

Colonial America: Geography and Culture

Cassie Hill, Haines City High School

I. Lesson Plan Summary

Summary: This lesson plan is designed to raise awareness of the physical geography of Colonial American life and how people of that time adapted their lifestyle according to the physical landscape around them.

The first map is from the History Alive textbook (chapter 3) and depicts the different types of economies in each of the three regions of Colonial America. The next are various depictions of life in the colonies in various aspects.

Objectives

The objective for this lesson is to gain an understanding and appreciation for the lives of Colonial Americans.

Sunshine State Standards:

L.A.A.1.3.1

S.A.A.1.3.2

Lesson Time: This should take two to three 60 minute class periods, depending on reading level of students and their ability to take notes.

II. Lesson Procedure:

The students in groups of two are to study the map displayed—it is also in their History Alive textbooks, chapter 3, page 44. Students are to complete worksheet provided—worksheet A. The class is to then read chapter three, taking notes when necessary, paying close attention to cultural aspects such as religion, government, and economy.

After the chapter is read, place the eight documents around the room. Tape them to a wall or desk. Have eight equal groups (no more than four per group) pre assigned, and then assign them to a station. Explain to the students that they are to analyze the document, take notes on the document, BRIEFLY sketch the illustration, and answer the questions based upon the document. After a period of 10 minutes, have students rotate in a clockwise position so they may view the next document. Repeat until all documents have been viewed by all students. The time at each station may be adjusted according to student ability.

Once all stations have been viewed, have a transparency of each document ready to show on an overhead and briefly discuss as a whole class, what it is, what they see, and how it related to or affected Colonial citizens.

III. Activities

Worksheet A and document station activities are attached.

IV. Assessment:

The assessment is to have students write a three paragraph essay that describes how geography, religion, and the economy affected Colonial Americans.

Assessment of essay will follow the six point rubric according to the Florida Sunshine Standards/FCAT writing rubric.

Colonial America
Student Worksheet A

1. What is the title of this map?
2. What does it depict?
3. What are the three regions?
4. What colonies are in each region?

Northern

Middle

Southern

List the major economies for each of the Colonies:

Northern

Middle

Southern

DOCUMENTS FOR STATIONS



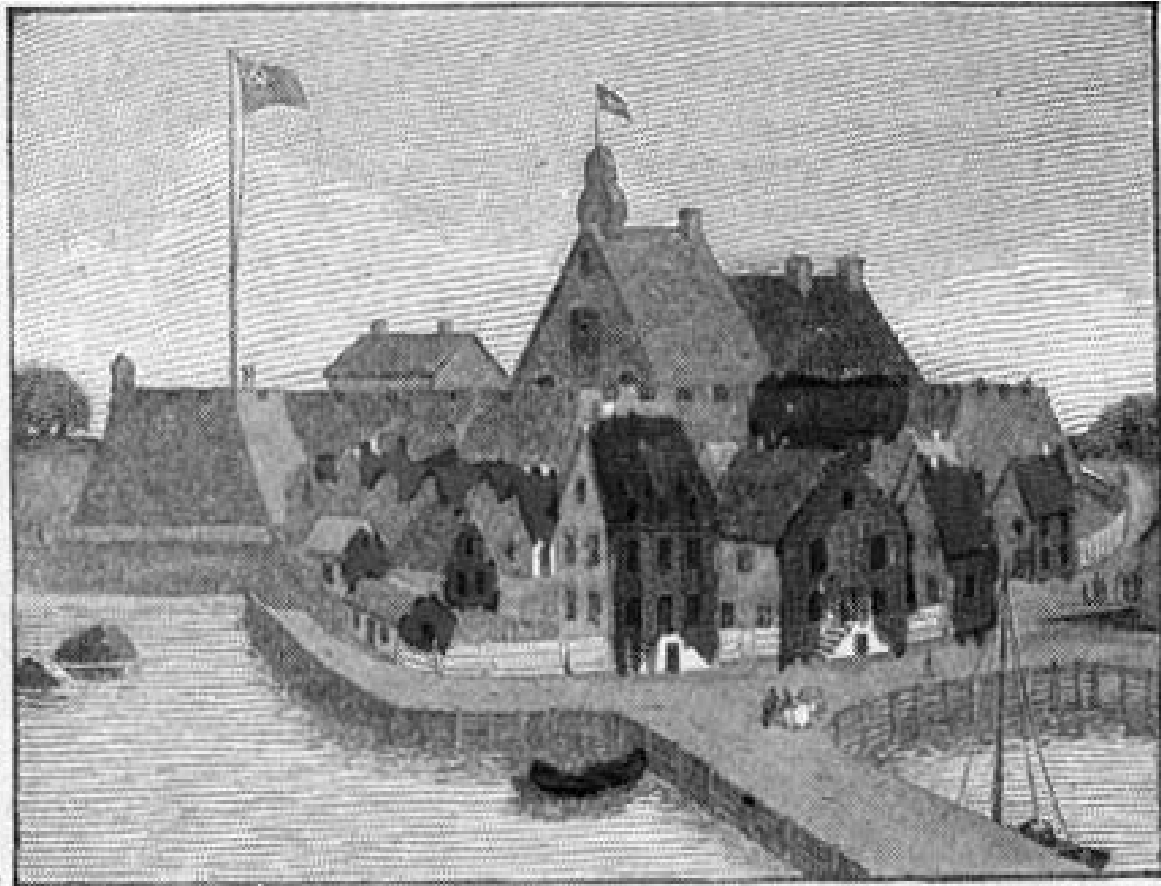
This is a typical cabin of the early Middle colonies.

