

# The Middle Colonies

## One American's Story

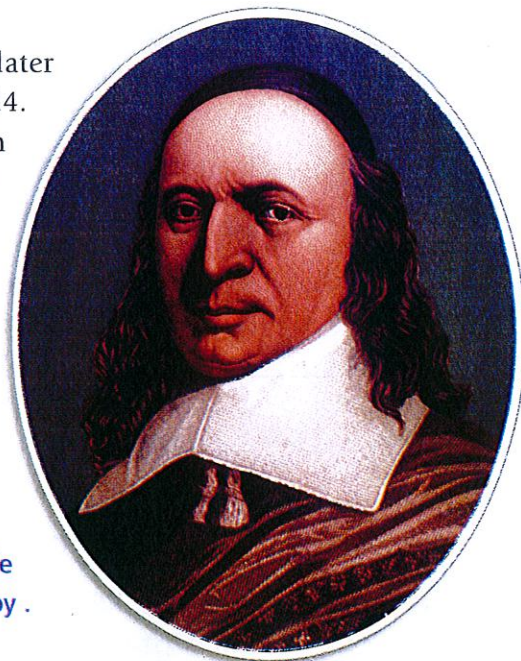
The Dutch had founded the colony of **New Netherland** (later New York) on the eastern coast of North America in 1624.

**Peter Stuyvesant** (STY•vuh•suhnt), the new governor, arrived in the city of New Amsterdam in May 1647. His firm leadership restored order to the wild colonial outpost. But there was one thing about the city of New Amsterdam that Stuyvesant could not control. He complained about this problem in a letter to the directors of the Dutch West India Company, who owned the colony.

### PRIMARY SOURCE

“The English and French colonies are continued and populated by their own nation and countrymen and consequently bound together more firmly and united, while your Honors’ colonies in New-Netherland are . . . peopled by . . . all sorts of nationalities.”

—Peter Stuyvesant, from a letter of 1661



Peter Stuyvesant

Stuyvesant was a powerful governor who usually got his way. But he was powerless to stop the growing diversity of the city that would one day be called New York. That diversity became a feature of all the Middle Colonies and one of the region's greatest strengths.

## Settling the Middle Colonies

**KEY QUESTION** What drew settlers to the Middle Colonies?

The Middle Colonies—New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware—formed a distinct region, located between New England and the Southern Colonies. (See map on page 86.) The Hudson and Delaware rivers, which ran through the region, encouraged shipping and commerce. The Middle Colonies' rich soil and mild winters were good for farming.

Unlike New England, with its large population of English Puritans, the Middle Colonies attracted a population of great ethnic and religious diversity. This diversity began developing very early in the colony's history.



**New Netherland** As you read in Chapter 2, in the early 1600s the Dutch built the colony of New Netherland along the Hudson River in what is now New York State. The colony's largest town, New Amsterdam, was founded on Manhattan Island in 1625. New Amsterdam was built to defend the Dutch West India Company's fur trading settlements along the Hudson River.

Peter Stuyvesant, the colony's governor, expanded New Netherland by taking over the nearby colony of New Sweden in 1655. The Swedes had settled the land along the Delaware River in 1638.

The Dutch West India Company set up the patroon system to attract more settlers. A **patroon** was a person who brought 50 settlers to New Netherland. As a reward, a patroon received a large land grant. He also received hunting, fishing, and fur trading privileges. The patroon system brought great wealth to the colony's elite.

The social system also included many slaves. Although their lives were harsh, they enjoyed some rights of movement and property ownership.

**A Tolerant Society** In the 17th century the Netherlands had one of the most tolerant societies in Europe. Dutch settlers brought this religious toleration to their colony. New Netherland welcomed dissenters who had been banished from Puritan New England. Quakers, German Lutherans, and French Protestants all settled in the colony. Twenty-three Jewish settlers arrived in 1654, and others soon followed. New Netherland soon became known as the most tolerant and diverse colony in North America.



