

U.S. History Pre-Columbian-1865 SparkCharts

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U.S. History—Pre Columbian—1865

PRE-COLUMBIAN ERA

1. Groups of hunters arrive from northeast Asia and cross the land bridge **Beringia**, now known as the **Bering Strait**, into North America, becoming the first Americans.
2. The **Maya**, **Toltec**, **Aztec**, and **Inca** settle in Central and South America.
3. The **Adena**, **Hopewell**, **Mississippian**, and **Pueblo** **Hohokam** (archaic) cultures emerge in North America.
4. **Reindeer** herds migrate throughout Beringia, leading to a revival of hunting, the use of bone and ivory for tools, and the growth of major cities.

1492 Vasco explore **Cristóbal Colón** discovers Newfoundland, which he calls **Vinland**.

1519 The Aztecs build **Tenochtitlan**, now known as Mexico City.

1486 **Johann Gutenberg** invents the movable-type press.

DISCOVERY AND SETTLEMENT OF THE NEW WORLD 1492-1850

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 Plantations** established as first permanent British settlements in North America.
4. **Mayflower Compact** signed. Considered first example of self-government in New World.
5. **Slave trade in the New World** begins.

1492 **Cristóbal Colón** arrives in Caribbean region.

1494 **Treaty of Tordesillas** divides Spanish and Portuguese claims to desirable territories. Spain and Portugal take lead roles in exploring New World.

1497 **John Cabot** sails Newfoundland in search of **Northwest Passage**, much hoped for water route to Asia, claims New York and Newfoundland for England.

1500 Spain implements **encomienda**, the enslavement of local people, in Spain.

1519 **Smolton** explores eastern North America, death toll rises.

1519 **Hernán Cortés** conquers **Aztec** in present-day Mexico.

1522 **Ferdinand Magellan** completes first circumnavigation of globe.

1534 **Francis Pizarro** conquers **Inca** in Peru.

1545 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 Spain fleet defeats the **Spanish Armada**, bolstering England's naval power and colonial efforts.

1607 English colony of **Jamestown** established.

1608 **Jamais de Champagné** founds **Quebec**, established for trade with native Americans.

1610 Slaves of **West Indian** **Indies** first harvested in Virginia, which quickly founds as a tobacco colony.

1619 First African slaves brought to America on Dutch ship **Beagle**.

House of Burgesses established in Virginia as first representative government in New World.

1620 **Mayflower Compact** drawn, establishing **Plymouth Plantation** colony as "first body politic," considered first example of self-government in New World.

AMERICA AND THE BRITISH EMPIRE 1651-1753

1. **New England** grows, begins to establish itself as economic capital of New World.
2. New culture established, including **"Puritanism epidemic"**—hand granted by King Charles II for support during English Civil War.
3. **Mercantilism** and regulated commerce influence development in colonies.
4. **Great Awakening** sparks religious fervor through colonies from 1720s-1740s.

1644 English seize New Amsterdam from Dutch, rename it **New York**.

1676 **Charleston**, South Carolina, established.

1676 English on **King Philip's War** (1675-1676) over Wampanoag tribe in Massachusetts, thousands killed.

1676 **Northwest Indian** **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 "city of brotherly love" of religious tolerance.

1689 First public school established in Philadelphia.

1690 French and Native American forces from Montreal 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 enforces **inter-racial marriage** between blacks and whites.

Virginia's **Black Code** categorizes slaves as property.

1709 First major wave of German and Swiss emigrants arrive in Carolina.

1712 Slave restriction in New York City leaves 30 dead.

1718 Jewish colonists build first **synagogue** in New York City.

1720 First **Roman Catholic** church built in Philadelphia.

1734 **Great Awakening** of evangelists and religious fervor begins in New England, led by revivalist minister **Jonathan Edwards** and Methodist preacher **George Whitefield**, who travels through the colonies and back until 1742.

1739 **Massacre** in Charleston in South Carolina leaves 45 dead.

1760 50 slaves hanged in Charleston to prevent a slave rebellion.

1764-1768 War of Austrian Succession in Europe leads to **King George's War**, fought in America between British and French soldiers, ended by treaties throughout New England, New York, and Quebec.

1763 **Treaty of Aix-la-Chapelle** brings war of Austrian Succession to indicative close.

1763 Conflict erupts between French and British over land claims in the **Ohio Valley**.

CHARACTERISTICS OF COLONIAL SOCIETY

IN THE MID-18TH CENTURY

1. By 1763, 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, often dispossessed but offer opportunity for new immigrants.
4. New England, Middle colonies have few **slaves** relative to Southern colonies.
5. **Great Awakening** converts colonists, thousands repeat 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 Year's War** fought between the colonies and Britain and the French and Native Americans, mainly in Ohio and western Pennsylvania.
3. War debt incurred by the British led to increased **taxation** of colonies.
4. Colonists band together to protest British Parliament's **abuses of power**.

Map of the United States showing major colonial settlements and routes of exploration.

Legend:

- Eastern Woodlands
- Plains
- California Interoceanic
- Southwest
- Southwest Coast
- Native American Tribal Homelands

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