SSUSH1- Compare and Contrast the development of English settlement and colonization during the 17th century.

The settlement of permanent English colonies in North America, beginning with Jamestown in 1607, further cemented the development of an already emerging and complex Atlantic World. The convergence of North American, South American, European, and African peoples in the western hemisphere was a complicated mix of conquest, trade, and religious mission. Spanish, French, and English colonies existed simultaneously in North America, each with different objectives and different approaches to the American Indians they encountered. Likewise, differences among the thirteen English colonies existed in terms of their founding purposes, interaction with American Indians, and economic development. England’s various North American colonies were, however, united under their mother country’s strong focus on extracting colonial resources through mercantilism and trans-Atlantic trade even though this objective did not always align with the colonists’ growing desire for economic, religious, and political autonomy.

a. Investigate how mercantilism and trans-Atlantic trade led to the development of colonies.

Although many English colonists came to North America searching for religious or political opportunity, it was economic opportunity that fueled the ambition of other English colonists, as well as, their mother country. Investors sought financial returns for their colonial ventures. England sought to extract resources from North America in order to compete with their European rivals for wealth and power. By the 1650s, England was heavily entrenched in trans-Atlantic trade based on mercantilism.

Mercantilism is an economic theory based on reducing a country’s imports while expanding its exports in order to maximize wealth. In the highly competitive European world of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, wealth equated to power. Thus, mercantilism inspired European governments, including England, to promote American colonies as sources of raw materials not readily available in the mother country. Some of the most important resources England plucked from its colonies included lumber, sugar, wool, tobacco, rice, and indigo. These raw materials were then used in England to produce manufactured goods for export to other European countries and back to the colonists in North America.

A favorable trade balance resulted for England in the colonial arrangement. Raw materials that were scarce in England were acquired from their colonial possessions. Simultaneously, the colonies were a ready market for the manufactured products produced in England from the raw materials. The trans-Atlantic trade network that resulted led to various colonial labor arrangements and restrictive policies to ensure England maximized its mercantilist potential.

England implemented a series of Navigation Acts in the mid-1600s to ensure a favorable trade arrangement with the colonies. The laws were designed to keep England’s own colonies from competing with their mother country by mandating three fundamental criteria for trans-
Atlantic trade. First, all goods shipped to or from English North America had to travel on English ships. Second, any goods being imported to the colonies from Europe had to first be processed through an English port. And third, most colonial resources could only be exported to England. The Navigation Acts restricted the profits colonists could receive for their products, hindered the development of large scale manufacturing in the colonies, and forced colonists to pay high prices for goods they were only allowed to purchase from England. One positive effect of the Navigation Acts on the colonies was the emergence of ship building as a viable industry in New England. Since the Navigation Acts required all goods to travel on English ships, there was an instant demand for more ships to be built from the lumber readily available in North America. Another effect of the Navigation Acts was increased smuggling of goods into North America by colonists who sought their own lucrative trade practices - regardless of legality.

England’s trans-Atlantic trade flourished under the mercantilist system. **Trans-Atlantic trade**, sometimes referred to as Triangular Trade, often took a three step voyage around the Atlantic rim. First, English ships loaded with rum, cloth, and other manufactured goods sailed to Africa, where they were traded for Africans as part of the slave trade. Then, in the Middle Passage (discussed further in SSUSH2), the slaves were transported on a brutal voyage to the Americas and sold there as a forced labor commodity to colonial landowners. The third step of the journey transported American raw materials to England to be made into the manufactured goods that would start the cycle again.

Colonial labor was critical for the production of materials England needed for a profitable mercantilist system. Labor needs were first filled through the use of **indentured servants** and then later by permanently enslaved Africans. Indentured servants were typically lower class Englishmen who could not afford to pay for the voyage to North America but saw life in the colonies as an opportunity for economic advancement they would otherwise never have in England. Indentured servants worked for a land owner in exchange for their passage to North America. The land owner obtained labor and the indentured servant obtained the future opportunity to own land after working off their debt over a period of approximately four to seven years.

