Colonial Society in the 18th Century

POPULATION GROWTH
- At the start of the 1700s the English colonies on the Atlantic Coast had a population of barely ________ (Not counting Indians)
- By 1775, the figure had jumped to ________________
- Among African Americans, the population increase was even more dramatic: from about 28,000 in 1701 to ______ in 1775
- The gains in population were the result of two factors:
  1. Immigration of almost ________________ people
  2. A sharp nature increase, caused chiefly by a high ________________ among colonial families
- An abundance of fertile American ___________ and a dependable ___________ supply attracted thousands of European settlers each year & encouraged the raising of large families

European Immigrants
- Newcomers to the colonies came not only from Great Britain (England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland) but other parts of ________ & ________, especially big numbers of Protestants from France & German-speaking people from various German kingdoms
- Some came to escape ________________ persecution & ________________
- Others sought ________________ opportunity by farming new land or setting up shop in a colonial town as an artisan or merchant
- Most immigrants settled in the ________________ (Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware) & on the ________________ of the southern colonies (Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia)
- In the 1700s, fewer immigrants headed for ________________ because lands in this region were limited & under Puritan control

English
- English settlers continued to come to the American colonies, but with fewer problems at home, their numbers were ________________ compared to others, especially the Germans and Scotch-Irish

Germans
- This group of non-English immigrants settled chiefly on the rich farmlands ___________ of ____________________
- They kept their German language, customs, & religion (__________) & while obeying laws, showed no interest in English politics
- By 1775, people of German stock comprised ____________ of the colonial population

Scotch-Irish
- This group of English-speaking people emigrated from ________________________________
- Their ancestors had moved to ________________ from ________________, & they were commonly known as the Scotch-Irish
- They had little respect for the ________________ government, which had pressured them into leaving Ireland
- They settled along the _________________ in the western parts of Pennsylvania, Virginia, the Carolinas, and Georgia
- By 1775, they comprised ____________ of the population

Other Europeans
- Other immigrant groups included French Protestants (called ________________), the Dutch, and the Swedes
- These groups made up ______ of the population of all the colonies in 1775

Africans
- By far the largest single group of non-English immigrants did not come to America of their own free will
- They were Africans-or the descendants of Africans-who had been taken captive, forced into the holds of European ships, and sold as slaves to ________________ plantation owners and other colonists
- Some Africans were granted their freedom after years of forced labor
- By 1775, the African-American population (both slave & free) made up __________ of the population
- __________ of the African-American population lived in the southern colonies in a state of lifelong bondage
- African Americans formed a majority of the population in __________ & Georgia & less than 50% in N.C, Virginia & Maryland
- Outside the South, thousands of African Americans worked at a broad range of occupations, some as slaves & others as free wage earners & property owners
- In every colony there were laws that discriminated against African Americans & placed limits on their ______ & ___________
THE STRUCTURE OF COLONIAL SOCIETY

Dominance of English culture
- The great majority of the population were __________ in origin, language, and tradition
- However both Africans & European immigrants were creating a diversity of culture that would gradually modify the culture

Self-government
- The gov't of each colony had a representative assembly that was elected by eligible voters (_________ _______ _______ _______)
- Only in two colonies, Rhode Island and Connecticut, was the governor also elected by the _________________
- Governors of other colonies were either appointed by the ____ (NY & Virginia) or by a _______________ (Pennsylvania & Maryland)

Religious toleration
- All of the colonies permitted the practice of different religions, but with varying degrees of freedom
- Massachusetts, the least ________, excluded non-Christians & Catholics, but accepted a number of Protestant denominations
- Rhode Island & Pennsylvania were the most ______________

No hereditary aristocracy
- Social extremes of Europe (with nobles that inherited special privileges & masses of hungry poor) were missing in the colonies
- A narrow class system based on _________________ was developing
- Wealthy landowners were at the top; craftspeople & small farmers made up the ________________ of the common people

- Social mobility
- With the exception of African Americans, everyone in colonial society had an opportunity to improve their standard of living & ______________ by hard work

The Family
- The family was the economic and social center of colonial life
- With an expanding economy & ample food supply, people were marrying at a __________ _______ & rearing more children
- Over 90% of the people lived on __________
- While life in the coastal communities and on the frontier was not easy, it did provide a higher standard of living than in ______

Men
- While wealth was increasingly being concentrated in the hands of a few, most men did __________
- _________________ was primarily reserved to men, who also dominated politics
- English law gave the husband almost unlimited power in the _________________

Women
- The average colonial wife bore __________ children & performed a wide range of tasks
- Household work included cooking, cleaning, clothes-making, and medical care
- Women also _________________ the children
- A woman usually worked next to her husband in the shop, on the plantation, or on the farm
- Divorce was legal but rare, & women had limited ____________ & _____________ rights
- Shared labors & mutual dependence with their husband gave most women protection from abuse & a role in ______ - _______
THE ECONOMY

- By the 1760s, almost 50% of England's world trade was with its American colonies
- The gov't in England permitted limited colonial manufacturing, such as making flour or rum, but it restricted efforts that would compete with English industries such as textiles
- The richness of the American land & British mercantile policy produced a society almost entirely engaged in agriculture
- As the people prospered & communities grew, increasing numbers became ministers, lawyers, doctors, & teachers
- The quickest route to wealth was land, although regional geography provided opportunities for the hardworking colonists

New England

- With rocky soil & long winters, farming was limited to subsistence levels that provided just enough for the farm family
- Most farms were small (under 100 acres) and most work was done by family members & an occasional hired laborer
- The descendants of the Puritans profited from logging, shipbuilding, fishing, trading, & rum-distilling

Middle Colonies

- Rich soil attracted farmers from Europe & produced an abundance of wheat & corn for export to Europe & West Indies
- Farms of up to 200 acres were common as indentured servants & hired laborers worked with the farm family
- A variety of small manufacturing efforts developed, including iron-making
- Trading led to the growth of such cities as Philadelphia & New York

Southern colonies

- The South's varied geography & climate saw farming range from small subsistence family farms to plantations over 2000 acres
- Cash crops were mainly tobacco in the Chesapeake & North Carolina colonies, and rice & indigo in South Carolina & Georgia
- On the plantations, a shortage of indentured servants led to the increased use of slaves
- Most plantations were self-sufficient-they grew their own food and had their own slave craftspeople
- The Carolinas also exported large quantities of timber & naval stores (tar & pitch)
- Most plantations were located on rivers so that their cash crops could be shipped directly to Europe

Monetary system

- A major English strategy in controlling the colonial economy was to limit the use of money
- The colonies were forced to use much of the limited hard currency (gold & silver) to pay for imports from England that increasingly exceeded colonial exports
- To provide currency for domestic trade, many colonies issued paper money, but this often led to inflation
- The government in England also vetoed colonial laws that might harm English merchants

Transportation

- Transporting goods by water was much easier than attempting to carry them overland on rough & narrow roads or trails
- Therefore, trading centers like Boston, New York, Philadelphia, & Charleston were located on sites of good harbors & rivers
- Despite the difficulty & expense of maintaining roads & bridges, overland travel by horse & stage became more common
- Taverns provided food & lodging for travelers but also served as social centers where news was exchanged & politics discussed
- A postal system using horses on overland routes & small ships on water routes was operating between colonies by 1750