**CAUSES AND EFFECTS** Explain what drew settlers to the Middle Colonies.

## The English Take Control



**KEY QUESTION** How did religious toleration grow in the Middle Colonies?

The English saw the Dutch as a threat. New Netherland lay like a wedge between New England and English colonies in the South. So, King Charles II decided that his brother, the Duke of York, should drive the Dutch out of New Netherland. When the duke's ships appeared off New Amsterdam in August 1664, the colony surrendered. New Netherland was renamed New York after the Duke of York, who became the proprietor of the colony.

**New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware** The Duke of York was now the largest single landowner in America. He gave part of his claim, the province of New Jersey, to his friends Sir George Carteret and Lord John Berkeley in 1664. They tried to attract settlers by promising freedom of religion. They also promised large land grants and a representative assembly.

**William Penn** was another landowner. Penn was born into a rich family that had loaned money to Charles II. To pay off this debt, in 1681 the king gave Penn land that came to be called Pennsylvania. The name means "Penn's woods." In 1701, Penn granted the three lower counties their own assembly. The counties became the colony of Delaware.

In his youth, Penn had joined the Quakers, much to his father's disapproval. As you have read, 17th-century Quakers suffered persecution in both



## Daily Life in the Colonies

### CLOTHING, RANK, AND RELIGION

Throughout the colonies, clothing expressed both social rank and religious beliefs. Some colonial governments passed laws controlling what colonists could wear. Puritan laws in Massachusetts required modest clothing to express Christian humility. But in Virginia only the poor were prohibited from wearing extravagant clothes.

Quakers wore the most modest clothing of all religious groups. Quakers thought rich clothes encouraged envy and pride. Their plain clothes were intended to show that they were more concerned with the spirit than with social rank.

#### PENNSYLVANIA QUAKERS

1680s

#### VIRGINIA ANGLICANS

1680s



#### Connect to Today

**Make Inferences** How do modern clothes express the attitudes, beliefs, or political opinions of the wearer?

### STRANGE BUT TRUE

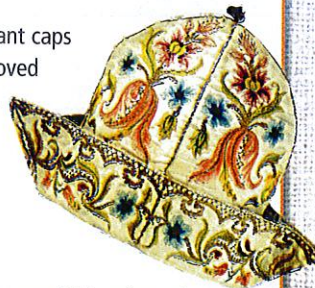
In the 1630s there was a fashion for sleeves slashed to reveal expensive undergarments. While Virginia colonists displayed their wealth through multiple slashes, Massachusetts Puritans passed a law allowing only one slash.



#### Artifact File

Imported fabrics and clothing allowed the rich to show off their wealth.

Men wore elegant caps when they removed their long wigs.



Women's shoes were richly adorned.



Women attached fancy "stomachers" to the front of their gowns so that their waists would appear longer.





England and the colonies. Penn founded Pennsylvania to provide a place where Quakers could practice their beliefs, free of persecution. It was also meant to be a colony where the world could see Quaker ideals at work. Penn declared that Pennsylvania would be a "holy experiment" in Quaker religious tolerance and an "example to the Nations." But unlike the Puritan colonies in New England, Pennsylvania would have no tax-supported church.

The Quakers welcomed those of different religions and ethnic groups. This Quaker ideal of tolerance was written into the Frame of Government of Pennsylvania, which declared

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

“[All persons] shall, in no ways, be molested or prejudiced for their religious persuasion, or practice, in matters of faith and worship, nor shall they be compelled at any time, to frequent or maintain any religious worship.”

—from *The Frame of the Government of Pennsylvania*, 1682

In Pennsylvania, Penn extended religious freedom and equality to all. Because of this, settlers from many European countries came to Pennsylvania seeking religious freedom and a better life. Penn himself designed the colony's capital. It was named Philadelphia, meaning "city of brotherly love."

Like the Puritans of New England, the Quakers valued hard work and thrift, or the careful management of money. These Quaker values, combined with Penn's policies, helped poor immigrants become rich. With its long growing season and fertile soil, Pennsylvania became one of the wealthiest American colonies.