Based upon this picture, describe what you think the living conditions might be like for this family.

What do you think his occupation is?

Is this an urban or rural setting?

Why would he and his family choose to live in a place such as this?



This is an illustration of a typical New England town.

What do you think the living conditions would be like in this town?

Based upon your knowledge of the geography of the New England colonies, and looking at this picture, what would be the major economic activity of the people living in this region?



This is an illustration of a Virginian Mansion.

What can you tell about the people who live here based upon the picture?

What do you think the people do for a living?

How does the geography of the southern colonies support having this type of home?



This is a typical merchant business of Colonial America.

Do you think this store is located in a rural or urban setting? Use clues from the picture to support your answer.

Do you think these people being shown are considered to be rich or poor? Again, use clues from the picture to support your answer.



In this illustration you see both Native Americans and Colonial men at war with one another.

What is the major weapon being used by either side?

Why do you think these two sides are fighting?

Do you think that war with Native Americans was something that the Colonial people had to constantly think about? Why or why not?

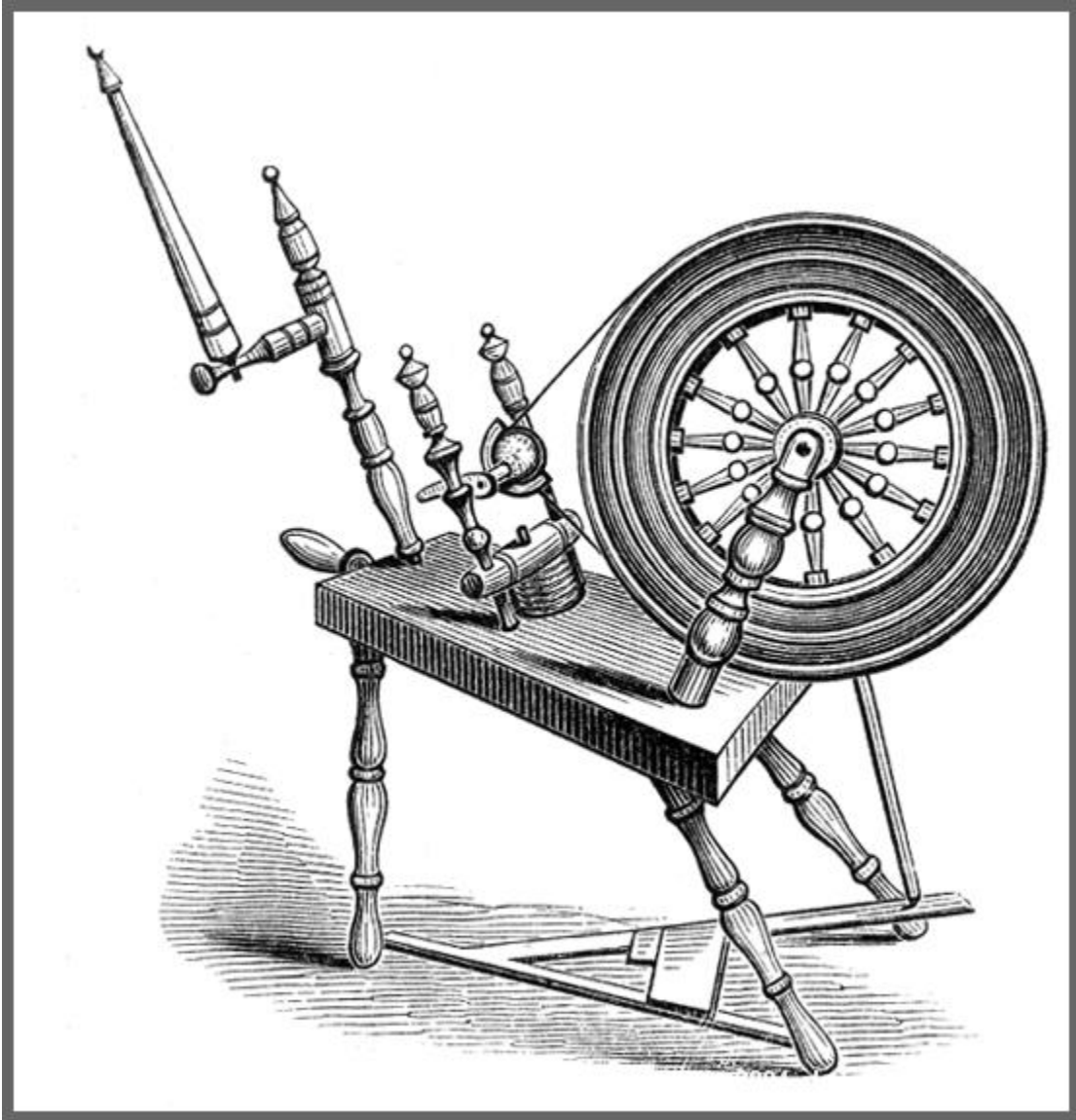


IN THE STOCKS.

Describe what you see.

What crime do you think this person may have committed?

How do you think the Colonists justified this type of punishment?



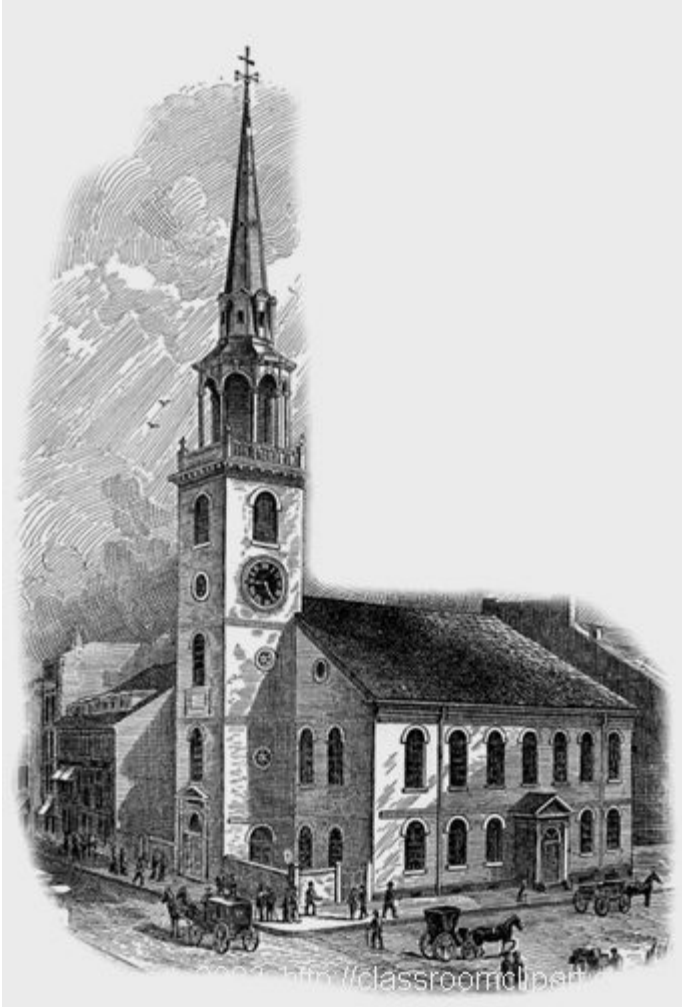
This is a spinning wheel.

It was used for turning wool into yarn.

Why would something like this be such a valuable tool in Colonial America?

Who would have been more likely to use this tool—men or women?

Why would Colonial people have spun their own wool instead of just buying it?



Here we see a colonial church.

Do you think this church is in a rural or urban setting?

Based upon this picture, what can you tell about the congregation of this church?

Why do you think that religion was such an important part of Colonial life?