

Colonial Colloquialisms

Puritans – group of English Protestants who settled in Massachusetts Bay Colony

General Court – elected representative assembly in the Massachusetts Bay Colony

Fundamental Orders of Connecticut – a 1639 plan of government in the Puritan colony in Connecticut; expanded the idea of representative government in the colonies.

Religious Tolerance – a willingness to let others practice their own beliefs

Common – an open field where cattle grazed

Sabbath – Holy day of rest

Town Meetings – meeting in colonial New England where settlers discussed and voted on issues

Patroon – owner of a huge estate in a Dutch colony

Proprietary Colony – English colony in which the king gave land to proprietors in exchange for a yearly payment

Royal Colony – Colony under the direct control of the English crown

Quakers – Protestant reformers who believe in the equality of all people

Pennsylvania Dutch – German-speaking Protestants who settled in Pennsylvania

Cash Crops – crop sold for money at market

Mason – Dixon Line – boundary between Pennsylvania and Maryland that divided the middle colonies from the southern colonies

Act of Toleration – a 1649 law passed by the Maryland assembly that provided religious freedom for all Christians.

Bacon's Rebellion – a 1676 raid led by Nathaniel Bacon against the governor and Native American's in Virginia

Indigo – plant used to make a valuable blue dye

Debtors – person who cannot pay money he/she owes

Slave Codes – laws that controlled the lives of enslaved African Americans and denied them basic rights

Racism – belief that one race is superior to another

Mercantilism – theory that a nation's economic strength came from protecting and increasing its home economy

Exports – trade product sent to markets outside a country

Imports – trade product brought into a country

Navigation Acts – series of laws passed by the English Parliament in the 1650s that regulated trade between England and its colonies

Yankees – nickname for New England merchants who dominated colonial trade

Triangular Trade – colonial trade route between New England, the West Indies, and Africa

Legislature – group of people who have the power to make laws

Glorious Revolution of 1688 – movement that brought William and Mary to the throne of England and strengthened the rights of English citizens

Bill of Rights – written list of freedoms that a government promises to protect

English Bill of Rights – a 1689 document that guaranteed the rights of English citizens

Gentry – highest social class in the 13 colonies

Middle Class – in the 13 English colonies, a class that included skilled crafts-workers, farmers, and some trades-people

Indentured Servants – person who agreed to work without wages for a period of time in exchange for passage to the colonies

Gullah – combination of English and West African languages spoken by African Americans in the South Carolina colony

Great Awakening – religious movement in the English colonies in the early 1700s

Public Schools – school supported by taxes

Tutors – private teachers

Apprentices – person who learns a trade or a craft from a master

Dame Schools – private school run by a woman, usually in her own home

Enlightenment – movement in Europe in the 1600s and 1700s that emphasized the use of reason

Libel – act of publishing a statement that may unjustly damage a person's reputation