**Thirteen Colonies** By the 1730s, 13 English colonies were thriving along the eastern seaboard of North America. The colonial economies were growing and the population was increasing dramatically. In fact, the American population was doubling every twenty-five years.

In many ways, the earliest English colonies in Virginia and Massachusetts set the pattern of development for the later Northern and Southern Colonies. Virginia, in the South, saw the development of a plantation economy. Massachusetts, in the North, created towns that relied on shipping to produce wealth.



#### Connect Geography & History

- 1. Place** What geographical feature acted as a barrier to settlers traveling west?
- 2. Make Generalizations** Which settlements were in more frequent contact with the outside world?



Separated by great distances, distinct colonial cultures developed. But despite differences in climate, religion, and social organization, the colonies had much in common.

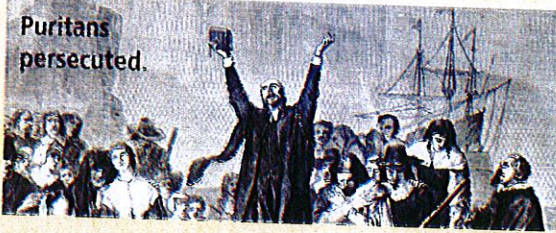

Many colonies were born of political events in England. The chart below shows how conditions in England affected the settlement of America.

## Animated HISTORY

### Founding the Colonies

 [Click here](#) to explore the founding of the colonies @ [ClassZone.com](#)



CONDITIONS/EVENTS IN ENGLAND		COLONIAL RESULT
1600s	Merchants desire wealth-creating colonies; English people seek prosperity. <b>Effect</b>	Jamestown, Virginia, founded 1607.
1620s	James I threatens Separatists. 1625 James dies. Charles I becomes king. <b>Effect</b>	Separatists flee England. <b>Plymouth</b> founded 1620 (later joins Massachusetts).
1630s	 Puritans persecuted.  Catholics not tolerated.	Puritans flee England in "The Great Migration" 1630 <b>Massachusetts Bay Colony</b> 1633–1636 <b>Connecticut</b> settled. 1636 <b>Rhode Island</b> settled. 1638 Puritans from Massachusetts move into <b>New Hampshire</b> and <b>Maine</b> .  1634 <b>Maryland</b> settled.
1640s	1642 English Civil War begins. 1649 Charles I beheaded. <b>Effect</b>	Immigration stops. Some Puritans return to England to fight the king and Royalists.
1650s	Puritans control England. <b>Effect</b>	Royalists flee England and settle in Southern and Middle Colonies.
1660s	Puritan rule ends. Charles II becomes king and rewards supporters. 	1664 New Netherland seized and renamed <b>New York</b> . <b>New Jersey</b> founded.
1670s		1670 Settlers from Barbados arrive in what would become <b>South Carolina</b> .
1680s	Charles II grants land to William Penn. 1685 James II becomes king. <b>Effect</b>	Quakers' migration 1681 <b>Pennsylvania</b> founded.
1690s		1691 <b>North Carolina</b> established.
1700s		1701 <b>Delaware</b> granted its own assembly.
1730s	In England, concern grows over the fate of the poor. <b>Effect</b>	1733 <b>Georgia</b> settled.

**CRITICAL THINKING** **Causes and Effects** Which colonies were settled as a result of religious conflict in England?



The colonies were not only connected through their relationship with England. The early colonists shared the same experiences and concerns.



## CONNECT to the Essential Question

**How did the experience of the early colonists shape America's political and social ideals?**

### Colonists Left Their Homelands

in order to create a new kind of society.  
to escape being persecuted by a more powerful religious group.  
in order to improve their lives or to make a fresh start.



### In America, Colonists

struggled with issues of religious tolerance.

established representative government and respect for English law.

encountered people from different ethnic backgrounds and faiths.

### CRITICAL THINKING

**Make Inferences** Which experiences helped the colonists value tolerance?

As more immigrants arrived, religious and ethnic diversity increased. Meanwhile, representative assemblies grew stronger and more confident. By the early 18th century, these trends were creating societies that valued religious liberty, freedom of conscience, and representative government.

