

# Lesson

# 1

## Time

1600

1750

1647

Peter Stuyvesant arrives in New Netherland

1664

England takes over New Netherland and renames it New York

1681

William Penn founds the colony of Pennsylvania



### WHAT TO KNOW

Why did people from different places and backgrounds settle in the Middle Colonies?

### VOCABULARY

**refuge** p. 228

**proprietor** p. 229

**trial by jury** p. 229

**justice** p. 229

### PEOPLE

King Charles II  
Peter Stuyvesant  
William Penn  
Tamanend

### PLACES

New York  
New Jersey  
New York City  
Pennsylvania  
Delaware



### SUMMARIZE

Key Facts

Summary



The year is 1660. **King Charles II** is pleased with his American colonies. In the north,

New England produces large amounts of lumber. In the south, Virginia's tobacco plantations are bringing him great wealth.

The king points to a map. "The problem lies here, right in the middle," he tells you. "That Dutch colony is in the way!"

► KING CHARLES II





► **FORT ORANGE** Built near where Albany, New York, now stands, the fort was right beside the Hudson River.

## The Breadbasket Colonies

While the Puritans were settling New England, other groups were setting up colonies directly to the south. This region included what are today the states of New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. These colonies became known as the Middle Colonies. The region got its name because of its location between the New England Colonies and the Southern Colonies.

### Geography and Climate

When Europeans arrived in the Middle Colonies, they saw flat plains and rolling hills. There were also grassy meadows and thick forests. Settlers found that when this land was cleared, it was much better for farming than the land in New

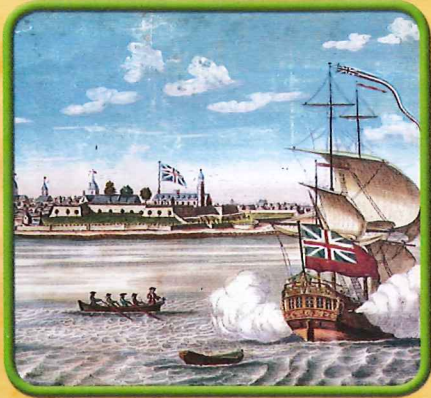
England. Settlers also learned that the climate was good for growing crops. The summers were long, and the amount of rain each year was good for crops such as wheat, corn, and rye. The Middle Colonies grew so many crops used in making bread that they came to be called the “breadbasket” colonies.

In addition to rich land, the region had several large harbors along the Atlantic Ocean. Settlers found that these harbors were connected to many of the region’s rivers, such as the Hudson and Delaware Rivers. These rivers stretched far inland. Settlers knew that these deep waterways would let large ships travel inland, making trade with other colonists easier. All of these special features attracted many different settlers to the region.

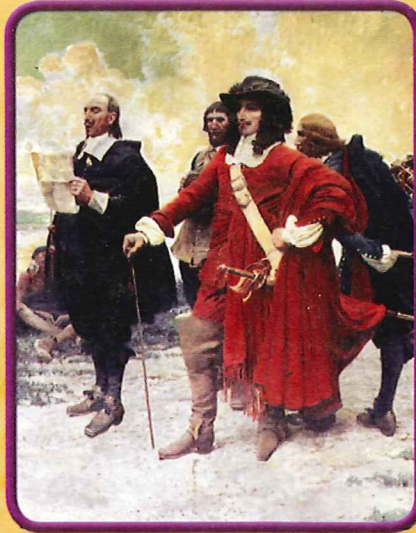
**READING CHECK** ✨ **SUMMARIZE**

**What attracted settlers to the Middle Colonies?**

## Founding the Middle Colonies



1664  
The New York Colony is established



1664  
The New Jersey Colony is established



1681  
The Pennsylvania Colony is founded by William Penn

Time

1650

1675

1700

**TIME LINE** All of the Middle Colonies were founded in the 1600s. In what century were they founded?

## New York and New Jersey

James, the Duke of York, split the Dutch colony into two parts. He named them **New York** and **New Jersey**. James kept New York for himself, and the city of New Amsterdam became **New York City**. James gave New Jersey to two of his friends, John Berkeley and George Carteret.

The English treated the Dutch settlers fairly. They promised to protect their rights, religious freedom, and property. They also let the colonists elect some of their own leaders. Most Dutch settlers chose to stay.

At first, nearly all of the colonists lived in New York. To attract more settlers to New Jersey, Berkeley and Carteret offered

to sell land at low prices. Many of the early settlers arriving in New Jersey were members of the Society of Friends, a religious group also known as the Quakers.

### The Quakers

Quakers believed that all people were equal. They refused to fight in wars or to swear loyalty to any king or country. People with different beliefs were often cruel to the Quakers. Thousands of Quakers were forced to leave England.

The Quakers hoped to find a **refuge**, or safe place, to live and worship. In 1674, a group of Quakers bought Berkeley's share of New Jersey and founded Salem, New Jersey, the first Quaker settlement in North America.

**READING CHECK** **SUMMARIZE**

Why did many Quakers settle in New Jersey?

# Pennsylvania and Delaware

In 1681, King Charles II gave a charter to **William Penn**, an English Quaker. The charter made Penn the **proprietor**, or owner, of what is now **Pennsylvania**.

