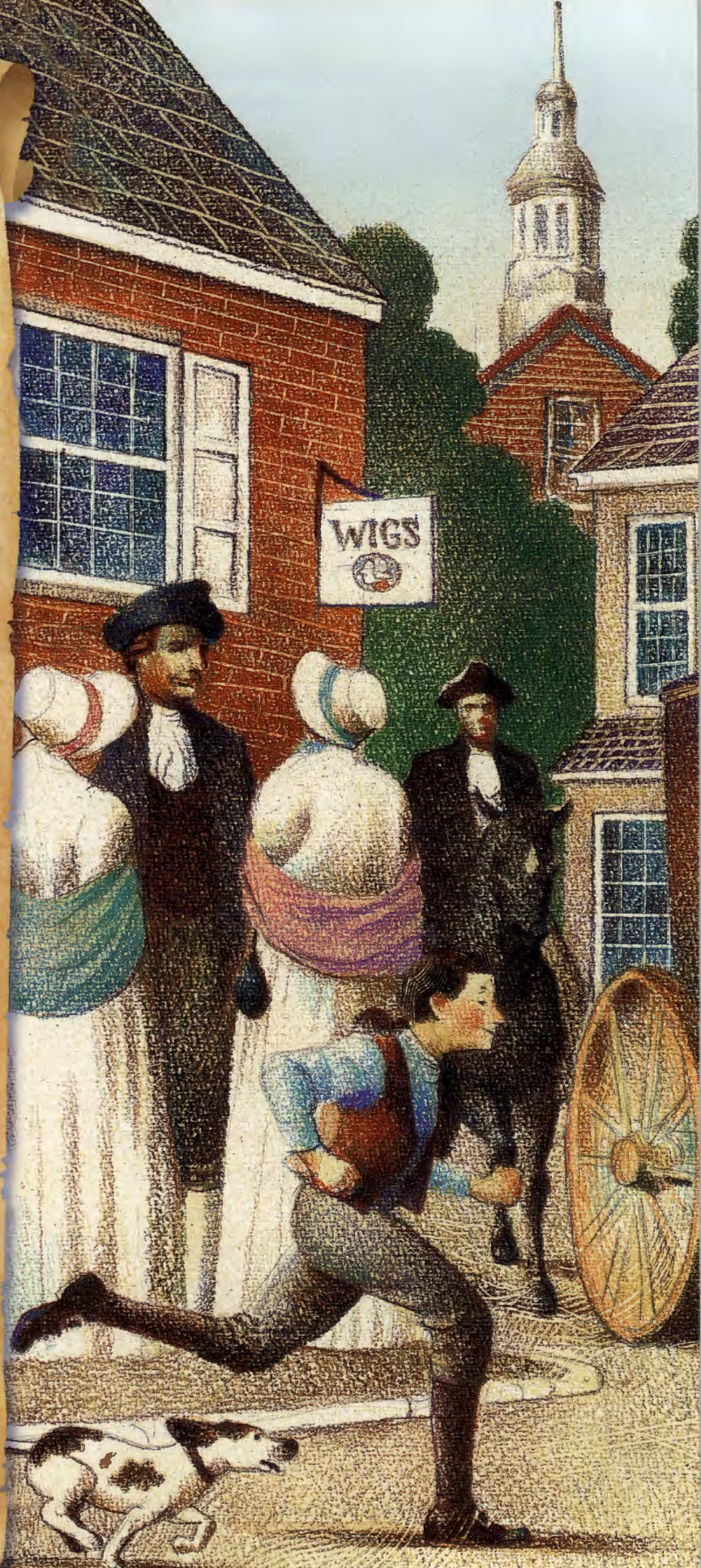


During that first winter in Philadelphia, Benjamin had a wonderful time. He was a free man, with money jingling in his pockets. His father wasn't telling him what to do, and his brother wasn't bullying him . . .

At that time Philadelphia was the largest town in the American colonies—bigger than Boston and New York put together—and its people were the best educated and the richest. While it was not much like a big city, as we think of big cities today, it was the “city” of the colonies. Though Boston was a huddle of weathered gray houses, rising above the blue harbor, Philadelphia was a town of bright colors. Most of the shop fronts were painted red, blue, green, or yellow, and the big swinging signs in front of them were brilliant with paint and gilt. The carriages that bounced over the muddy, rutted streets were also bright with paint.

The people of Philadelphia wore bright colors and had a taste for fine clothes, although some of the Quakers still wore gray from head to foot. However, the rich Quakers followed the fashion and wore silks, satins, and velvets in all colors of the rainbow, along with wigs and jewelry. The ladies dressed in elaborate clothes, too, and with their high hairdos, they looked very pretty.

Philadelphians loved to have company and parties; they enjoyed getting together to talk and sing







and eat. People had fewer places of amusement to visit in those days, so they stayed at home and did a lot of talking. Conversation was important.

Ben Franklin loved to talk, too, and he read so many books that he had a good deal to talk about. In Philadelphia he met young people his own age who were interested in reading and in other things that he enjoyed. He began to make friends—something that was never very hard for Ben, and something that he continued to do until the end of his life.

His boss, Mr. Keimer, arranged for him to have room and board at the house of Mr. Read. This man was the father of Deborah Read, the girl who had laughed to see young Franklin carrying his puffy rolls down the street.

So began Ben's happy days in Philadelphia, the city that was to become his real hometown for the rest of his life, though he was to live all over the world.



## Response Corner

- 1 Why did Ben Franklin travel to Philadelphia?
- 2 What made Philadelphia different from other colonial cities?
- 3 Why do you think Philadelphia would be an exciting place for young Ben Franklin?



1647

Peter Stuyvesant  
arrives in New  
Netherland

1664

England takes over  
New Netherland and  
renames it New York

1681

William Penn  
founds the colony  
of Pennsylvania

# Settling the Middle Colonies

**You  
ARE  
THERE**

The year is 1660 and **King Charles II** has asked you to study a map of the English colonies with him. The king is pleased with the colonies' performance. In the north, New England is producing plenty of lumber, and in the south Virginia's tobacco plantations are bringing him great wealth.

"The problem lies here right in the middle," says the king, "with that Dutch colony in the way!"

► King Charles II



## WHAT TO KNOW

Why did people from different places and backgrounds settle in the Middle Colonies?

- ✓ Identify the location of the Middle Colonies and the people who founded them.
- ✓ Describe how religion affected the Middle Colonies.

## VOCABULARY

**refuge** p. 244

**proprietor** p. 245

**trial by jury** p. 245

**justice** p. 245

## PEOPLE

King Charles II

Peter Stuyvesant

William Penn

Tamanend

## PLACES

New York

New Jersey

Pennsylvania

Delaware



## SUMMARIZE



California  
Standards

HSS 5.3, 5.3.1, 5.4, 5.4.1, 5.4.2,  
5.4.3, 5.4.5, 5.4.6





► Fort Orange, built near where Albany, New York, now stands, began as a Dutch trading post.

## The Breadbasket Colonies

While the Puritans were settling New England, other groups were setting up colonies to the south. This region, which included what are today New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania, came to be known as the Middle Colonies. The region was given this name because of its relative location between the New England Colonies and southern settlements in Virginia.

When Europeans arrived in the Middle Colonies, they saw flat plains, rolling hills, grassy meadows, and thick forests. They discovered that when this land was cleared of trees and rocks, it was much better for farming than the land in New England. They also found that the

climate was good for growing crops. The summers were long, and the amount of rain each year was just right for crops such as wheat, corn, and rye. The Middle Colonies produced so many crops used in making bread that they came to be called the “breadbasket” colonies.

In addition to fertile land, the region had several large harbors near the Atlantic Ocean. Settlers found that these harbors were connected to many of the region’s deep rivers, such as the Hudson and Delaware Rivers. These rivers stretched far inland. Settlers knew these deep waterways would allow large ships to travel to inland settlements, making trade with the colonists there easier. All of the special features of this region attracted many different settlers.