**DRAW CONCLUSIONS** Explain why toleration grew in the Middle Colonies.



## Section Assessment



### ONLINE QUIZ

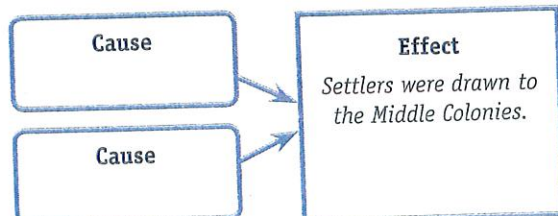
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### TERMS & NAMES

1. Explain the importance of
  - New Netherland
  - William Penn
  - Peter Stuyvesant

### USING YOUR READING NOTES

2. **Analyze Causes and Effects** Complete the chart you started at the beginning of this section.



### KEY IDEAS

3. Why did colonists settle in the Middle Colonies?
4. What were the goals of the patroon system?

### CRITICAL THINKING

5. **Causes and Effects** Why did the English seize the Dutch colony of New Netherland?
6. **Connect to Today** Many modern nations are torn by religious and ethnic strife. What values and ideals helped America move beyond such conflicts?
7. **Math** Research the population of New England, the Southern Colonies and the Middle Colonies in 1700. Then create a graph to compare the population of the three regions.



# The Middle Colonies:

## Farms and Cities

### One American's Story

William Penn, who established Pennsylvania, was aware that earlier English colonists had not treated Native Americans with respect. Writing from England, Penn promised Native Americans that the people of his colony would behave differently.

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

“I am very sensible to the unkindness and injustice which have been too much exercised toward you by the people of these parts of the world. . . . I have a great love and regard toward you, and desire to win and gain your love and friendship by a kind, just and peaceable life; and the people I send are of the same mind.”

—Letter from William Penn to the Native Americans, 1681

The **Quakers**, a group of Protestant dissenters, did develop a good relationship with tribes in Pennsylvania. The Quakers also accepted people who had different religious beliefs. This helped to create a climate of **tolerance**, or acceptance of different opinions, in the prosperous Middle Colonies of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware.

### A Prosperous Region

**KEY QUESTION** Why did the cities of the Middle Colonies grow so rapidly?

The Middle Colonies had much to offer in addition to a climate of tolerance. Immigrants were drawn to the region's productive land.

Among the immigrants who came to the Middle Colonies were Dutch and German farmers. Their skills, knowledge, and hard work produced an abundance of foods.



*Penn's Treaty with the Indians* by Edward Hicks



**Productive Farms** The Middle Colonies enjoyed a longer growing season than New England and a soil rich enough to grow cash crops. These were crops raised to be sold for money. Common cash crops included fruits, vegetables, and, above all, grain. In fact, the Middle Colonies produced so much grain that people began calling them the “breadbasket” colonies.

**Growing Cities** The excellent harbors of the Middle Colonies were ideal sites for cities. New York City grew at the mouth of the Hudson River, and **Philadelphia** was founded on the Delaware River. The merchants who lived in these growing port cities exported grain and other cash crops from local farms and imported manufactured goods from England.

Because of its enormous trade, Philadelphia became the fastest growing city in the colonies. By the 1750s, it was home to a dozen large shipyards—places where ships are built or repaired.

The city’s wealth also brought many public improvements. Large and beautiful buildings, such as Philadelphia’s statehouse—which was later renamed Independence Hall—graced the city’s streets. In 1748, a Swedish visitor was impressed by the city’s beauty and wealth.

#### PRIMARY SOURCE

“And yet . . . its natural advantages, trade, riches, and power are by no means inferior to . . . any, even of the most ancient, towns in Europe.”

—Peter Kalm, quoted in *America at 1750*

New York could also thank trade for its rapid growth. This bustling port handled flour, bread, furs, and whale oil. At midcentury, an English naval officer admired the city’s elegant buildings and paved streets. “Such is this city,” he said, “that very few in England can rival it in its show.”

