

PRE-COLUMBIAN ERA

1. Groups of hunters arrive from northwest Asia and cross the land bridge **Beringia** (now known as the **Bering Strait**) into North America, becoming the first Americans.
2. The **Mayas**, **Toltecs**, **Aztecs**, and **Incas** settle in Central and South America.
3. The **Adena-Hopewell**, **Mississippian**, and **Pueblo-Hohokam** civilizations emerge in North America.
4. **Renaissance** flourishes throughout Europe, leading to a revival of learning, the rise of new and powerful monarchies, and the growth of major cities.

1000	Norse explorer Leif Eriksson discovers Newfoundland, which he calls Vinland
1325	The Aztecs build Tenochtitlán , now known as Mexico City
1440	Johann Gutenberg invents the moveable-type press

DISCOVERY AND SETTLEMENT OF THE NEW WORLD

1492-1650

1. **Britain, France, and Spain** struggle to assert influence in America
2. Conflict between European and **native peoples** quickly turns to violence
3. **Jamestown** and **Plymouth Plantation** established as first permanent British settlements in North America.
4. **Mayflower Compact** adopted; considered first example of self-government in New World
5. **Slave trade** in the New World begins

1492	Christopher Columbus arrives in Caribbean region
1494	Treaty of Tordesillas divides Spanish and Portuguese claims in Western Hemisphere; Spain and Portugal take lead roles in exploring New World
1497	John Cabot surveys Newfoundland in search of Northwest Passage , much-hoped-for water route to Asia; claims Nova Scotia and Newfoundland for England
1503	Spain implements encomienda , the enslavement of local people, in Haiti
1520	Smallpox epidemic reaches North America; death toll soars
1521	Hernán Cortés conquers Aztecs in present-day Mexico
1522	Ferdinand Magellan completes first circumnavigation of globe
1530–1536	Francisco Pizarro conquers Incas in Peru
1565	Spain establishes first successful European settlement in North America at present-day St. Augustine , Florida
1585	Sir Walter Raleigh establishes short-lived English colony on Roanoke Island off the Carolina coast
1588	English fleet defeats the Spanish Armada , bolstering England's naval power and colonial efforts
1607	English colony of Jamestown established
1608–1615	Samuel de Champlain founds Québec , establishes fur trade with Native Americans
1612	Strain of West Indies tobacco first harvested in Virginia, which quickly flourishes as a tobacco colony
1619	First African slaves brought to Jamestown on Dutch ship House of Burgesses established in Virginia as first representative government in New World
1620	Mayflower Compact drawn, establishing Plymouth Plantation colony as “civic body politic”; considered first example of self-government in New World



1622–1644	Powhatan Confederacy leads massacre against Virginia colonists outside Jamestown
1626	Dutch found New Amsterdam (later New York)
1630	Massachusetts Bay colony founded
1634	Maryland founded as a refuge for Catholics
1635–1636	Dissenter Roger Williams , expelled from Massachusetts Bay colony, founds Rhode Island and promotes religious freedom
1636	Connecticut founded
1637	Dissenter Anne Hutchinson convicted of heresy and expelled from the Massachusetts Bay colony
1638	New England slave trade begins in Boston

AMERICA AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE 1651–1753

1. **New England** grows, begins to establish itself as economic capital of New World
2. New colonies established, including "**Restoration colonies**"—land granted by King Charles II for support during English Civil Wars
3. **Mercantilism** and **regulated commerce** influence development in colonies
4. **Great Awakening** spreads religious fervor through colonies from 1730s–1760s

1664	English seize New Amsterdam from Dutch, rename it New York
1670	Charleston , South Carolina, established
1676	English win King Philip's War (1675–1676) over Wampanoag tribe in Massachusetts; thousands killed
1676	Nathaniel Bacon leads Bacon's Rebellion in Jamestown, demanding greater protection against Native American tribes
1677	First Quaker emigrants arrive in New Jersey
1682	William Penn , with charter from King Charles II, establishes Philadelphia as "holy experiment" of religious tolerance
1689	First public school established in Philadelphia
1690	French and Native American forces from Montréal attack and burn Schenectady, New York, during King William's War (1689–1697)
1692	Witchcraft trials in Salem, Massachusetts, lead to condemnation and death of 19 people
1695	Construction begins on College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia
1704	French and Native American forces attack and burn Deerfield, Massachusetts, killing 50 and taking 100 prisoners
1705	Massachusetts outlaws interracial marriage between blacks and whites Virginia's Black Code categorizes slaves as property
1709	First major wave of German and Swiss emigrants arrive in Carolinas
1712	Slave insurrection in New York City leaves 36 dead
1728	Jewish colonists build first synagogue in New York City
1732	First Roman Catholic church built in Philadelphia
1734	Great Awakening of evangelical and religious fervor begins in New England, led by revivalist minister Jonathan Edwards and Methodist preacher George Whitefield ; movement spreads throughout the colonies and lasts until 1760s
1739	Stono slave insurrection in South Carolina leaves 65 dead
1740	50 slaves hanged in Charleston to preempt a slave insurrection
1744–1748	War of Austrian Succession in Europe leads to King George's War , fought in America between British and French colonists, aided by local tribes throughout New England, New York, and Québec
1748	Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle brings War of Austrian Succession to indecisive close
1749	Conflict intensifies between French and British over land claims in the Ohio Valley

CHARACTERISTICS OF COLONIAL SOCIETY IN THE MID-18TH CENTURY

1. By 1750, population of colonies reaches **2 million**
2. Colonies provide an opportunity for **social mobility** not found in Britain
3. Colonists live in **towns** or small villages and **farm** their lands; cities disease-ridden but offer opportunity for new immigrants
4. New England, Middle colonies have few **slaves** relative to Southern colonies
5. **Great Awakening** sweeps colonies; thousands repent sins and join Protestant churches

THE ROAD TO REVOLUTION

1754-1774

1. **England** establishes military and political dominance over France in Europe and in North America, pursues policy of **salutary neglect** in governing colonies
2. **Seven Years' War** fought between the colonies and Britain and the French and Native Americans, mainly in Ohio and western Pennsylvania
3. War debts incurred by the British lead to increased **taxation** of colonies
4. Colonists band together to protest British Parliament's **abuses of power**