**READING CHECK** 🔥 **SUMMARIZE**

**What attracted settlers to the Middle Colonies?**



# New Netherland Grows

The Dutch continued to control New Netherland—which included the Hudson Valley and surrounding lands. However, few people came to the colony because their country, the Netherlands, was wealthy and offered its citizens many freedoms. As a result, by 1640, only about 2,000 people lived in the colony—most of them

► The first slave auction in New Amsterdam was held in 1655.



► This wooden box top has Dutch-style decorations.

in New Amsterdam. The colony was also troubled. Settlers had conflicts with American Indians and nearby English colonists over land.

The Dutch West India Company, which controlled the colony's trade, decided that a new leader was needed to raise

their profits and bring order. In 1647, it sent **Peter Stuyvesant** (STY•vuh•suhnt), a former soldier, to govern the colony.

In the 1650s, Stuyvesant expanded New Netherland into what is now New Jersey. Then he pushed south into what is now Delaware, taking over the small colony of New Sweden in 1655. New Netherland now controlled more land, but it still did not have enough people to be successful.

To increase New Netherland's population, the Dutch West India Company allowed people from Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Spain, and Brazil to settle in the colony. Among these newcomers was one of the first groups of Jews to settle in North America.

Africans also lived in New Netherland. Most were captured and brought to the colony as slaves, the first arriving in 1626. Not all Africans in New Netherland were slaves; some were able to buy their freedom. Yet former slaves were not completely free. Each year, they had to pay their employers in money or goods in order to remain free.

## READING CHECK **SUMMARIZE**

Why did few people from the Netherlands settle in New Netherland?







► Peter Stuyvesant left New Netherland after the colony's surrender, but he later returned and lived in New York for the rest of his life.

## The English Take Over

King Charles II wanted England to control the entire Atlantic coast of North America. He wanted to build more settlements, control the fur trade, and acquire more lands rich in natural resources. There was one thing that prevented the King from achieving this goal—the colony of New Netherland.

Both the English and the Dutch claimed ownership of lands in the Connecticut Valley as well as on Long Island. Charles II told his brother James, the Duke of York, he could have all of New Netherland if he could take the colony from the Dutch.

In 1664 the Duke of York sent four warships to take New Netherland. When the ships arrived off the coast of New Netherland, the English ordered Stuyvesant to surrender. They said if he did not, they would attack.

Stuyvesant wanted to battle the English. He tried to get the colonists to fight, but they refused. They knew they were outnumbered. The entire colony had less than 150 soldiers. Stuyvesant was forced to surrender and the English took control of New Netherland without firing a shot.

### READING CHECK 🔥SUMMARIZE

**Why did England want to control New Netherland?**



## Founding the Middle Colonies

1650

1675

1700

• **1664** The New York Colony is established

• **1664** The New Jersey Colony is established

• **1681** The Pennsylvania Colony is founded by William Penn



**ANALYZE SKILL** **Analyze Time Lines** All of the Middle Colonies were founded in the 1600s.

❖ In what century was Pennsylvania founded?

## New York and New Jersey

The Duke of York split the Dutch colony into two parts and named them **New York** and **New Jersey**. James kept New York for himself. The city of New Amsterdam became New York City. He gave New Jersey to two friends of his, John Berkeley and George Carteret.

The English treated the Dutch settlers fairly. They promised to protect their rights and property and allowed the colonists to elect some of their own leaders. Most Dutch settlers chose to stay.

At first, nearly all of the colonists lived in New York. To attract more settlers to New Jersey, Berkeley and Carteret offered to sell land at low prices. English people soon began arriving in New Jersey. Many

of them were members of the Society of Friends, a religious group also known as the Quakers.

The Quakers believe that all people are equal. They refuse to fight in wars or to swear loyalty to any king or country. Others who did not share these beliefs often mistreated the Quakers. Thousands of Quakers were arrested in England and thrown into prison, and most were forced to leave the other English colonies.

In New Jersey, the Quakers hoped to find a **refuge**, or safe place, where they could live and worship as they pleased. In 1674, a group of Quakers bought Berkeley's share of New Jersey and founded the first Quaker settlement in North America.

**READING CHECK** **SUMMARIZE**

**Why were the Quakers often mistreated by those who did not share their beliefs?**



# Pennsylvania and Delaware

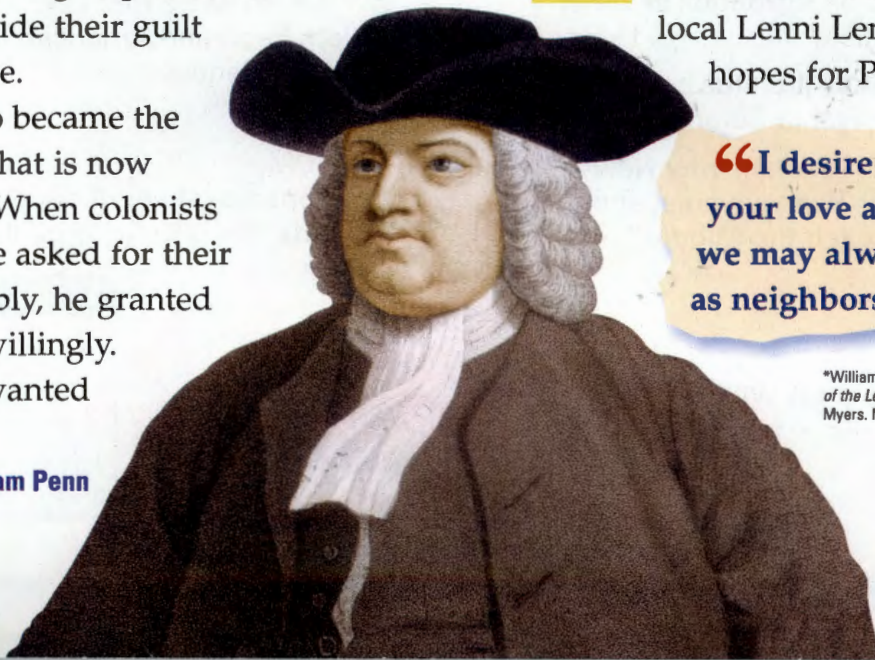
Starting in the 1680s, the Middle Colonies expanded. In 1681, King Charles II gave a charter to **William Penn**, an English Quaker. The charter made Penn the **proprietor**, or owner, of what is now **Pennsylvania**.

Penn was given the land because the king owed a large amount of money to Penn's father. The new colony was named Pennsylvania, which means "Penn's woods." Penn described the colony as a "Holy Experiment." He wanted all the people living in Pennsylvania—Quakers and non-Quakers—to live together peacefully.

In 1682, Penn wrote *The Frame of Government of Pennsylvania*. This plan of government set up a legislature called the General Assembly, which would make the laws for the colony. Penn's frame of government gave citizens of Pennsylvania freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the right to a fair trial by jury. **Trial by jury** means that people accused of breaking laws have the right to have a group of fellow citizens decide their guilt or innocence.

Penn also became the owner of what is now **Delaware**. When colonists in Delaware asked for their own assembly, he granted it to them willingly. Penn also wanted

► **William Penn**



## ANALYSIS SKILL Analyze Maps

📍 **Location** What Pennsylvania city was on the Delaware River?

American Indians to be treated with **justice**, or fairness. In a letter, he told local Lenni Lenape Indians his hopes for Pennsylvania:

“I desire to enjoy it with your love and consent, that we may always live together as neighbors and friends.”\*

\*William Penn. *William Penn's Own Account of the Lenni Lenape*, edited by Albert Cook Myers. Middle Atlantic Press, 1970.





► **William Penn** learned to speak the language of the Lenni Lenape Indians and tried to treat them fairly.

When Penn arrived in Philadelphia in 1682, he met with **Tamanend** (TAM•uh•nend) and other Lenni Lenape Indians. He paid the Indians for most of the land King Charles II had given him, and built a long-lasting peace with the Lenni Lenape.


