

# CHAPTER 4

## Building the First Colonies

# THE SPANISH COLONIES

- ◉ Spain was the first country to start colonies in the Americas.
- ◉ A colony is a land ruled by another country.
- ◉ New Spain
  - Mexico and the capital city Mexico City
  - Many islands in the Caribbean Sea and lands north of Panama.
- ◉ Spain and Portugal forced Native Americans into slavery.

# SPANISH COLONIES

## ○ Settling the Borderlands

- Pedro Menendez de Aviles reached St. Augustine, Florida.
- St. Augustine, Florida was the first permanent settlement for Spain.
- To convert the Native Americans to Christianity New Spain set up missions.

## ○ Missionaries

- Held Ceremonies to make Native Americans Catholic.
- Taught Native Americans Catholic beliefs.
- Forced Native Americans to be slaves.

# ENGLAND ATTEMPTS A COLONY

England wanted to grow rich from colonies, just as Spain had done. Colonies would provide raw materials that they would use to make other products. John White was sent to Roanoke Island, named Virginia and three years later when he returned, all the settlers were gone. This mystery is called the Lost Colony.

# JAMESTOWN

Three ships were sent by the Virginia Company in 1607 to sail into the deep bay and built the settlement of Jamestown.

John Smith was the leader of Jamestown and they faced many hardships, such as surviving because no one had taken an interest in farming before. Smith's rule changed everything. Anyone who did not work did not eat.

# GROWTH AND GOVERNMENT

Colonists began growing tobacco as a cash crop. The Virginia Company paid for people's passages or trips to Virginia and people agreed to work without pay. These people were called indentured servants.

Africans who were brought to Virginia came as enslaved workers and had little freedom.

# THE VIRGINIA COLONY

- ◉ Colonies were known for their raw materials or resources used to make a product.
- ◉ England built the settlement of Jamestown.
  - Poor choice for settlement - swampy land not good for farming.
  - John Smith - leader of Jamestown
  - Colonist began growing tobacco as a cash crop ( people grow to sell)
- ◉ The House of Burgesses
  - Colonists set up a legislature or lawmaking branch of government
  - First representative assembly in the English States
  - Virginia colonists elected members to represent them.

# PLYMOUTH COLONY

- John Smith explored north along the Atlantic coast and he called this area New England.
  - Connecticut, Rhode Island, Massachusetts, Vermont, New Hampshire, Maine
- Smith wrote a book called A Description of New England (primary source).
- Pilgrims - left England on the Mayflower
- Pilgrims signed the Mayflower Compact to keep order because there was no government. People agreed to make and follow their own laws.
- William Bradford established the Plymouth Colony.

# PLYMOUTH COLONY

- ◉ Pilgrims landed on a bay - Location provided a harbor near the Atlantic Ocean (easy access to shipping and trade)
- ◉ Tisquantum or Squanto
  - Showed the Pilgrims where to fish and how to plant vegetables.
  - Helped colonists trade for furs

# THE DUTCH AND FRENCH

## ○ New France

- Samuel de Champlain founded Quebec along the St. Lawrence River.
- Quebec was the first French settlement in North America.
- In 1664, La Salle claimed the Mississippi River Valley for France.

## ○ New Amsterdam

- Dutch built settlements in what is now New York and New Jersey.