VUS.2
The Age of Exploration And Colonization
Keep these questions in mind as you view this slide show:

► Why did Europeans settle in the English colonies?
► How did their motivations influence their settlement patterns and colony structures?
► In what ways did the cultures of Europe, Africa, and the Americas interact?
► What were the consequences of the interactions of European, African, and American cultures?
What were the Europeans looking for?

- **Columbus wanted a western passage to Asia for trade**
- **Nations sought riches of gold**
- **Nations wanted to spread Christianity - God**
- **Nations wished for a strong empire - glory**
Early European exploration and colonization resulted in the redistribution of the world’s population as millions of people from Europe and Africa voluntarily and involuntarily moved to the “New World.”
CHARACTERISTICS OF EARLY EXPLORATION AND SETTLEMENTS IN THE NEW WORLD
New England:

- Settled by Puritans seeking freedom from religious persecution in Europe.
- They formed a "covenant community" based on the principles of the Mayflower Compact and religious beliefs.

The signing of the Mayflower Compact, which established democratic principles.
New England

- Puritans were often intolerant of those not sharing their religion.
- They also sought economic opportunity and settled as family groups.
- Puritans practiced a form of direct democracy through town meetings.
- The strict lifestyle caused many of the dissenters to leave and form their own colonies, such as Rhode Island.
The Middle Colonies:

The Middle Atlantic region was settled chiefly by English, Dutch, and German-speaking immigrants seeking religious freedom and economic opportunity.

The Quakers settled here and were much more tolerant of others.

William Penn received his land grant from King Charles II and founded Pennsylvania—a have for Quakers.
Jamestown

- Established in 1607 by the Virginia Company of London as a business venture (Joint Stock Company)
- It was the first permanent English settlement in North America.
- Tobacco farming made it a profitable colony
The Virginia House of Burgesses, established by the 1640s, was the first elected assembly in the New World. It has operated continuously and is today known as the General Assembly of Virginia.
Virginia and the South

- These colonies were settled by people seeking economic opportunities.
- The early Virginia "cavaliers" were English nobility who received large land grants in eastern Virginia from the King of England.
- Poor English immigrants also came seeking better lives as small farmers or artisans and settled in the Shenandoah Valley or western Virginia.
Indentured Servants:

- *Indentured servants* agreed to work on tobacco plantations for a period of time to pay for passage to the New World.
- This would populate the colony as well as provide cheap labor.

Indentured Servants worked to grow tobacco on plantations.
The First African Slaves:

- The growth of an agricultural economy based on large landholdings in the Southern colonies and in the Caribbean led to the introduction of slavery in the New World.
- The first Africans were brought against their will to Jamestown in 1619 and worked on tobacco plantations.
Effect on the First Americans:

- The explorations and settlements of the English in the American colonies and Spanish in the Caribbean, Central America, and South America, often led to violent conflicts with the American Indians (First Americans).

- The Indians lost their traditional territories and fell victim to diseases carried from Europe.

- By contrast, French exploration of Canada did not lead to large-scale immigration from France, and relations with native peoples were often more cooperative.

Here, Pocahontas is depicted “saving” the life of John Smith. Over the next centuries, the First Americans would be confined to reservations.
The Triangle Trade shows the flow of goods and people across the Atlantic.

Graphic Courtesy: Language and Power

• Exploration and colonization initiated worldwide commercial expansion as agricultural products were exchanged between the Americas and Europe.
IN TIME, COLONIZATION LED TO IDEAS OF REPRESENTATIVE GOVERNMENT AND RELIGIOUS TOLERATION THAT OVER SEVERAL CENTURIES WOULD INSPIRE SIMILAR TRANSFORMATIONS IN OTHER PARTS OF THE WORLD.