

Class Guide

Lesson 1 - What were people like in the British colonies in America during the 1770s?

Name: _____

Can you name one of the Founders of the United States?

Step 1 – Bell Work: Imagine that the United States was still a colony of Great Britain. How do you think your daily life would be different?

Step 2 – Vocabulary Work. Complete the vocabulary work necessary to understand this lesson. The vocabulary should be completed first. Terms to know:

<i>Colony</i>	<i>Diverse</i>	<i>Founders</i>	<i>Indentured Servant</i>
<i>Plantation</i>	<i>Self-Sufficient</i>	<i>Slave</i>	<i>Mercantilism</i>

Step 3 – Read the article “Colonial Mercantilism”. Complete the impact chart at the bottom of the reading to understand how Great Britain benefited at the expense of the thirteen colonies.

Step 4 – Interactive Lecture – “What was it like to live in the colonies in the 1770s”.

WHAT WAS IT LIKE TO LIVE IN THE COLONIES IN THE 1770S?

- EUROPEANS ARRIVING IN AMERICA WAS SO LARGE COMPARED TO EUROPE WITH OPEN, UNSETTLED LAND
- UNLIKE EUROPE, LAND COULD BE OWNED BY ALL ECONOMIC CLASS NOT JUST THE RICH

What impact do you think it had in Europe for only the rich could own land?

<p>WHO LIVED IN THE COLONIES?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MANY SETTLERS ARRIVED FROM ENGLAND • THERE WERE ALSO SETTLERS FROM FRANCE, GERMANY, HOLLAND, AND SWEDEN • NATIVE-AMERICANS HAD LIVED ON THE LAND FOR THOUSANDS OF YEARS BEFORE THE COLONISTS ARRIVED; OVER THE NEXT HUNDRED YEARS THEY WERE PUSHED WEST 	<p>Why do you think Native-American pushed West instead of fighting for their ancestral land?</p>
<p>WHO LIVED IN THE COLONIES?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HALF A MILLION AFRICAN PEOPLE AND THEIR DESCENDANTS LIVED IN THE COLONIES • THEY WERE ABOUT 20 PERCENT OF POPULATION • MOST WERE SLAVES AND WERE MOSTLY FOUND IN THE SOUTH, BUT EVERY STATE HAD SLAVES 	<p>Why do you think the Southern economies used slave labor?</p>
<p>HOW DID THE COLONISTS LIVE?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOST AMERICANS IN 1770 WERE FARMERS • NOT ALL FARMS WERE ALIKE <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NORTHERN COLONY FARMS WERE SMALLER (50 ACRES) AS THE SOIL WAS POOR AND THE FARMERS WERE MORE SELF-SUFFICIENT WITH MAYBE AN INDENTURED SERVANT AS LABOR 	<p>Why do you think there were less slaves in the Northern colonies?</p>
<p>HOW DID THE COLONISTS LIVE?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MIDDLE COLONIES, THE SOIL WAS GOOD SO FARMERS RAISED WHEAT, OATS, AND BARLEY; PLUS THEY RAISED LIVESTOCK • THE MIDDLE COLONIES HAD DEEP RIVERS WHICH ALLOWED THEM TO EASILY TRANSPORT GOODS TO MARKET 	<p>Why were deep rivers that flowed west to east such an advantage in the Middle Colonies?</p>
<p>HOW DID THE COLONISTS LIVE?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SOUTHERN COLONIES THE WARM CLIMATE MADE FARMING EASIER • MOST PEOPLE HAD SMALL FARMS; HOWEVER SOME OWNED LARGE PLANTATION FARMS • PLANTATIONS WOULD HAVE HUNDREDS OF SLAVES 	<p>Why were deep rivers that flowed west to east such an advantage in the Middle Colonies?</p>

Step 5 – Read the article “What Opportunities Did This Colonial Farmer Enjoy?” One farmer who wrote about his life in the colonies was Philip Taylor. Read what he wrote. Work with a partner to answer the questions that follow. Be prepared to share your ideas with the class.

Reading: What Opportunities Did This Colonial Farmer Enjoy?

One farmer who wrote about his life in the colonies was Philip Taylor. Read what he wrote. Work with a partner to answer the questions that follow. Be prepared to share your ideas with the class.

We now have a comfortable dwelling. We have two acres of land planted with potatoes, corn, and melons. I have two hogs, one ewe (sheep) and her lamb. The price of cows in the spring was high as 33 dollars. No doubt, I have one by fall.

I am living God's noble and free soil, neither am I slave to others...I have now been on American soil for two and one-half years and I have not been compelled to pay for the privilege of living. Neither is my cap worn out from lifting it in the presence of gentlemen.

