

Period 2: 1607-1754

AP US History ■ Period 2

AP US History



What we will cover

- 1 Four Colonizers, Four Strategies
- 2 The Regions of British Colonies
- 3 Transatlantic Trade
- 4 Interactions with American Indians
- 5 Slavery in the British Colonies
- 6 Colonial Society and Culture

1

Four Colonizers, Four Strategies

Match the strategy, then explain its mechanism

Period 2: **1607–1754**. These are teaching summaries, not historical quotations:

- A Few European settlers rely on Native trading partners to obtain furs for export.
- B Many farming settlers seek additional land for agricultural settlement.
- C Resource extraction relies on institutions controlling Native labour and society.

Match French/Dutch, British and Spanish colonial patterns to the cases. Explain how the economic goal shaped relationships, rather than only naming an empire.

Connect the strategy to the relationship

A: France and the Netherlands. Exporting **fur** 毛皮 relied on Native trading partners and **trade alliances** 贸易同盟.

B: Britain. Comparatively many **male and female migrants** 男女移民 sought land. Agricultural settlement contributed to Native displacement and conflict.

C: Spain. Institutions **subjugating** 征服 Native communities helped extract wealth and control labour; conversion and other imperial aims also mattered.

These are broad patterns with variation, not complete accounts of every colony.

Does an alliance disprove a settlement pattern?

A student argues: *“Only French and Dutch colonists made Native alliances. British settlers wanted land, so they never made alliances.”*

The course evidence states that French, Dutch, British and Spanish colonies all allied with Native groups. Explain why the student's claim fails.

Does a British alliance erase land conflict? Does a French trading alliance prove that French colonization was always peaceful? Identify what further context matters.

A pattern is not a universal rule

The word “never” fails. British alliances could coexist with agricultural expansion, displacement and military conflict.

French and Dutch trading partnerships were important patterns; an alliance does not establish the absence of conflict elsewhere or later.

Native communities pursued their own diplomatic and economic goals. Explain the **place, period and purpose** of a relationship before generalising.

Imperial goals influenced relationships alongside migration, local conditions and the actions of Native peoples.

Settlement, land and Native diplomacy

Agricultural settlement increased demand for Native land.

British land demand contributed to displacement and conflict. Trade and alliances also occurred: explain the particular relationship rather than treating empire names as universal rules.

Goals helped shape relationships

EMPIRE	WHAT IT WANTED	TYPICAL PATTERNS
SPAIN	wealth extracted from the land	encomienda labour, a formal caste system
FRANCE & the NETHERLANDS	trade, above all in fur	few settlers, alliances and intermarriage with American Indians
BRITAIN	land to settle and farm	many male and female migrants, displacement, sustained conflict

Fur trading relied on Native partners; agricultural settlement increased land demand. All four empires also formed Native alliances.

2

The Regions of British Colonies

Compare regional economies with evidence

Chesapeake

Tobacco exports; extensive indentured service and increasing use of enslaved African labour.

New England

Family farms, fishing, shipping and commerce; a mixed economy.

Give one economic difference and connect it to the labour patterns. Give one similarity: consider each region's place in Atlantic commerce.

Do these typical patterns establish that slavery was absent from New England?

A comparison needs both sides and a connection

Difference: Chesapeake tobacco production was labour-intensive and increasingly relied on enslaved Africans after extensive use of indentured servants. New England combined family farming with fishing, shipping and commerce.

Connection: different production patterns helped shape different labour arrangements. **Similarity:** both regions participated in Atlantic markets.

These are dominant patterns. Slavery also existed in New England; not every Chesapeake worker had the same status. A common pattern does not mean everyone followed it.

Did climate determine the labour system?

A student writes: *“Warm weather caused slavery. Geography determined the crop, the workers and the whole society.”*

Explain one environmental influence using the regional evidence. Then identify two other factors that shaped colonial labour and society.

Use export demand, migration and law. Explain why the climate did not require people to enslave others, and why the claim fails to account for northern slavery.

Explain interacting factors, not inevitability

Environment: long growing seasons supported some plantation crops. **Markets:** export demand made particular crops profitable.

Migration and decisions: available labour and colonists' coercive choices shaped production. **Law:** colonial governments established racial and hereditary slavery, protecting and enforcing that system.