**MAIN IDEAS & DETAILS** Explain why the cities of the Middle Colonies grew.

(below) A late 18th-century view of Philadelphia.

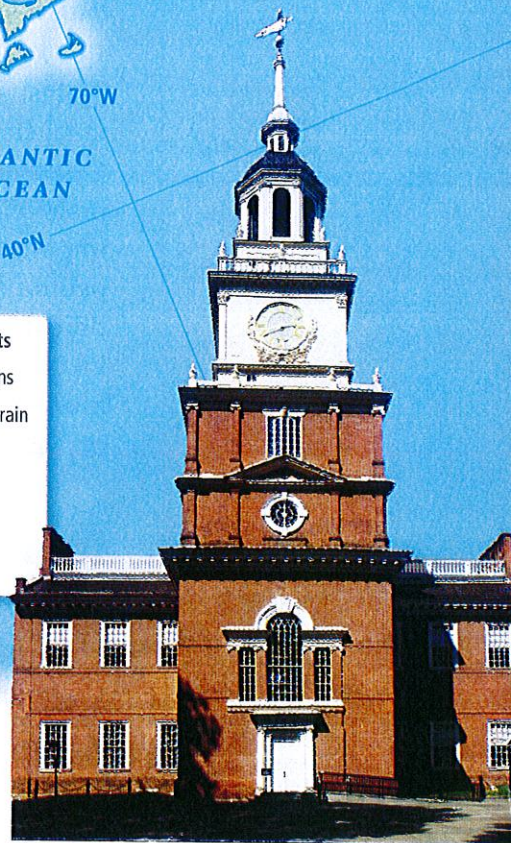
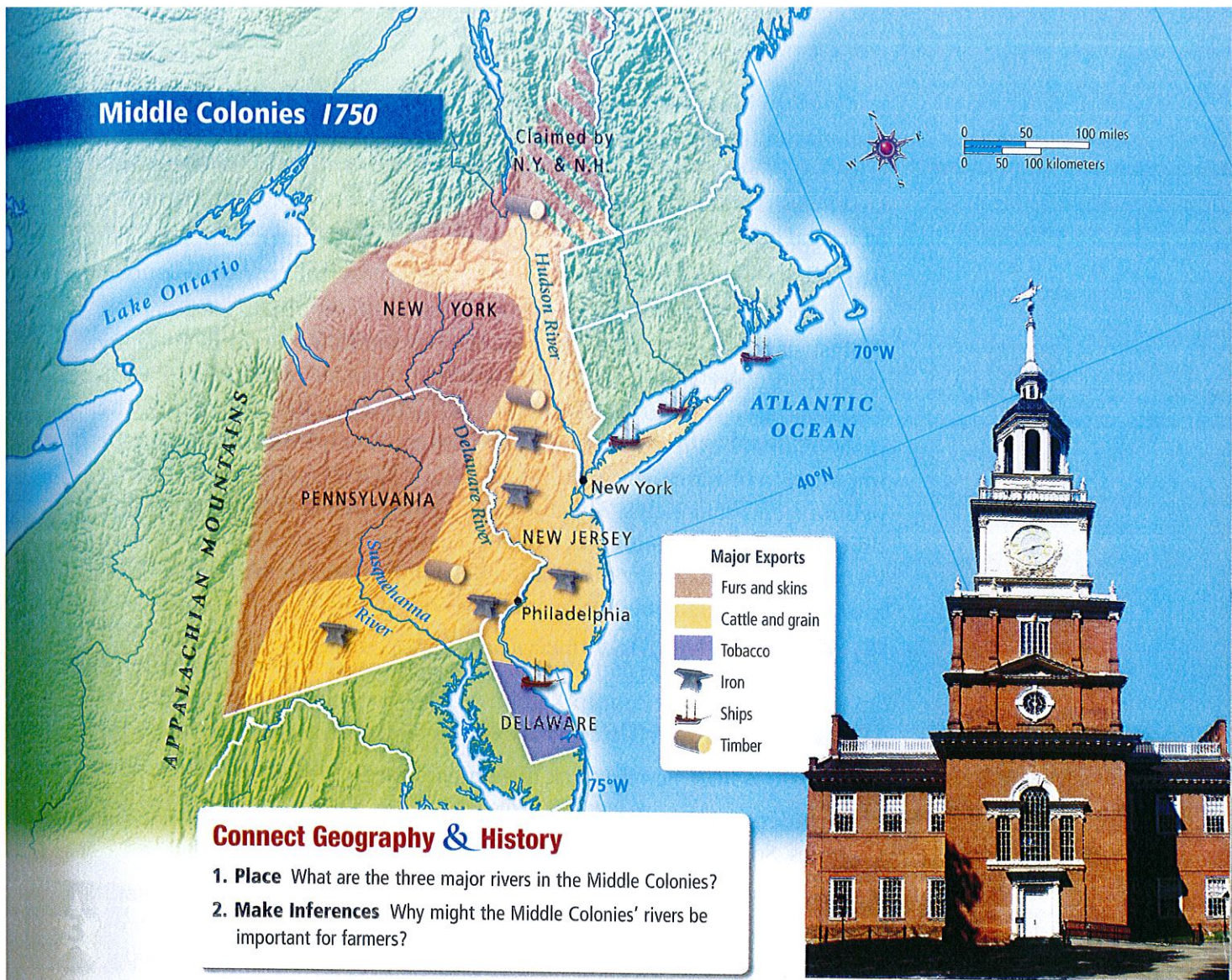
In what other respects did