Questions:

1. What did Philip Taylor like about life in America?
2. What rights did he enjoy?
3. Do you think he would favor a law that does not permit people to buy or sell what they choose? Why?
4. Do you think he would favor a law that gives people rights because of their family or the group to which they belong? Why?
5. What did he mean when he said, "Neither is my cap worn out from lifting it in the presence of gentlemen"?

Step 6 – Interactive Lecture – Part II – “What was it like to live in the colonies in the 1770s”.

<p>WHO GOVERNED THE COLONIES?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMERICAN COLONIES WERE RULED BY GREAT BRITAIN FROM 1607 TO 1776 • KING GEORGE III WAS KING FROM 1760 TO 1820 • BRITAIN DID NOT PAY MUCH ATTENTION TO THE COLONIES DURING MOST OF ITS RULE 	<p>Why do you think that Great Britain ignored the colonies through most of its rule?</p>
<p>WHO GOVERNED THE COLONIES?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DURING THE 1770S, AMERICANS THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT KIND OF GOVERNMENT THEY WANTED • COLONISTS ASKED IF KING GEORGE III WAS REALLY PROTECTING THEIR RIGHTS 	<p>If you lived in the colonies in the 1770s, would you think the times were exciting to something to fear?</p>
<p>WHO WERE THE FOUNDERS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MANY WERE IMPORTANT LEADERS IN EARLY AMERICA • GEORGE WASHINGTON, PATRICK HENRY, ABIGAIL ADAMS, AND BENJAMIN FRANKLIN WE ALL WELL KNOWN AT THE TIME 	<p>What would the founders be considered by the eyes of the British government in the 1770s?</p>
<p>WHO WERE THE FOUNDERS?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • THESE EXAMPLES ARE CALLED FOUNDER BECAUSE THEY HELPED FOUND (ESTABLISH) OUR COUNTRY • THEY LED THE FIGHT AGAINST GREAT BRITAIN TO FREE OUR COUNTRY FROM BRITISH RULE 	<p>What do you think the founders risked by supporting independence from Great Britain?</p>

Step 7 – Read the mini-biography on Abigail Adams. Once you finish reading complete an historical marker on her life.

Title: Abigail Adams: One of America's Forgotten Founders

Abigail Adams was a remarkable woman who lived during the early days of America's history. She was born on November 11, 1744, in Weymouth, Massachusetts. Abigail had a strong and independent spirit, and she became one of the most influential First Ladies of the United States.

Abigail grew up in a loving family who valued education. Although girls at the time were not usually given the same opportunities to learn to read, Abigail's parents believed in her abilities and encouraged her to study. She read many books and became very knowledgeable.

At the age of 22, Abigail married John Adams, a bright young lawyer who later became the second President of the United States. They had a happy and loving marriage, filled with respect and admiration for each other. Together, they had five children, and Abigail was a devoted and caring mother.

As John Adams became more involved in politics, Abigail supported him every step of the way. She offered him valuable advice and shared her opinions on important issues. Abigail was John's confidante, and he often sought her view on political matters.

One of the most remarkable aspects of Abigail's life was her extensive correspondence with her husband. They exchanged hundreds of letters when they were apart due to John's political duties. In these letters, Abigail expressed her thoughts on various matters, including women's rights, education, and the importance of freedom for all.

When John Adams became the President in 1797, Abigail became the First Lady of the United States. She used her position to advocate for women's rights and the education of women. Abigail believed that women should have more opportunities to learn and to actively participate in society.

Abigail was deeply opposed to slavery and spoke out against it. She believed that all people should be free and treated with respect, regardless of their race or background. Abigail was a woman ahead of her time, advocating for equality and justice for everyone.

Abigail Adams' legacy lives on as a role model for women's rights and education. Her letters are still read and studied today, providing valuable insights into the early days of America and the important role women played behind the scenes. Abigail's determination, intelligence, and commitment never wavered as she fought to create a better world.

Abigail Adams was a truly extraordinary woman who made a lasting impact on American history. From her early days as a young girl with a thirst for knowledge to her influential role as the First Lady, Abigail's life is a testament to the power of strength and determination. She not only lived as a woman who fought for what she believed in, but she helped shape the United States into the nation it is today.

Historical Marker Assignment

Create a sign posted at an important place that explains what you see or what happened here.

Your marker should:

1. Have a title
2. Include a simple drawing to represent the location
3. A paragraph to explain the person's significance
4. Draw a meaningful border

patterns of usual drawings that relate to the title around the marker.