**READING CHECK DRAW CONCLUSIONS**

How was Penn's treatment of the Indians related to Quaker beliefs?


**Summary**

The Middle Colonies were made up of the colonies of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. People from many different places and backgrounds settled in the Middle Colonies. Some settlers came because of the rich land and others came to freely practice their own religion.


**REVIEW**

1.  Why did people from different places and backgrounds settle in the Middle Colonies?
2. Use the term **trial by jury** in a sentence about the Pennsylvania Colony.
3. How does location explain why New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware were called the Middle Colonies?

**CRITICAL THINKING**

4.  Why do you think William Penn wanted religious freedom in Pennsylvania?

5.  **Make a Portrait** Draw a picture that shows a meeting between William Penn and American Indian leaders in Pennsylvania.

6.  **SUMMARIZE**  
On a separate sheet of paper, copy and complete this graphic organizer.

**Key Fact**

The Dutch controlled New Netherland.

**Key Fact**

England wanted to expand.

**Summary**



# Tamanend

*“We will live in love with William Penn and his children as long as the creeks and rivers run.”\**

No one was surprised to hear Tamanend speak these kind words. He was a kind leader and was respected by all who knew him. Tamanend grew up along the Neshaminy Creek in the forests of what is now southeastern Pennsylvania. He belonged to



Tamanend's wampum belt was meant to show cooperation between the Lenni Lenape and the English.

the Lenni Lenape (LEH•nee LEH•nuh•pee) tribe, which the English called the Delaware. In his language, *Tamanend* means “affable,” or friendly and easy to talk to. The name fit him well. One minister

described Tamanend as having “every good and noble qualification that a human being can possess.”\*\*

Tamanend met with Pennsylvania's colonial leaders five times over the years. In each meeting, he agreed to sell land. The colonists paid for the land with guns, clothing, tools, blankets, and other items. Tamanend divided these items equally among his tribe members. Not all colonial leaders were as fair as William Penn. Yet Tamanend always worked to honor the peace made between the Lenni Lenape and the people of Pennsylvania.

\* Tamanend. *The Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania* by Frank H. Gille. Somerset Publishing, 1983.

\*\* John Heckewelder. *History, Manners, and Customs of the Indian Nations*. Heritage Books, 1991.

Biography

Trustworthiness

Respect

Responsibility

Fairness

Caring

Patriotism

## Why Character Counts

❖ In what ways did Tamanend earn the respect of his people and of William Penn?

### Bio Brief

1628

Born 1628?

1701

Died 1701?

1683 Tamanend first meets with William Penn

1697 Tamanend attends his last meeting with Pennsylvania leaders



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# Citizenship

# JUSTICE

**"Any government is free to the people under it where the laws rule, and the people are a party to [can help make] those laws."\***

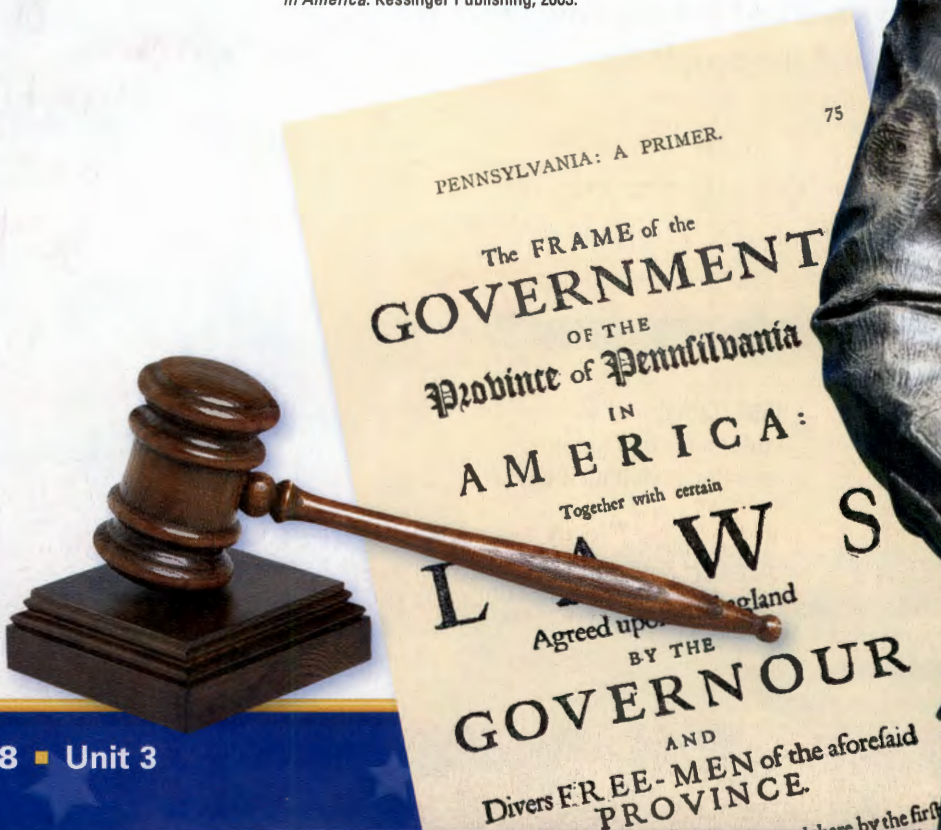
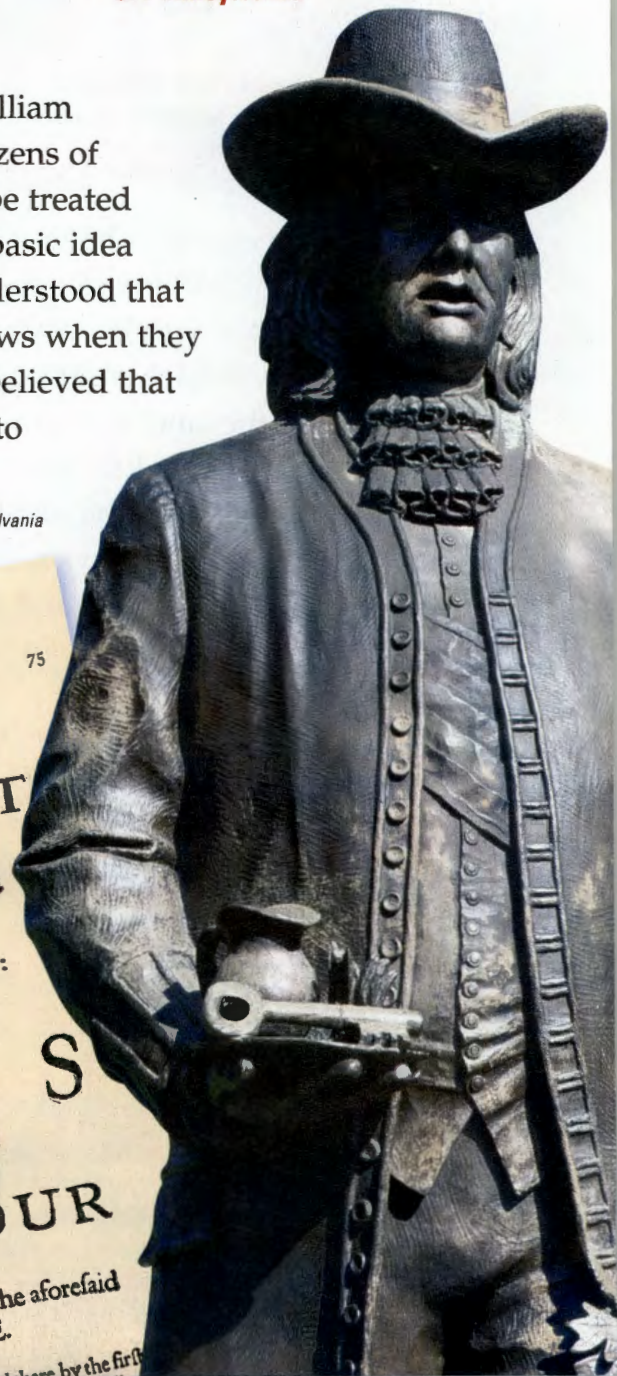
—from the Frame of Government of Pennsylvania



In some colonies, people accused of a crime could not receive a trial by jury.

