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The Middle Colonies drew a diverse population to North America.

New York and New Jersey

Why did the Middle Colonies grow?

By 1660, England had two groups of colonies in North America. In the north were the New England Colonies. In the south was Virginia, and also the colony of Maryland, which was settled in 1634. Between these two groups of colonies were lands under Dutch control. This area was called New Netherland.

The main settlement of New Netherland was New Amsterdam, on Manhattan Island. This location combined a good seaport with access to the Hudson River. The river served as a major transportation link to a rich land of farms, forests, and furs. As a result, New Amsterdam became a center of shipping to and from the Americas.

The Dutch West India Company controlled New Netherland. It wanted to increase the colony's population. To do this, the company offered large grants of land to anyone who could bring at least 50 settlers to work the land. The landowners who received these grants were called patroons (puh • TROONS). The patroons ruled like kings. They had their own courts and laws. Settlers owed the patroons labor and a share of their crops.

New Netherland Becomes New York

New Netherland's success did not go unnoticed. The English wanted to gain control of the valuable Dutch colony. England insisted it had a right to the land based on John Cabot's explorations in the late 1400s. In 1664 the English sent a fleet to attack New Amsterdam. Peter Stuyvesant, governor of the colony, surrendered it to the English forces without a fight.

England's King Charles gave the colony to his brother, the Duke of York, who renamed it New York. New York was a proprietary colony. This was a colony in which an owner, or proprietor, owned all the land and controlled the government. Not until 1691 did the English government allow citizens of New York to elect their legislature.

New York continued to prosper under English control. It had a diverse population made up of Dutch, German, Swedish, and Native American people. Also among the population were people of the Jewish religion. They were the first Jews to settle in North America.

In 1664 New York had about 8,000 residents, including at least 300 enslaved Africans. By 1683 the population had swelled to about 12,000 people. New Amsterdam, which had been renamed New York City, was one of the fastest-growing places in the colonies.

Founding New Jersey

The Duke of York decided to divide his colony. He gave the land between the Hudson and Delaware Rivers to Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret. The two proprietors named their colony New Jersey, after the English Channel island of Jersey, where Carteret was born. To attract settlers, the proprietors offered large tracts of land and also promised freedom of religion, trial by jury, and a representative assembly.

Like New York, New Jersey had a diverse population. There were people of many different racial, religious, and national backgrounds—that is, many different ethnic groups. New Jersey had no natural harbors, so it did not develop a major port or city like New York. New Jersey's proprietors made few profits. Both eventually sold their shares in the colony. By 1702, New Jersey had become a royal colony. However, the colonists continued to make local laws.

Explaining Why did no major city develop in New Jersey?

Pennsylvania and Delaware

How did Pennsylvania differ from the other English colonies?

The Quakers, a Protestant group that had been persecuted in England, founded the colony of Pennsylvania. In 1680 William Penn, a wealthy English Quaker, received the land in payment for a debt King Charles owed Penn's father. Pennsylvania, or "Penn's Woods," stretched inland from the Delaware River. The new colony was nearly as large as England.

William Penn saw Pennsylvania as a "holy experiment," a chance to put his Quaker ideals into practice. The Quakers, or Society of Friends, believed that everyone was equal. People could follow their own "inner light" rather than the teachings of a religious leader. Quakers were also pacifists (PA • suh • fihs), or people who refuse to use force or fight in wars.

Penn was an active proprietor. In 1682 he sailed to America to supervise the building of Philadelphia, a name that means "city of brotherly love." Penn designed the city himself. He also wrote Pennsylvania's first constitution. Penn believed that the land belonged to the Native Americans and that settlers should pay for it. He negotiated several treaties with local Native Americans.

Penn advertised his colony throughout Europe. By 1683, more than 3,000 English, Welsh, Irish, Dutch, and German settlers had arrived. In 1701, in the Charter of Privileges, Penn granted colonists the right to elect representatives to the legislature. Philadelphia quickly became America's most prosperous city and its most popular port.

People from Sweden had settled land in southern Pennsylvania before the Dutch and then the English took over the area. Penn allowed these southern counties to form their own legislature. The counties then functioned, or worked, as a separate colony known as Delaware. However, Delaware remained under the authority of Pennsylvania's governor.

Inferring What was William Penn's main purpose for founding the colony of Pennsylvania?

Lesson 3 Review

Review Vocabulary

1. Explain the significance of the words below.

a. patroon b. pacifist

SS.8.A.2.4, LAFS.68.RH.2.4

Answer the Guiding Questions

2. **Describing** How was the colony of New York governed?

SS.8.A.2.2, SS.8.A.2.4

3. **Summarizing** What policies of Pennsylvania reflected Quaker beliefs?

SS.8.A.2.4, LAFS.68.RH.1.2

4. **NARRATIVE** Think about what you read about New Amsterdam: It was a bustling seaport with many different types of people. Write a paragraph that describes what it might have been like to walk down one of its busy streets. What might you have seen? Heard? Felt?

SS.8.A.2.2, ELD.K12.ELL.SS.1, LAFS.68.WHST.2.4, LAFS.68.WHST.4.10