## A New Plan of Government

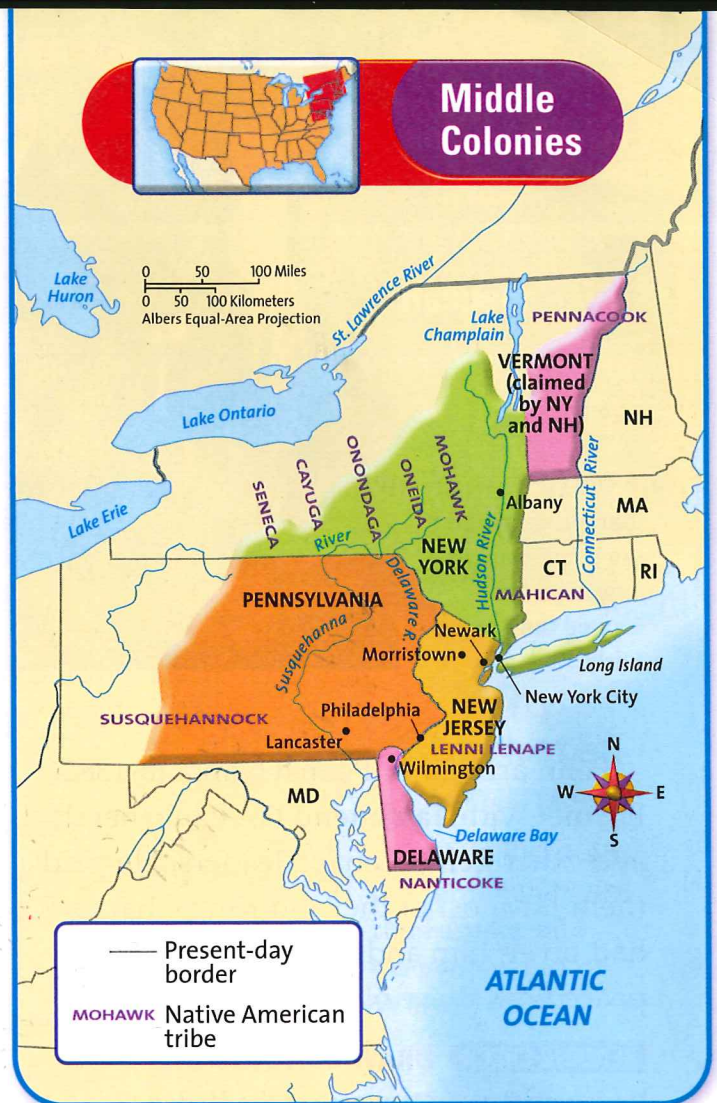
Penn was given the land because the king owed money to Penn's father. The new colony was named Pennsylvania, which means "Penn's woods." Penn wanted all the people living in Pennsylvania—Quakers and non-Quakers—to live together peacefully.

In 1682, Penn wrote the Frame of Government of Pennsylvania. This plan of government set up a legislature called the General Assembly. It also gave citizens freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the right to a fair trial by jury. In a **trial by jury**, a group of citizens decides if a person is guilty or innocent of committing a crime. Penn later wrote the Pennsylvania Charter of Privileges, which allowed white male colonists to elect representatives to the Assembly.

The Duke of York gave Penn control of the land that now makes up **Delaware** in 1682.

Penn gave the colony its own assembly in 1704.

 **WILLIAM PENN**



**LOCATION** What Pennsylvania city was on the Delaware River?

## Relations with Native Americans

Penn also wanted Native Americans to be treated with **justice**, or fairness. In a letter, he told the local Lenni Lenape (LEH•nee LEH•nuh•pee) people:

**“I desire to enjoy it with your love and consent, that we may always live together as neighbors and friends.”**

► **WILLIAM PENN** learned to speak the Lenni Lenape language and treated the people fairly.



Penn arrived in Pennsylvania in 1682. He met with **Tamanend** (TAM•uh•nend) and other Lenni Lenape leaders. He paid them for most of the land King Charles II had given him and built a long-lasting peace with these Native Americans.

**READING CHECK** **DRAW CONCLUSIONS**

How was Penn's treatment of the Native Americans related to Quaker beliefs?

### Summary

The Middle Colonies were New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. People from many different places and backgrounds settled in the Middle Colonies. Some settlers came because of the good land. Others came to freely practice their religion.

## REVIEW

- 1. WHAT TO KNOW** Why did people from different places and backgrounds settle in the Middle Colonies?
- 2. VOCABULARY** Use the term **trial by jury** in a sentence about the Pennsylvania Colony.
- 3. GEOGRAPHY** How does location explain why New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware were called the Middle Colonies?
- 4. CRITICAL THINKING** Why do you think William Penn wanted religious freedom in Pennsylvania?

- 5. WRITE A CONVERSATION** Write a conversation between William Penn and Tamanend. Have each leader describe their hopes for the future.
- 6. FOCUS SKILL SUMMARIZE** On a separate sheet of paper, copy and complete this graphic organizer.

#### Key Facts

The Dutch controlled New Netherland.

England wanted to expand its colonies.

#### Summary