In his Frame of Government, William Penn included the idea that all citizens of the Pennsylvania Colony were to be treated equally under the law. This is the basic idea of justice in government. Penn understood that people are more likely to follow laws when they have a voice in making them. He believed that treating people justly was the key to good government.

\*William Penn. *Frame of the Government of the Province of Pennsylvania in America*. Kessinger Publishing, 2003.







Lawyers, judges, and juries work to make sure that people receive fair trials.

One of the most important ways in which Penn guaranteed a fair government was to give citizens the right to a trial by jury. At that time, very few governments gave people this right. In a trial by jury, a group of citizens—rather than a single person, the judge—decides whether someone has broken the law. A trial by jury puts the power to make decisions in the hands of the people.

Today, equal justice is an important idea in American government. The Bill of Rights says that no citizen can “be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.” This means that all people in the United States have the right to equal treatment under the law.

The figure of Justice wears a blindfold because the law is supposed to treat all people equally.



**Think About It!**

**Make It Relevant** The Bill of Rights guarantees United States citizens the right to a fair and public trial by jury. Why do you think it is important for trials to be public?



1682

William Penn  
arrives in  
Philadelphia

1730s

The Great Awakening  
spreads through the  
colonies

**WHAT TO KNOW**

How did religious toleration help attract people of different cultures to the Middle Colonies?

- ✓ Understand the importance of religion to life in the Middle Colonies.
- ✓ Identify the significance and leaders of the Great Awakening.

**VOCABULARY**

**diversity** p. 251

**immigrant** p. 251

**Great Awakening** p. 252

**religious toleration** p. 252

**militia** p. 254

**PEOPLE**

George Whitefield

Jonathan Edwards

Benjamin Franklin

**PLACES**

Philadelphia

New York City

**SUMMARIZE**

California  
Standards

HSS 5.4, 5.4.2, 5.4.3,  
5.4.4, 5.4.6

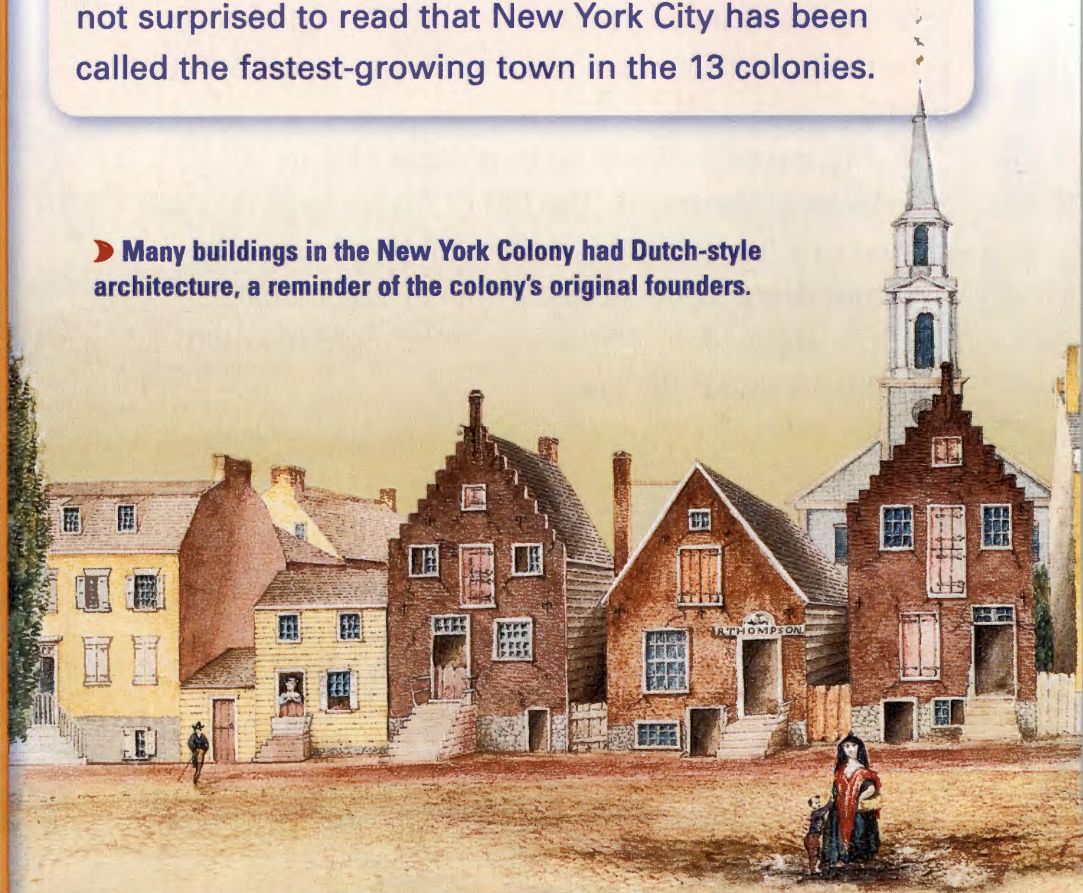
# Life in the Middle Colonies

## YOU ARE THERE

It's a sunny day in 1699. You're hungry after a morning stroll around the city. You decide to stop for lunch at the White Lion Tavern, where English merchants gather to make deals and gossip.

While you wait for your food, you read the latest news in the papers. The Dutch wall is being torn down to make room for more houses. A new road, Wall Street, is being paved where the wall stood. You're not surprised to read that New York City has been called the fastest-growing town in the 13 colonies.

► Many buildings in the New York Colony had Dutch-style architecture, a reminder of the colony's original founders.





## Cultural Heritage

### Festivals

The people who settled in the Middle Colonies brought their traditions with them when they came to North America. Today, people living in New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware still celebrate their heritage in local festivals. Each year, people in New Jersey watch players compete in Scottish Highland Games. At the German Festival in Kutztown, Pennsylvania, people enjoy funnel cakes and soft pretzels. In Albany, New York, people wearing Dutch costumes begin the annual Tulip Festival by sweeping local streets. Taking part in these festivals helps people preserve the area's rich heritage.



### A Mix of People

By 1700, more than 50,000 people lived in the Middle Colonies. They came from many places and backgrounds. One church minister described settlers of the Middle Colonies as a group of people thrown together from many parts of the world. Such **diversity** made the Middle Colonies an interesting place to live.

Who were the people of the Middle Colonies? At first, most were Dutch, French, Belgian, or Swedish. Then came the English Puritans and Quakers, as well as German, Irish, and Scottish settlers. Most Africans were brought to the Middle Colonies as enslaved people, but some Africans lived and worked as free persons.

The variety of people in the Middle Colonies could be seen in the city of **Philadelphia**. William Penn chose this

city's name, which means "brotherly love" in Greek. Like all of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia was founded on the idea that people of diverse backgrounds could live peacefully together. The city covered a strip of land between the Schuylkill (SKOO•kuhl) and Delaware Rivers. Its busy port received many immigrants from different countries.

An **immigrant** is a person who comes into a country to make a new home there. Some immigrants left their original countries to escape war or to find religious freedom. Most immigrants wanted better economic opportunities, especially the chance to buy their own land. Many found more freedom and acceptance in the Middle Colonies than they had ever known.

#### READING CHECK SUMMARIZE

**Why did immigrants come to the Middle Colonies?**



# The Great Awakening

In the 1720s, a new religious movement known as the **Great Awakening** began in the Middle Colonies. This movement changed the way that many people practiced their religion. It spread throughout the 13 colonies during the 1730s and 1740s.

Ministers such as **George Whitefield** and **Jonathan Edwards** gave speeches that marked a change in religious ideas and practices. They often talked about people having a direct relationship with God. Not only did these ministers preach new ideas, they practiced religion differently. They would travel long distances to give emotional speeches to people they had never met.