Philadelphia grow in the 1700s?





## Middle Colonies 1750



Independence Hall,  
Philadelphia

## African Americans in the Cities

**KEY QUESTION** How did African Americans help build the cities?

Unlike the economy that developed in the South, the economy of the Middle Colonies did not depend on a large slave population. In 1750, only about 7 percent of the Middle Colonies' population was enslaved. Most of these enslaved people lived in the cities.

**Racial Tension in New York City** New York City had a larger number of people of African descent than any other Northern city. Its African American population was divided between the enslaved and the free.

The slave trade was an important part of the city's economy. Many Africans were brought to New York City in order to serve wealthy families. Enslaved people worked as manual laborers, servants, drivers, and as assistants to **artisans**, or craftspeople. Before New York came under English control, enslaved Africans had built roads, houses, and public buildings—the very foundations of the colony.

A free black community developed in New York City as early as 1644. Free African-American men and women worked as laborers, servants, and sailors. For a time free blacks had the right to own property.



Although both free and enslaved African Americans enjoyed some rights in the Middle Colonies, their lives were harsh. As in the South, fears of a slave revolt grew as the slave population increased. Those fears were realized in 1712 when a group of African-born slaves rebelled. After setting fire to several buildings, the rebels suffered defeat, torture, and death. However, their cruel punishments did not prevent other slave rebellions.

**Quakers Condemn Slavery** Some white colonists began speaking out against slavery. The Quakers were the first group to condemn it. To many Quakers, slavery was immoral and against Christian principles. In 1688 Quakers in Germantown, Pennsylvania, issued a statement against the practice. In 1712 the Pennsylvania government attempted to discourage the importation of slaves. Throughout the 1700s, Quakers published antislavery petitions and statements. The antislavery efforts of the Quakers were supported by other religious groups in the Delaware Valley, such as the German Pietists. These antislavery ideals influenced immigrants in the Middle Colonies—and eventually the entire nation.

 **SUMMARIZE** Explain how African Americans helped build the cities.

## Diversity and Tolerance

 **KEY QUESTION** How did ethnic diversity encourage tolerance?

Many different immigrant groups arrived in the port cities of the Middle Colonies. Soon the region's population became remarkably diverse.