Climate influenced possibilities; it did not make enslavement inevitable. All British colonies participated in slavery to varying degrees.

A stronger explanation links several factors and states the limits of its comparison.

Four regions, one set of questions, in detail

	New England	Middle colonies	Chesapeake	Southern coast and West Indies
Geography	cold, thin soil, short growing season	fertile, temperate	warm, long season, navigable rivers	long growing season, subtropical
Economy	mixed farming, fishing, shipping	cereal crops (the 'bread colonies')	tobacco	rice and sugar
Labour	family labour	family labour and indentured servants	servants; growing use of enslaved Africans	enslaved Africans, a majority in places
Society	Puritan towns, high life expectancy	most ethnically and religiously diverse	scattered plantations, high mortality	rigid racial hierarchy

Environment, markets, migration and law interacted

Regional patterns: environment, markets, migration and law interacted; geography alone did not determine society

The Regions of British Colonies

British North America was not one place. Four regions developed distinct societies.

- The **Chesapeake** 切萨皮克 and **North Carolina** grew prosperous exporting **tobacco** 烟草, a labour-intensive crop. Labour came first from **indentured servants** 契约仆役 and increasingly from enslaved Africans.
- The **New England** colonies, initially settled by **Puritans** 清教徒, developed around small towns with **family farms** 家庭农场, a mixed economy, and unusually high life expectancy.
- The **middle colonies** supported a flourishing export economy based on **cereal crops** 谷物, and attracted the broadest range of European migrants, producing the most **ethnically and religiously diverse** 族群与宗教多元 region.
- The colonies of the **southern Atlantic coast** and the **British West Indies** used long growing seasons for **rice** 稻米 and **sugar** 蔗糖, cash crops so labour-hungry that enslaved Africans became a majority of the population in places.

The Regions of British Colonies, continued

One political feature was shared.

Distance from London, and Britain's initially **lax attention** 松散管理, let the colonies create **self-governing institutions** 自治机构 – colonial assemblies that later shaped resistance to imperial control.

3

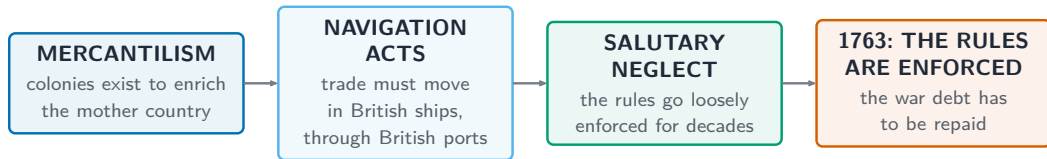
Transatlantic Trade

Transatlantic Trade

An **Atlantic economy** 大西洋经济 developed in which goods – and enslaved Africans and American Indians – were exchanged around the ocean rim. Continuing trade increased the flow of goods in and out of American Indian communities, changing them too.

The **Navigation Acts** 航海条例 required colonial trade to move in British ships through British ports.

The laws were old; the enforcement was new



In between, colonists grew used to **trading freely and governing themselves**. The anger of the 1760s is a reaction to the **change**, not to the laws – which were already a century old

4

Interactions with American Indians

Interactions with American Indians

Contact produced both **accommodation** 调适 and **conflict** 冲突, and the balance differed by empire and region.

British expansion led to sustained **military conflict** 军事冲突 with American Indians over land, resources, and boundaries.

5

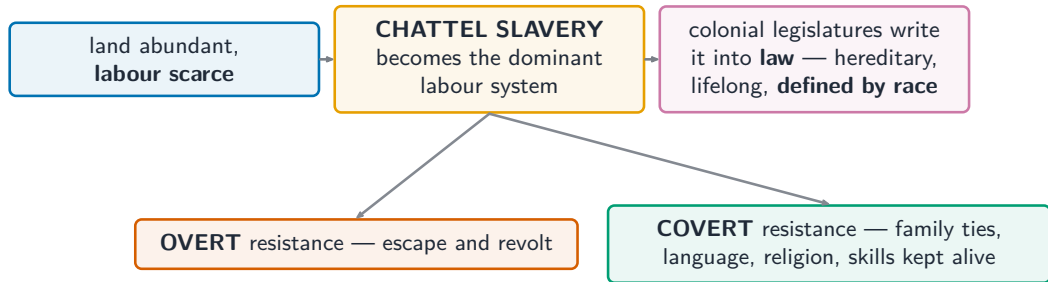
Slavery in the British Colonies

Slavery in the British Colonies

All the British colonies participated in the **Atlantic slave trade** to varying degrees, because land was abundant and labour scarce.