The Great Awakening helped bring people together, which led to greater **religious toleration**, or acceptance of religious differences. At the new revivals, or large prayer meetings, everyone was welcomed. Poor people could attend, and women played a large role in the movement. During the Great Awakening both free and enslaved Africans participated in religious gatherings. Such equal participation was rare at this time in history.

The Great Awakening was not popular with all people, and in time, differences split the movement, further increasing the diversity of religious beliefs. The number of church members in the colonies grew, as did the free exercise of religion.

## READING CHECK ✨SUMMARIZE

What was the Great Awakening?

► **Minister George Whitefield (right)** used this movable field pulpit (below) for preaching outdoors.







► Farmers in the Middle Colonies often hired free African Americans to help tend their farms.

## Religion and Social Life

Unlike in the New England Colonies, many different religious groups lived in the Middle Colonies. Towns in these colonies often had more than one kind of church. A Presbyterian church, for example, might be only a block away from a Quaker meetinghouse. The first Jewish synagogue in the Middle Colonies was built in **New York City** in 1730.

Religion was a major part of social life in the Middle Colonies. After religious services, neighbors would talk and exchange news. Religion also affected the ways in which people viewed one another. Some colonists began to think that enslaving Africans was wrong. In 1688, Quakers in Germantown,

Pennsylvania, became the first group to protest slavery in the English colonies.

The social life of colonists was as diverse as their religious beliefs. The colonists found many ways to have fun, depending on where they lived. In cities such as Philadelphia and New York City, there were dances, plays, concerts, and social clubs. Horse races were popular, as were bowling, sleigh rides, and ice-skating.

In the countryside, a barn raising was a big social event. A farm family would invite their neighbors to help them raise the frame for a new barn. Afterward, everyone enjoyed a big meal.

### READING CHECK ✨SUMMARIZE

**How did the Middle Colonies differ from the New England Colonies?**



# Philadelphia Grows

As proprietor of the Pennsylvania Colony, William Penn planned not only its government but also its settlements. Penn designed Philadelphia, the colony's most important city, with wide streets and many public parks. Penn wanted the city to have plenty of space for people to work and to relax.

When Penn first visited Philadelphia in 1682 it had only ten houses. Fifty years later, it had more than 11,000 residents. Over time, Philadelphia became the largest and wealthiest city in all of the 13 colonies. By 1770 it had more than 28,000 people—a small population by today's city standards but very large for that time.

As Philadelphia grew, it became the home of many famous scientists and artists. The most famous Philadelphian was **Benjamin Franklin**, who helped improve the city in many ways. Franklin set up the first trained firefighting company in the 13 colonies and raised

money to help build the city's first hospital. He set up a **militia**, or volunteer army, to protect the city and the rest of the colony. To educate others, he founded Pennsylvania's first college and first public library.

Benjamin Franklin earned his living as a printer. He printed the *Pennsylvania Gazette* newspaper. He also wrote and published *Poor Richard's Almanack*, a yearly book that had a calendar, weather forecasts, stories, jokes, and wise sayings. It was very popular and helped make Franklin a wealthy man.

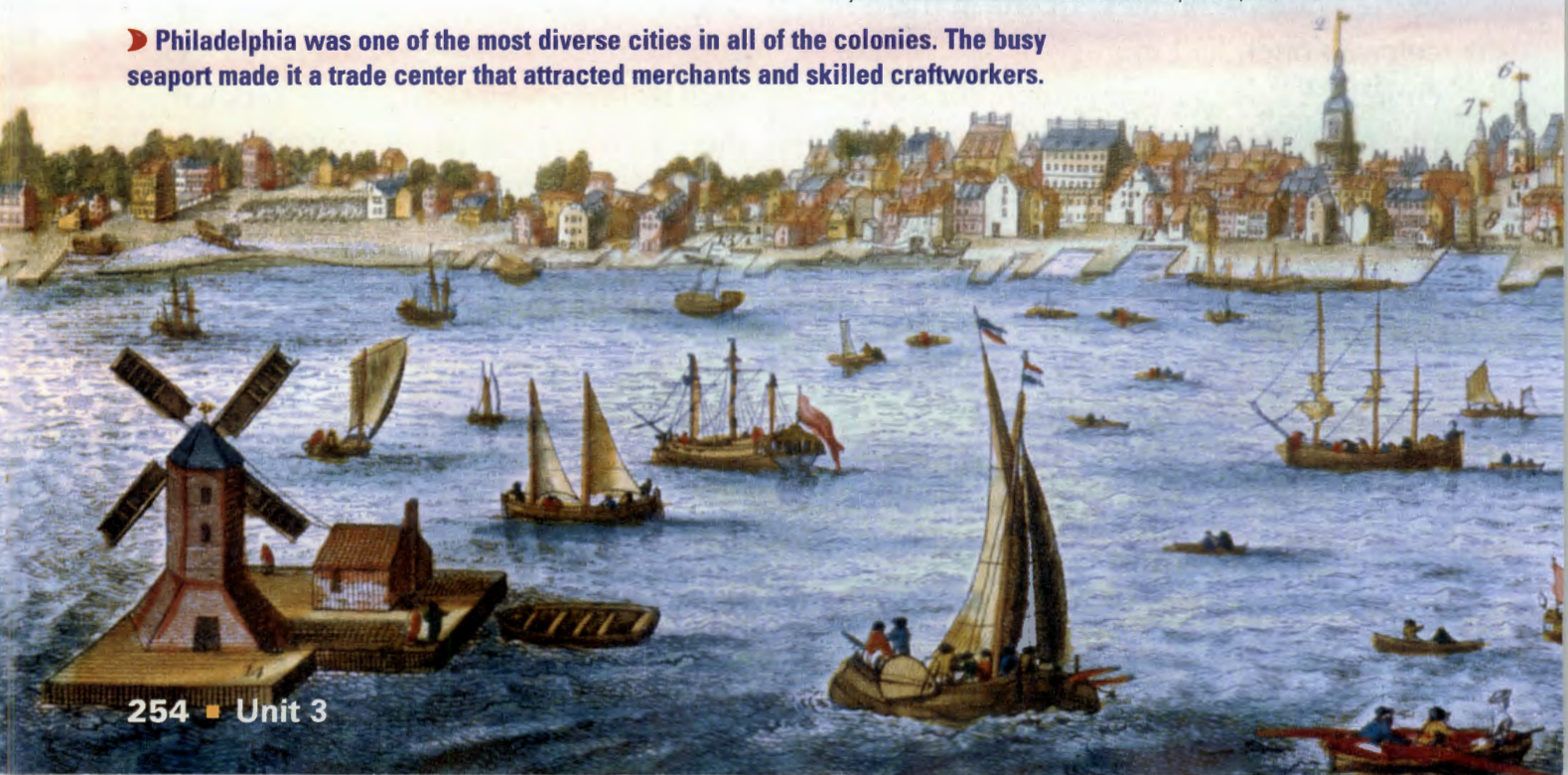
Philadelphians wondered where Franklin found the time to do so much. He was a printer, a writer, a scientist, and an inventor. He also became a leader in the colony's government. It seems that Franklin followed his own almanac's advice: "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise."\*

## READING CHECK SUMMARIZE

**What were some of the ways in which Benjamin Franklin improved the city of Philadelphia?**

\*Benjamin Franklin. *Poor Richard's Almanack*. Peter Pauper Press, 1980.

► **Philadelphia was one of the most diverse cities in all of the colonies. The busy seaport made it a trade center that attracted merchants and skilled craftworkers.**








► Benjamin Franklin (above left) helped establish a hospital (above right) and a fire company in Philadelphia.

## Summary

The Middle Colonies were home to a mix of people, cultures, and religions. The Great Awakening added to the region's diversity. Philadelphia was the center of culture and the largest city in the Middle Colonies.




