

# Terms to Know

## Chapters 1 and 2

### **Archaic Period:**

The Archaic Period is considered to be the time between 8000 to 2000 BCE when humans could be found in America. The period ends at the time in which sedentary farming was adopted. People living during this time were mainly found in hunter-gatherer societies. Some societies, however, also fished due to their location. In the Lower Mississippian Valley, mounds were constructed by the Mississippian people approximately 5,000 years ago. Other notable achievements include the first pottery and the domestication of plants like maize and cassava. The Archaic Period is important because it represents a time before sedentary farming.

### **Christopher Columbus:**

Christopher Columbus was an explorer and navigator born in Genoa, Italy in the mid- 1400s. Participating in multiple expeditions, his most famed is that of 1492. He travelled across the Atlantic for the Spanish monarchs Queen Isabella I of Castille and Ferdinand II of Aragon, using outdated maps and calculations during his quest. Searching for a trade route to India, Columbus' faulty calculations landed him on the continent today known as North America. He and his crew reached San Salvador on October 12, 1492. Here, they were met by a curious tribe of Taino "Indians", whom eagerly traded with the strange European men. Columbus and his men returned to Spain and spread the news of this rich, desirable land. Christopher Columbus is important because he introduced Europe to North America and a trade developed because of this (it is disputed if he really "discovered" America). His journey also led to wealth for some European nations, including the Spanish (Golden Century) and also led to more exploration.

### **Joint-Stock Company:**

The joint-stock company was a new form of business organization that started in England in the mid-1500s and later spread across Europe. In these companies, wealthy men would invest money and receive a percentage of the total profit. Since the English crown rarely spent money on colonies they believed might fail, colonies were funded by joint-stock companies throughout the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Colonists, who were business employees, would then travel to the newly funded colonies and the stockholders regulated their behavior. Joint-stock companies are important because they had set up more colonies, such as Jamestown. Without joint-stock companies, fewer colonies would have been set up and less people would have settled in America because the wealthy weren't always ready to invest in the New World. It also shows the differences between the north and south of the new World; the north was settled for religion while the south was settled for money.

**The Elect:**

The elect were Puritans who had been predetermined by God to be saved. The idea of the elect came from European Calvinists around the mid-1500s, but this idea spread to the American colonies as well. The process to becoming a member of the elect, also known as a saint, was a very difficult one. To become a member of the elect, one had to go through the *conversion experience* and then *sanctification*. Only saints were able to join Puritan congregations, vote, and take communion. The Elect were important because the society became stressed due to the strict rules of the religion. It was difficult to become an elect, and thus the Half Way Covenant was created. Puritans themselves became less strict and essentially destroyed the strength of Puritanism. The work ethic did, however, last for much longer and helped colonizing America.

**Columbian Exchange:**

The Columbian Exchange was the trade of products across the Atlantic that began after Christopher Columbus returned to Spain after his 1492 voyage. After the news of the New World reached Europe, the late 1400s and early 1500s saw a shift in world trade. From the Americas came corn, tobacco, and cocoa; Africa brought sugar cane, slaves, and disease; Europe traded horses, guns, and manufactured goods. The Columbian Exchange is important because the world was introduced to new products and trade patterns changed. Disease wiped out American natives, leading to the use of African slaves instead.

**Indentured Servants:**

Indentured servants were unemployed English immigrants who travelled to the American colonies in hope of finding work. Many of them came over between the mid-1600s and the early 1700s. In exchange for free passage, servants worked unpaid for a master for around seven years, unless they acquired debt. After paying off their debts, servants were freed and able to start their own families. Indentured servants were vital in the colonies especially because farmers needed laborers to work their fields. Indentured servants are important because they allowed for more crops to be grown, helping their masters make a larger profit and also helping the economy of the colony. After the amount of indentured servants dwindled, the number of African slaves increased. Overall, colonies became more populated as well.

**Mayflower Compact:**

The Mayflower Compact was a contract signed aboard the ship known as the *Mayflower* in 1620 by Separatists originally from England. When the ship landed in Plymouth, off-course and out of Virginia territory, they had no authority controlling them. Because of this, the Mayflower Compact was signed, forming a government based on consent of the people. The compact itself was a social contract that acknowledged the settlers' loyalty to King James I, and also stated that everyone would agree to the rules of the settlement for the sake of their survival. This is important because the Mayflower Compact was the first written framework of government on American soil.

**Bacon's Rebellion:**

Bacon's Rebellion took place in Virginia in the late 1600s. At this time, tensions between natives and settlers began to rise due to the natives' struggle against their declining population while the settlers took more land. Resentments against the governor, William Berkeley, shifted to the natives when the governor's fur trade monopoly profited from the help of natives. Violence ensued, which the governor proposed to stop by constructing a costly chain of forts to protect the colonists. Many poor farmers disliked this costly option, so Nathaniel Bacon, a councilman, was elected to lead a group of men on an Indian slaughter. Berkeley eventually tried to call Bacon back, resulting in the rebels burning Jamestown and forcing Berkeley to flee. This is important because it was the first rebellion of the American colonies, it resulted in the burning of Jamestown, and many natives were captured and forced into slavery during this time. It also led to the end of indentured servitude and the use of African slaves.

**Maryland's Act for Religious Toleration:**

The Act for Religious Toleration was a law drafted by Lord Baltimore in the mid-1600s. Before the law, there was tension in Maryland between Catholics and Protestants, and it led to them arguing about the use of the city's chapel. The law reinforced legal rights of the Catholics and also allowed religious groups to practice their religion without being persecuted. This was the first law that affirmed the liberty of worship. However, it was revoked a few years after being created. This law is important because some believe that it inspired laws later on guaranteeing freedom of religion. It sets the precedent for religious toleration and also shows that there was not religious acceptance in the colonies.

**Roger Williams:**

Roger Williams was an English Protestant theologian in the mid-1600s. He stirred controversy in Massachusetts and soon became a very popular and respected. He believed that church and state should be separate, and because of this idea he was seen as a threat and banished. He went on to found the colony of Rhode Island, and it became a safe place for people suffering from religious persecution. Williams is also known for founding the first Baptist Church in America. He is important because he was one of the first to propose religious freedom and the separation of church and state, and also for his work with the Native Americans. Not only did he promote equality for religions and start a colony, he also was one of the first abolitionists. The intolerance of Massachusetts bay led him to form a colony that was more tolerant.

**John Winthrop:**

While on the ship the *Arabella* during the voyage to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1630, John Winthrop gave a sermon known as "A Model of Christian Charity". He described the city as a utopia and this sermon is known for using the term "City Upon a Hill" to describe the colony and the founding of America. In his sermon, Winthrop explained that the differences in people allowed for God to be honored in different ways and that the rich and poor needed to help one another out. He also explained that a common need among the colonists was necessary and brought the community together. Having such a godly community, he hoped, would shame England into repenting and fixing itself. This revival of piety would lead to an entire nation of saints. This is important because the Puritans started out different than other colonies, since they believed that self-restraint should stop merchants from taking advantage of buyers and they hoped to turn their religious idealism into a community. It set the tone for Massachusetts and helped its development.