Slavery became hereditary, life-long, and defined by race – a legal structure, not merely a practice.

From a labour shortage to a legal racial system



The exam expects **both** kinds. An answer that mentions only rebellion has left out most of the evidence

How slavery hardened into law

Chattel slavery

Chattel slavery made a person property in law – inheritable, saleable, and permanent.

A strict racial system

Colonial statutes built a **strict racial system**: status followed the mother, and conversion no longer brought freedom.

Resistance

Enslaved people used **overt and covert means of resistance** – revolt and escape, and also work slowdowns, feigned illness, sabotage, and keeping family and religion alive.

Why the law changed

Life expectancy rose and indentured servants became harder to control, so planters wrote a permanent, inheritable status into law.

Slavery in the colonies was not one system. Say which colony and which decade – the difference is usually the point of the question.

6

Colonial Society and Culture

Colonial Society and Culture

Two opposite processes ran at once.

Toward **diversity**: the presence of different European religious and ethnic groups produced a significant degree of **pluralism** 多元并存, most visibly in the middle colonies.

Convergence and divergence in colonial society

toward similarity

a gradual **Anglicization** 英国化 – British goods, print culture, legal forms and political vocabulary

the Enlightenment 启蒙运动

crossed the Atlantic with the same trade, supplying the political language of the 1770s

the First Great Awakening 第一次大觉醒

the religious revivals of the 1730s and 1740s – and the first genuinely intercolonial experience

toward difference

the goals of European leaders and colonists increasingly **diverged** 分歧

resistance

colonists opposed imperial control by **overt and covert means** long before 1775

the Pueblo Revolt 普韦布洛起义

1680 – organised resistance that drove the Spanish out of New Mexico for over a decade

Anglicization and divergence happen **at the same time**, and that tension is what the period's comparison prompts are built on.

7

Comparison in Period 2

Comparison in Period 2

The unit ends with **comparison** 比较, the reasoning skill this period is built to teach: the regions differ enough that almost any claim about "the colonies" needs qualifying.

Worked example – “briefly describe”

2025 Set 1, Q3(A): *“Briefly describe one political development in British North America from 1607 to 1753.”*

- **Teacher-written model:** *“Colonial assemblies such as the Virginia House of Burgesses developed powers over taxation and spending, which gave colonists practical experience of representative self-government before 1754.”*
- Describe what the political institution did; an isolated name is insufficient.

The official scheme requires relevant characteristics. This teacher-written model describes assemblies' functions within the specified period.

Exam tips

- Explain regional differences through environment, export demand, migration, labour choices and law. Geography alone did not determine society.
- Never treat "the colonies" as one place. A comparison question wants New England *against* the Chesapeake, with evidence from each.
- **Mercantilism** is the theory, the **Navigation Acts** are the policy, and **salutary neglect** is the lax enforcement that made later enforcement feel like tyranny.
- For slavery, give **both** overt and covert resistance; and note that slave codes made slavery *racial and hereditary*, which is the change being tested.
- The **Pueblo Revolt** is the go-to example of successful native resistance; British-Indian conflict is the go-to contrast with French trade alliances.
- Match your answer to the task verb. **Briefly describe** takes one or two accurate sentences, while **Evaluate the extent** needs a thesis that takes a position.

8

Recap

Period 2 – key takeaways

1

Regions

environment, markets, migration
and law interact

2

Empire

mercantilism / Navigation Acts /
salutary neglect

3

Slavery

racial and hereditary; overt *and*
covert resistance

4

Compare

never “the colonies”; New
England vs Chesapeake

Check yourself

- 1 Why did Chesapeake labour differ from New England's?
- 2 Mercantilism, Navigation Acts, salutary neglect – which is the policy?
- 3 What did slave codes change about slavery?
- 4 Name one successful Native resistance in this period.

Answers: tobacco demand, labour arrangements and law shaped regional patterns ▪
Navigation Acts ▪ racial and hereditary ▪ Pueblo Revolt