## REVIEW

-  How did religious toleration help attract people of different cultures to the Middle Colonies?
- Write a sentence about **diversity** in the Middle Colonies, using the term **immigrant**.
- When did the Great Awakening take place, and who were some of its leaders?

### CRITICAL THINKING

- Make It Relevant** If you lived in the Middle Colonies, would you want to live in a city or a farming community? Explain your choice.
- ANALYSIS SKILL** Why do you think the Great Awakening had such a strong effect on religious life in the colonies?

-  **Write a Narrative** Write a story about life in early Philadelphia. Be sure to describe the city's location, people, and businesses in your story.

-  **FOCUS SKILL** **SUMMARIZE**

On a separate sheet of paper, copy and complete this graphic organizer.

Key Fact

Key Fact

Summary

Philadelphia attracted many diverse people.



1750

New York becomes the second-busiest port in the Middle Colonies

**WHAT TO KNOW**

How did geography affect the economy of the Middle Colonies?

- ✓ Explain why people chose to settle in the Middle Colonies.
- ✓ Understand the kinds of jobs and businesses that people had in the Middle Colonies.

**VOCABULARY**

**prosperity** p. 258  
**artisan** p. 260  
**apprentice** p. 260

**PLACES**

New York City  
 Hudson River  
 Philadelphia  
 Delaware River

**SUMMARIZE**

California  
Standards

HSS 5.4, 5.4.1, 5.4.5

# Busy Farms and Seaports

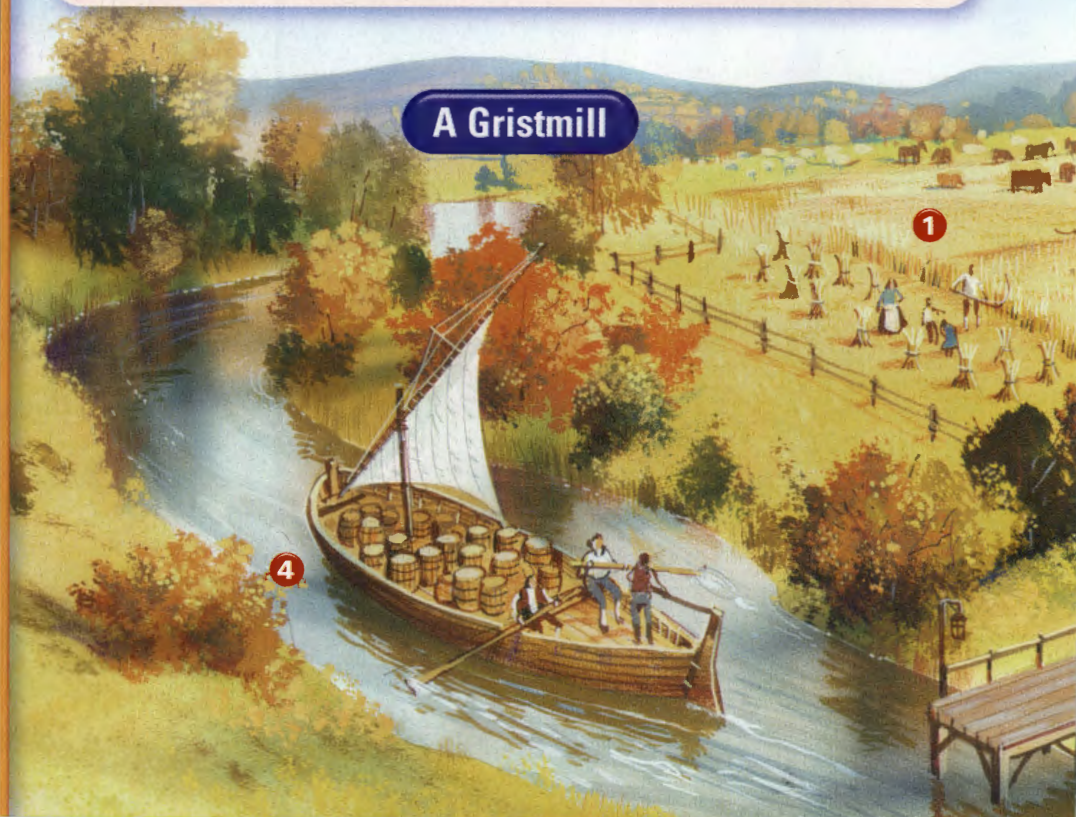
**YOU  
ARE  
THERE**

The year is 1700, and you live in England. Your friend Thomas eagerly reads a pamphlet that describes the new Pennsylvania Colony and its fine ports and productive farms.

“There is still a lot of land,” Thomas says, “that anyone can purchase.”

The land is cheap, and it’s fertile. The summers are long enough that there are two harvests a year. “So, why are we still in England?” you ask.

## A Gristmill





# Rich Farmlands

When settlers came to the Middle Colonies, they were amazed by the richness of the land and its abundant natural resources. Unlike New England, the Middle Colonies had lots of fertile soil. Since farming was how most people in the 13 colonies made their living, the Middle Colonies attracted many settlers.

Richard Frame used poetry to describe his feelings about the fertile land in the Middle Colonies. He wrote:

“The fields, most beautiful, yield such crops of wheat, And other things most excellent to eat.”\*

Throughout the Middle Colonies wheat fields stretched as far as the eye could

## Analyze Illustrations

Early gristmills used waterpower to run machines.

- 1 Farmers grow and harvest grain.
  - 2 Farmers take the grain to the mill.
  - 3 Millstones grind the grain into flour.
  - 4 Flour is shipped to market.
- ❓ How does the flour get to market?

see. Although wheat, corn, and rye were the main crops, colonists also used the rich land for other things. Dairy cows thrived on the thick grasses, while hogs roamed the forests, growing fat on acorns and wild berries.

Farmers in the Middle Colonies usually traveled to market towns to sell or trade their livestock and crops. Every market town had a gristmill, which ground the farmers' grain into flour. Most towns also had a lumber mill. During visits to market towns, farm families shopped at the general store. There they purchased items they could not make or grow themselves, such as iron tools, shoes, paint, and buttons.

## READING CHECK SUMMARIZE

**How did geography affect the Middle Colonies' economy?**

\*Richard Frame. *Making Thirteen Colonies* by Joy Hakim. Oxford University Press, 1999.





## Port Cities

The merchants who bought livestock and crops from farmers took these goods to port cities. These were the major centers of trade in the Middle Colonies, and the colonies' **prosperity**, or economic success, depended largely on the ports.

**New York City** was one of most important port cities in the Middle Colonies. The **Hudson River** helped make trade easier. Farmers, fur traders, and lumber workers in the countryside could float their goods down the river to New York City. Also, the port's deep harbor along the East River offered a good place for ships to dock.

Every year, the number of ships sailing into and out of New York City increased. When the English took over the city in 1664, about 35 ships used the port each year. By 1750, that number had grown to 600, making New York City the second-busiest port in the English colonies.

The busiest colonial port of the time was **Philadelphia**, which was built along the Delaware River, about 90 miles

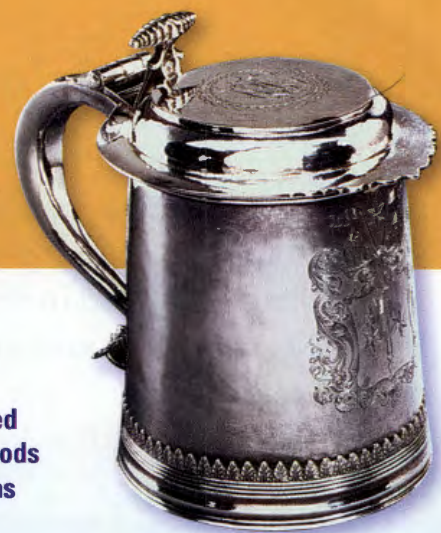


**Analyze Graphs** The value of colonial exports is given in English money, or pounds.

❓ In what year did the colonies export the highest value of goods?

inland from the river's mouth. Farmers, merchants, and traders in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware relied on the port of Philadelphia. Many shipped their goods down the **Delaware River** to the port. Those closer to the city moved their goods in wagons. From Philadelphia, the ships sailed down the river, into Delaware Bay, and across the Atlantic.





