

A Trip Through the Colonies

GUIDING QUESTIONS

Native Americans and the Colonists

1. What usually didn't change among Indian tribes who helped colonists?
2. What would have happened if Indians hadn't helped the colonists?
3. List 4 things Indians taught the colonists.
4. What concept didn't Indians understand when it came to land?
5. What did some colonists start doing that caused relations with Indians to decline?

Enslaved People and Their Treatment

1. The first Africans to come to the colony weren't slaves. What were they?
2. Why did slavery become so common?
3. Why did many white people think slavery was natural?
4. List 4 things Africans weren't allowed to do.
5. What skills were rare among slaves?
6. What happened if slaves rebelled?

Leisure

1. What was a "husking bee"? What made it fun?
2. What was a "quilting bee"? What made it fun?
3. How were house or barn-raising turned into social events?
4. List 5 ways colonial adults had fun.
5. List 4 ways colonial kids had fun.

Life on the Small Farm

1. On what did most colonists depend?
2. What did colonists spend most of their lives doing?
3. Farmers were a "jack-of-all-trades." What did that mean?

4. What did families do with crops they didn't use?
5. In what way was colonial farming wasteful?

Courtship and Gender Relations

1. What did marriages tend to be like?
2. Why did many colonists wait to get married?
3. What were widows/widowers expected to do?
4. At what age might girls marry?
5. What were women "fit for?"
6. What were men expected to supply?

Marriage

1. What were colonists expected to do?
2. What was rare in the colonies?
3. What was the husband considered?
4. What could husbands do in order to earn more money for the family?
5. What were husbands allowed to do if their wives disobeyed them?
6. If a woman ran away from her husband, what were her rights like?

Families

1. Why did colonial families tend to be large?
2. How was work different for men and women?
3. What two things were children expected to do?
4. What were colonial homes like?
5. How did illness and early death affect the family?

Communities and Education

1. What social groups were the first towns based on?
2. Why were towns so important (what did they offer)?
3. In the south, what were plantations like?
4. What wasn't guaranteed to any colonial child?
5. Describe the typical colonial school.
6. What happened to students who disobeyed?
7. Why were more boys educated than girls?

Religion

1. Why was the Bible so important to colonists?
2. What did colonists do with the Bible?
3. List 4 things you couldn't do on Sunday.
4. What was church used for other than worship?
5. How was seating arranged in many colonial churches?
6. Where did Native Americans and African Americans sit in church?
7. What observation was made about sermons?

Food

1. Make 3 observations about food in the colonies.
2. Why were colonists often lean and scrawny?
3. Colonists didn't have refrigerators. How did they keep meat from spoiling?
4. How did the colonists keep vegetables from spoiling?
5. How did the colonists keep fruit from spoiling?
6. What foods were considered "delicacies"?
7. What vegetable was super-important to the colonists?

Life on the Frontier

1. What caused colonists to begin moving west after 1700?
2. Give two examples of what life was like on the frontier.
3. What did people establish on the frontier?
4. What was social status like on the frontier?
5. What was the frontier settler's most important possession? WHY?
6. Why were neighbors especially important on the frontier?

Class Differences

1. How did many colonists start out when they moved to the colonies?
2. Instead of "blood," what was used to make distinctions between people in the colonies?
3. In the South, what gave people status and influence?
4. What did townspeople call frontier people?
5. In the North, what was the status of Native and African Americans?
6. What opportunities were available to the "gentry" (wealthy people)?

7. Among white people, how was society in the colonies different than in Europe?

Colonial Trade

1. Why did trade between colonies grow slowly?
2. What began to develop as merchants helped break down barriers between the colonies?
3. In addition to goods, what did small ships bring to the colonies?
4. What happened as roads improved? How did this affect Innkeepers?
5. What did Patriots also use taverns for?
6. What began to develop in order to distribute goods from other colonies and abroad?

Death and Funerals

1. Because diseases raged, what was common in the colonies?
2. From what two diseases did children often die?
3. From what two diseases did adults often die?
4. By 1775, what were the average life spans for men and women?
5. Funerals were sometimes used as a chance to do what two things?
6. Until cemeteries were established, where were people buried?