

The Founding of the Southern Colonies

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► **FOUNDING MARYLAND** This painting shows an artist's view of the founding of Maryland. Why do you think people are shown carrying a cross?

Maryland

The Maryland Colony was founded by the Calverts, a family of wealthy English landowners. The Calverts, who were Catholic, wanted to build a colony in North America that would make money. They also wanted a refuge for Catholics. Like the Quakers, Catholics in England could not worship as they wished.

The Calverts

George Calvert, also called Lord Baltimore, had invested in the Virginia Company. Calvert asked King Charles I to give him a charter for a new colony along Chesapeake Bay, north of Virginia.

Calvert died before the charter was signed in 1632. His oldest son, **Cecilius Calvert**, became the new Lord Baltimore

and the owner of the new colony. He called the colony Maryland.

Cecilius Calvert chose his brother, Leonard, to be Maryland's first governor. The Calvert brothers had learned from the bad experiences at Jamestown, in the Virginia Colony, and they planned their colony carefully. There would be no "starving time" in Maryland.

In 1633, the Calverts sent the first group of colonists to Maryland. Most of these colonists came as indentured servants. Their ships landed near the mouth of the Potomac River. There, the colonists founded their first settlement, now called St. Mary's City.

READING CHECK SUMMARIZE

What were the reasons for the founding of the Maryland Colony? **to make money and to serve as a refuge for Catholics**

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► **THE TOLERATION ACT** helped protect the rights of Catholics in Maryland, but by the late 1600s, Protestants ruled the colony.

Life in Maryland and Virginia

The Maryland Colony had much in common with its neighbor, **Virginia**. The two colonies, separated by the Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River, shared a mild climate. Tobacco grew in the fertile soil along the Coastal Plain.

3 Farming

Some colonists in Maryland became rich from growing tobacco on large plantations. However, most colonists struggled to make a living on small farms. Many of Maryland's farmers had come to the colony as indentured servants. Maryland's government helped former servants by giving them land, clothes, tools, and barrels of corn.

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Government

In the early 1700s, Virginia was the largest English colony in North America. In 1699, Williamsburg became its capital.

Virginia and Maryland had similar governments. Both colonies had governors and elected assemblies. However, the king controlled the royal colony of Virginia, while the Calverts controlled the proprietary colony of Maryland.

In 1649, Maryland passed the Toleration Act, which gave religious freedom to all Christians in the colony. Over time, many members of the Anglican Church settled in Maryland. In 1702, it became the colony's official church.

READING CHECK COMPARE AND CONTRAST

What features did Maryland and Virginia share?
Chesapeake Bay and the Potomac River; a mild climate; tobacco farming; similar governments

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Georgia

7 England, France, and Spain all claimed the area to the south of South Carolina. By 1727, England's new ruler, King George II, knew that to gain control of the area, he had to send colonists there.

A wealthy English leader named **James Oglethorpe** had an idea. Why not send English **debtors**—people who had been put in prison for owing money—to settle a new colony? The settlers would defend the land against other countries. Oglethorpe also hoped to give the debtors a chance to start a new life. He wrote,

8 “By such a Colony, many families, who would otherwise starve, will be provided for, and made masters of houses and lands.”



► JAMES OGLETHORPE

King George II gave Oglethorpe a charter for the last of the 13 English colonies. It was called **Georgia**, in honor of the king. In 1733, the first group of colonists founded the settlement of Savannah.

Slavery

The leaders of Georgia limited the size of farms and did not allow slavery. As a result, Georgia had no plantations.

9 However, the settlers were divided in their views about slavery. In 1751, Georgia's leaders decided to allow slavery. Over time, Georgia's economy, like that of all the other Southern Colonies, grew as a result of plantations and the labor of enslaved Africans.

READING CHECK MAIN IDEA AND DETAILS

Why did James Oglethorpe found the Georgia Colony? to defend England's claim to the Southern Colonies and to give debtors a new start



Heading West

In the early 1700s, most towns, farms, and plantations in the English colonies were established near the coast, on the Coastal Plain. At that time, few colonists had settled in the Piedmont—the land between the Coastal Plain and the Appalachian Mountains. Settlers called this land the **backcountry** because it was beyond, or “in back of,” the area settled by Europeans.

The Great Wagon Road

The thick forests, steep hills, and few roads made travel to the backcountry hard. However, by the mid-1700s, many settlers were moving west of the Coastal Plain. From Pennsylvania, large numbers of German immigrants began to move into the backcountry of Virginia and the Carolinas. The settlers followed a Native American trail. As more people used the

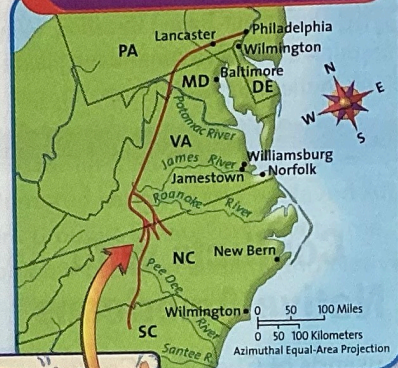
trail, it became wide enough for wagons to use. This trail became known as the Great Wagon Road.

The Great Wagon Road passed through the Shenandoah Valley and along the eastern side of the Blue Ridge Mountains. It was the only way to get wagons loaded with household goods to the backcountry.

READING CHECK SUMMARIZE

Why was it hard to reach the backcountry?
because settlers had to pass through thick forests with few roads and steep hills

The Great Wagon Road



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Primary Sources

Crops
Longhouse
Ceremonial dance circle



Native American Village

Background This drawing of a Native American village in North Carolina was made by John White, an English colonist, in the 1580s.

DBQ Document-Based Question Why do you think the Native Americans planted crops close to their homes?

Conflicts with Native Americans

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Thousands of Cherokee, Creek, Powhatan, and other Native American tribes lived in areas that became the Southern Colonies. As more Europeans arrived, they built their settlements on Native American lands. As in the New England Colonies, conflicts arose between Native Americans and settlers.

The Tuscarora War

In North Carolina, for example, German and Swiss settlers destroyed the Tuscarora village to build a new settlement. Some colonists believed that the remaining Native Americans were not treated justly, either. One settler said that the other colonists had

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“cheated these Indians in trading, and would not allow them to hunt near their plantations. . . .”

In 1711, their land losses caused the Tuscarora to attack several settlements. The Tuscarora hoped to scare off the settlers, but their attacks led to the Tuscarora War. When the war finally ended in 1713, about 950 Tuscarora had been either killed or captured and sold into slavery.

Settlers in the Southern Colonies kept pushing Native Americans off their lands. Some were captured and sent to the West Indies to work on sugarcane plantations. Others died fighting the colonists over land or trade. Even peaceful Native American groups died in large numbers

from European diseases such as smallpox and measles.

As their numbers fell, many Native American groups were forced to move west to lands that European settlers had not yet reached. However, settlers moved west, too.