► **Watches, silver trays, and mugs were shipped from England to the colonies. Many of these goods entered the colonies through port cities, such as New York City (below).**

Colonial port cities were exciting places. The bustling streets were full of sailors and, at times, even pirates. Busy workshops made ropes, sails, and barrels. Shipbuilders hammered ships together. Merchants argued over prices as dockworkers moved tons of goods. For many immigrants, their first view of North America was one of these fast-paced port cities.

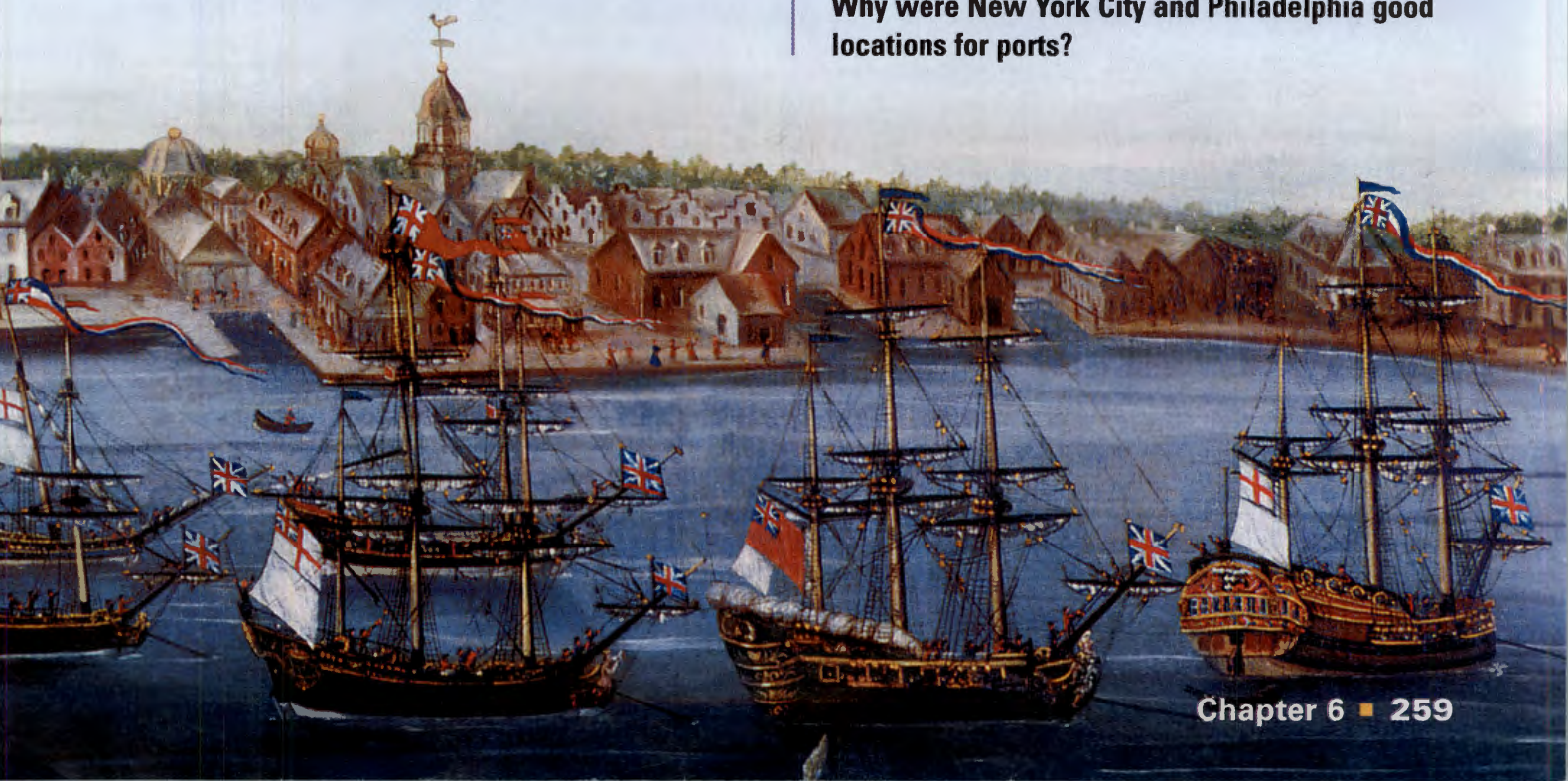
As in New England, nearly all trade in the Middle Colonies was with England or with other English colonies. New England and the Middle Colonies

exported many of the same kinds of goods, including furs, salted meat, and lumber. However, the Middle Colonies exported much more wheat and other grains. They also led all the other colonies in flour exports.

Most imports to the Middle Colonies came from England. Ships brought furniture, tea, gunpowder, medicines, and a variety of metals. Some ships also carried enslaved Africans. Most enslaved Africans in the Middle Colonies were craftworkers or servants.

**READING CHECK** ✶ **SUMMARIZE**

**Why were New York City and Philadelphia good locations for ports?**





# Colonial Jobs

Immigrants arriving in the Middle Colonies could choose from a variety of jobs. In addition to farming and shipping, many colonists worked in skilled trades. Many of these **artisans**, or craftworkers, came to the colonies as indentured servants.

Most artisans used raw materials to make products. Blacksmiths used iron to create horseshoes and tools. Coopers made barrels out of wood. Carpenters and shipbuilders used wood to build houses and ships. Masons and bricklayers worked with stone and clay to pave streets and construct buildings.



► Horseshoes were in high demand in the colonies.

Some workers depended on farm goods. These workers included bakers, butchers, flour millers, and soap makers. Dressmakers and tailors used wool, linen, and cotton to make clothing. Tanners turned animal skins into leather, which cobblers used to make and repair shoes.

None of these skills were taught in schools. Young people learned to do skilled jobs by becoming apprentices. An **apprentice** lived and worked with an artisan's family for several years, learning a skill in order to earn a living. A few young colonists in wealthy families went to college to become lawyers, bankers, ministers, or leaders in the military or government. Still, most

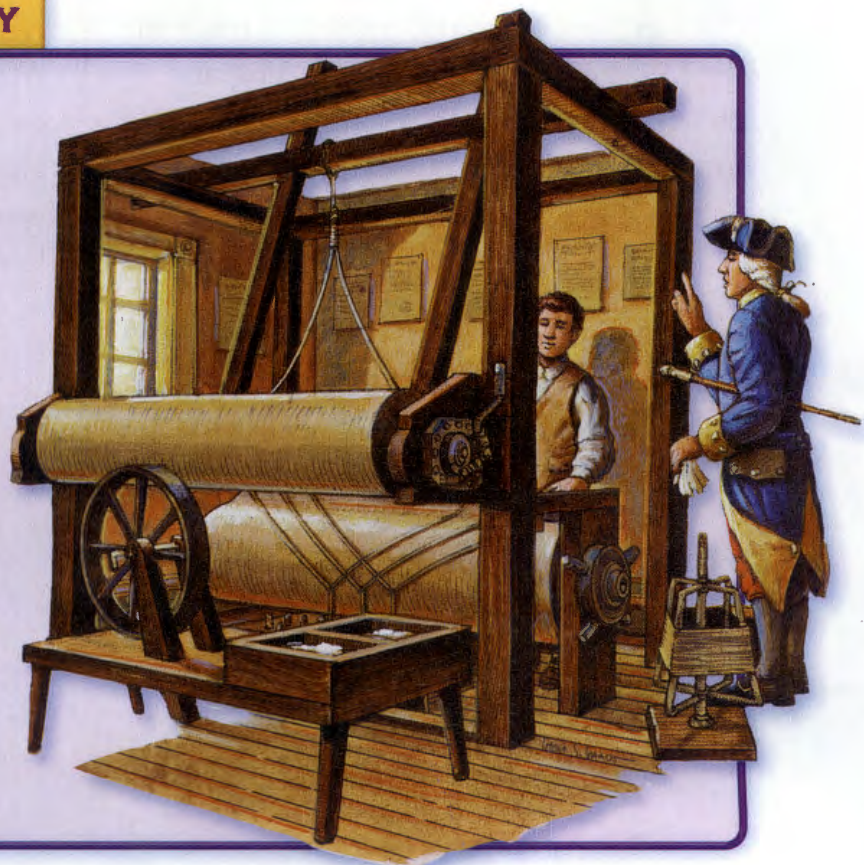
## Children IN HISTORY

### Apprentices

Hundreds of colonial boys, and some girls, became apprentices. Most started after the age of 10, but some were even younger. An apprentice usually worked seven years for an artisan, whom he called "master." In return for his work, the apprentice got a place to sleep and meals. He also learned a trade.