**A Diverse Population** The Germans formed one of the largest immigrant groups in the region. Many Germans arrived between 1710 and 1740. Most came as indentured servants fleeing religious intolerance. They were particularly attracted to Pennsylvania because the colony did not tax its people in order to support a particular **denomination**, or distinct religious group. Like the Puritans before them, German immigrants arrived in family groups and tended to settle together in distinct communities. Many moved to the western frontier of Pennsylvania, where land was cheaper.

Famous for their farming skills, these immigrants soon influenced the culture of the Middle Colonies. Germans also brought a strong tradition of skilled crafts to the Middle Colonies. For example, it was German gunsmiths who first developed the long rifle. Other German artisans, or craftspeople, became ironworkers and makers of glass, furniture, and kitchenware.

Reenactors in Pennsylvania portray life on a colonial German farm.





Germans built **Conestoga wagons** to carry their produce to town. These wagons used wide wheels suitable for dirt roads, and the wagons' curved beds prevented spilling when climbing hills. Another important feature of this type of wagon was the canvas covering that offered protection from rain.

**Diversity Leads to Tolerance** The Dutch in New York and the Quakers in Pennsylvania were two groups that practiced religious tolerance. That is, they honored the right to worship without interference. This laid the foundation for the well-known religious tolerance of the Middle Colonies.

In contrast to New England, where the English Puritans dominated religious life, many different religious groups settled in the Middle Colonies. Because of this diversity, the various religious groups had to learn to accept, or at least tolerate, one another. The tolerance that developed in the Middle Colonies would one day serve as a model for the nation.

Like the other colonial regions, the Middle Colonies have left a lasting legacy. New York City is still a center of commerce and of ethnic and religious diversity. Colonial Pennsylvania produced the model of a society based on tolerance. Although slavery existed in the Middle Colonies, as it did in other colonial regions, some were beginning to raise their voices against it. In fact, throughout the colonial period the Middle Colonies were moving closer to modern America's civil ideals—of a society based on diversity, tolerance, and religious freedom.

**CAUSES AND EFFECTS** Explain how ethnic diversity encouraged tolerance.

## Connect to the World

### Tolerance

Attitudes in parts of the Middle Colonies may have been influenced by the earliest Dutch settlers. These settlers came from the Dutch Republic, a country famous for its religious tolerance.



## Section Assessment



### ONLINE QUIZ

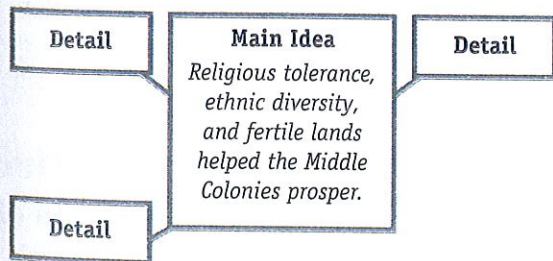
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### TERMS & NAMES

- Explain the importance of
  - Philadelphia
  - Conestoga wagons

### USING YOUR READING NOTES

- Main Ideas and Details** Complete the diagram you started at the beginning of this section.

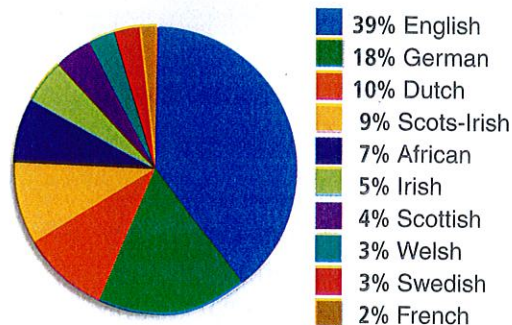


### KEY IDEAS

- What factors allowed large coastal cities to develop in the Middle Colonies?
- How did religious tolerance develop in the Middle Colonies?

### CRITICAL THINKING

- Analyze Graphs** Study the graph below of ethnic groups in the Middle Colonies. What two languages might you have heard most frequently?



Source: Population of the British Colonies in America Before 1776, 1775

- Math** Use the graph shown above to calculate the number of people speaking each language, given that the Middle Colonies had a population of roughly 297,000. Then create a table to show the results.