

## Information on the Colony of Pennsylvania

**Directions:** Use this information as well as your textbook to create a brochure to entice people to come to your colony. The Chamber of Commerce Representative should read this handout aloud. Then, as a group, create a brochure that includes all of this information—as well as visuals, graphics, and illustrations.

### Founder

Many European countries had claims on the land called Pennsylvania. Samuel de Champlain, a French explorer, had been in the area in 1608. Sweden and the Netherlands also made claims on the colony. But England won the dispute, saying the land had been claimed for them by John Cabot in 1497.

In 1681 the English king gave the land grant of Pennsylvania to William Penn, to whom he owed \$100,000. He did not have the money to pay the debt, so he gave him the land. Penn was a Quaker and had been imprisoned for his different religious beliefs. The king probably thought that this would be a good way to get Penn out of England.

### Reasons for Being Founded

William Penn was glad to receive the land grant. He wanted to set up a colony where all people would be allowed to worship in any way they chose. He made Pennsylvania a haven for people suffering from religious persecution.

### People in the Colony

English Quakers followed Penn to the colony. Other Protestants being persecuted by Catholics in Europe soon followed: Lutherans, Mennonites, Amish, and Moravians from Germany; Presbyterians from Scotland and Ireland; Huguenots from France; and Jews from all over Europe.

Even though the Quaker religion looked down on the ownership of slaves, many of the colonists did own slaves, including William Penn himself. Slaves made up about 20 percent of the population.

### Climate and Geography

The colony was covered with rolling hills, trees, and fertile soil. The weather was hot and humid in the summer and cold, with snow, in the winter.

### **Economy**

Most colonists were farmers who raised vegetables, corn, and wheat and grazed dairy cattle. There were also some merchants and tradesmen (cobblers, silversmiths, blacksmiths, etc.) in the towns. Some colonists were in the lumber business, clearing trees for farmland and selling the timber for shipbuilding and export to England.

### **Religion**

Pennsylvania had a strong tradition of religious tolerance and welcomed settlers seeking religious freedom. Penn even named the capital, Philadelphia, the “City of Brotherly Love.”

### **Politics and Government**

Pennsylvania also offered political freedom and self-government. Free men in the colony elected 200 representatives to the Pennsylvania General Assembly each year. These men voted on laws that were proposed by the Provincial Council, 72 men also elected annually. A Governor oversaw the legislature.

## Information on the Colony of New York

**Directions:** Use this information as well as your textbook to create a brochure to entice people to come to your colony. The Chamber of Commerce Representative should read this handout aloud. Then, as a group, create a brochure that includes all of this information—as well as visuals, graphics, and illustrations.

### Founder

A French explorer and mapper, Samuel de Champlain, described his explorations through New York in 1608. A year later Henry Hudson, an Englishman working for the Dutch, claimed the area in the name of the Netherlands. It was to be called New Netherlands.

### Reasons for Being Founded

The Dutch granted the charter for the colony to the Dutch East India Company, which set up trading posts and exploited the area's rich natural resources. In 1664 the colony was surrendered to the British and its name was changed to New York. The Netherlands and England had been at war in Europe, and European wars often spread to the "New World" in this manner.

### People in the Colony

The first white settlers represented the Dutch West India Company. Dutch patrons (called "Patroons") also set up "patroonships," in which 50 people could receive a large grant of land if they promised to farm it and share the profits with the patron. Some English Puritans, who had fled to Holland to escape religious persecution in their homeland, received permission to move to the colony to find religious and political freedom.

Other settlers came as indentured servants. About one out of five people in the colony were African slaves, who were allowed to buy their freedom if they could ever come up with the money. There were also many Native American tribes in the area who were driven further north by the arrival of the Europeans.

### Climate and Geography

New York had hot, humid summers and bitterly cold, windy winters with much snow.

The terrain was swampy near the coast and the Hudson River. Further north were mountains covered with forests. The ground was rocky, but the soil was good for farming once it was cleared of rocks and trees.

### **Economy**

Colonists made their living in a variety of ways: fur trapping, lumber trading, shipping, the slave trade, and as merchants and tradesmen in the colony's towns.

Most colonists were farmers, who cleared large acres of land by hand to grow crops. Corn was the most popular, since it could be eaten by people and animals. Also grown were flax (to make fabric), wheat, vegetables, and tobacco. Some colonists mined for iron to send to England for manufacturing into finished goods.

### **Religion**

New York was situated between the Puritan colonies of New England and the Catholic Colony of Maryland, so the settlers were of many faiths. They had considerable religious freedom.

### **Politics and Government**

The colony was run by a Governor appointed by the King of England. He made all the laws, and there was little self-government. Sometimes, the colonists were able to gain more freedom (the right to elect the mayor of New York City, the chance to set up an Assembly), but these freedoms did not last long.