Benjamin Franklin became a printer's apprentice in Boston at the age of 12. Franklin never finished his apprenticeship. When he was 17 years old, he moved to Philadelphia and opened his own printing business.

**Make It Relevant** What kind of job would you choose if you were an apprentice?





► In colonial times, candle makers were called chandlers. Candles were made from tallow, which is animal fat.

professionals learned by doing, just as apprentices did. The professions were typically practiced by men.

Women and girls had fewer opportunities to work outside the home. However, they were still an important part of the Middle Colonies' growing economy. They often made the goods sold by artisan households.

**READING CHECK** ✨ **SUMMARIZE**


How did people learn to be artisans?

## Summary

The fertile land, mild climate, wide rivers, and deep harbors of the Middle Colonies all led to economic success. The region's economy also depended on its many farmers, artisans, merchants, and sailors.





## REVIEW

1.  How did geography affect the economy of the Middle Colonies?
2. Use the term **artisan** to describe a job in the Middle Colonies.
3. What jobs did most enslaved Africans have in the Middle Colonies?

### CRITICAL THINKING

4. **ANALYSIS SKILL** What was one effect of the English take over of New York City?
5. **ANALYSIS SKILL** What would be some of the costs and benefits of being an apprentice?

6.  **Make a Chart** Make a two-column chart that lists colonial jobs and the products made by people who worked at these jobs.

7.  **SUMMARIZE**  
On a separate sheet of paper, copy and complete this graphic organizer.

#### Key Fact

The Middle Colonies had rich farmland.

#### Key Fact

Many settlers came to the Middle Colonies.

#### Summary





# Make an Economic Choice

### ► WHY IT MATTERS

Economic choices are decisions that may involve spending, saving, or earning money. For example, you might decide to earn more money by working in order to save up for something you want to buy.

People often save their money in banks, where they can earn interest on their money. **Interest** is the money a bank or a borrower pays for the use of money. People might also buy goods on credit,

for which they pay a certain amount, plus interest, until the goods are paid for.

However you pay for what you want, you might have to give up the chance to buy something else, either now or in the future. This is called making a **trade-off**. When you give up something in order to buy something else, that is called an **opportunity cost**. Understanding trade-offs and opportunity costs will help you manage your resources and make thoughtful economic decisions.

### ► WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Some economic choices are difficult to make and require careful thinking. Here are some steps that you can follow to help you make those choices.

**Step 1** Identify your goal and the resources you have to meet it.

**Step 2** Identify your alternatives.

**Step 3** Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of each alternative.

**Step 4** Choose and identify the opportunity cost of the choice.

► Establishing a print shop was not cheap. Printers had to buy equipment and supplies of paper, ink, and type.







► This historical reenactor shows how coopers made barrels in colonial times.

## ► PRACTICE THE SKILL

You have read that most colonial apprentices worked for an artisan for seven years. After that time, apprentices became journeymen and earned wages. Most journeymen continued working for the same artisan for several more years. During this time, they saved money so they could start their own businesses.

Imagine that you are a journeyman and have just earned your first wages. You want to spend the money on new clothes, but you also want to buy newer and better tools. You do not have enough money to do both. You will have to make an economic choice.

- 1 What choice do you have to make, and why do you have to choose?
- 2 What is the trade-off for buying the clothes?
- 3 What is the opportunity cost of buying the tools?
- 4 What will you buy? Explain why.

## ► APPLY WHAT YOU LEARNED

**Make It Relevant** Imagine that you want to buy a birthday present for a friend and a computer game for yourself. You do not have enough money for both. Explain to a partner the trade-offs and opportunity costs of your choices. Then explain your choice.





1647  
Peter Stuyvesant  
arrives in New  
Netherland

## Reading Social Studies

When you **summarize**, you tell a shortened version of what you have just read.



### Summarize

Complete this graphic organizer to show that you can summarize facts about the Middle Colonies. A copy of this graphic organizer appears on page 65 of the Homework and Practice Book.

## The Middle Colonies

### Key Fact

The Middle Colonies had long summers.

### Key Fact

The Middle Colonies had plenty of rain.

### Key Fact

The Middle Colonies had rich farmland.

### Summary



## California Writing Prompts

**Write a Research Report** William Penn established good relations with American Indian tribes. Write a report with facts and details that explains how Penn accomplished this. Do more research, if needed.

**Write a Persuasive Letter** Imagine it is 1700 and you would like to work as an apprentice. Choose the type of work you would like to do, and then write a letter to a business owner to persuade that person to employ you.



1700

1750



**1664**  
England takes over New Netherland and renames it New York

**1681**  
William Penn founds Pennsylvania



**1730s**  
The Great Awakening spreads through the colonies

### Use Vocabulary

Identify the term that correctly matches each definition.

1. a volunteer army
2. an owner
3. a learner
4. a safe place
5. a craftworker

**refuge**, p. 244  
**proprietor**, p. 245  
**militia**, p. 254  
**artisan**, p. 260  
**apprentice**, p. 260

### Use the Time Line

**ANALYSIS SKILL**

Use the chapter summary time line above to answer these questions.

6. When did William Penn found his colony?
7. How long did Peter Stuyvesant govern New Netherland before the English took over?

### Apply Skills

#### Make Economic Choices

8. Review the information on pages 262–263. Then describe an economic choice you made and the trade-offs and opportunity costs of your choice.

### Recall Facts

Answer these questions.

9. How did some enslaved people in New Netherland gain their freedom?
10. What were two effects of the Great Awakening?

Write the letter of the best choice.

11. What religious group did William Penn belong to?  
**A** Puritans  
**B** Catholics  
**C** Quakers  
**D** Anglicans
12. Which of the following was the most widely grown crop in the Middle Colonies?  
**A** tobacco  
**B** cotton  
**C** rice  
**D** wheat
13. How did Benjamin Franklin earn his living?  
**A** He was a fisher.  
**B** He was a printer.  
**C** He was a farmer.  
**D** He was a shipbuilder.

### Think Critically

14. **ANALYSIS SKILL** What caused people of many different religious groups to settle in the Middle Colonies?
15. **ANALYSIS SKILL** In what way was the population of the Middle Colonies like the population of the United States today?



# Study Skills

## TAKE NOTES

Taking notes can help you remember what you have learned. These notes can also help you review for tests.

- Write down important facts and ideas. You do not have to write in complete sentences.
- Organize notes in a way that will make them easy to reread later.
- One way to organize notes is in a chart. Write down the main ideas in one column and facts and details in another.

The Southern Colonies	
Reading Notes	Class Notes
<b>Lesson 1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The first settlers arrived in Maryland in 1633.</li><li></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Many Catholics came to Maryland because they could not freely practice their religion in England.</li><li></li></ul>

## Apply As You Read

As you read this chapter, use a two-column chart to take notes about each lesson.



California History-Social Science Standards, Grade 5

**5.3** Students describe the cooperation and conflict that existed among the American Indians and between the Indian nations and the new settlers.

**5.4** Students understand the political, religious, social, and economic institutions that evolved in the colonial era.