Tensions began to develop over the continual need to supply land to newly freed indentured servants. African slaves were introduced as a labor source beginning in 1619 (discussed in SSUSH2). Eventually, plantation owners came to rely on African slaves as a more profitable and renewable source of labor.

England developed resource-producing colonies in North America primarily to fuel mercantilism and to amass wealth and power over their European rivals. The resulting trans-Atlantic trade system was regulated through Navigation Acts and led to various labor sources being used by colonists to meet the resource demands of England.

b. **Explain the development of the Southern Colonies, including but not limited to reasons established, impact of location and place, relations with American Indians, and economic development.**
The Southern Colonies included Virginia, Maryland, Carolina (which eventually split into North Carolina and South Carolina), and Georgia. The location of the Southern Colonies, with the region’s rich soil and long growing season, fostered the development of strong agricultural producing colonies. Deep rivers and the distance of the fall line from the coast meant that inland farmers were able to ship tobacco, indigo, corn, and rice directly from their farms to European markets. The economic development of the Southern Colonies reflected this geological line. Subsistence family farms tended to develop north of the fall line. These farms grew primarily what the family needed along with a small cash crop used to purchase or barter for goods such as salt, gunpowder, lead, and iron tools. Commercial farms tended to develop south of the fall line and grew primarily high yield, labor intensive cash crops such as rice, tobacco, and indigo. As a result, slave labor was more common south of the fall line while less common north of the same line.

Relations with American Indians in the Southern Colonies began somewhat as a peaceful coexistence. As more English colonists began to arrive and encroach further into native lands, the relationship became more violent. The complexity of the interactions with American Indians in the Southern Colonies grew as the region’s economic development grew. Once large scale cash crops of tobacco, rice, and indigo proved highly profitable in the mercantilist system, more colonists arrived seeking economic opportunity. The growing English population in the Southern Colonies required more of the American Indians’ land for crop cultivation, which fueled increased tension between the groups.

Virginia

The first permanent English colony in North America was founded in 1607 at Jamestown, Virginia. The establishment of Jamestown was a business venture of London’s Virginia Company, a joint-stock company, which raised capital for the expedition to America by selling shares of company stock to investors. Once financed by investors, the Virginia Company planned to send colonists to find gold and other valuable natural resources in America. The spoils would be sent back to England to pay off investors and make a handsome profit. The Virginia Company was granted a royal charter by King James I in 1606. The charter gave the Virginia Company the authority to govern and settle the North American colony in the name of England. There were 104 settlers who arrived to settle Jamestown in 1607.

Initially, the colony suffered mightily. Disease, famine, and Indian attacks all hindered the Jamestown settlement from fulfilling the Virginia Company’s vision for the colony. The colony was planted along the James River, which bred deadly diseases such as malaria and dysentery. A lack of leadership also caused the colonists to be unprepared to sustain themselves through the first winter. Food and shelter had not been the priority for the wealth seeking early colonists to Jamestown.

Captain John Smith eventually took forceful control of the colony, mandating much needed discipline to the remaining colonists. His famous order, “He that will not work will not eat,”
encouraged more farming and the construction of a better fortification. Smith was not always popular among the settlers, but his brand of leadership helped save the fledgling settlement.

Tobacco production was another development that helped to save the Jamestown colony and make it more lucrative. John Rolfe, who later married the American Indian princess Pocahontas, arrived in Jamestown in 1610 from the Caribbean. He experimented with tobacco seeds to produce a crop that became very desirable in Europe. Having survived the starving time of Jamestown’s early years and secured the financial importance of the colony with tobacco production, Virginia emerged as a critical component of England’s mercantilist system.

The relationship between English settlers at Jamestown and the area’s American Indians was complex. Chief Powhatan was the principal leader of all the Powhatan tribes in the Chesapeake Bay region when the English settlers arrived in 1607. Powhatan was wary of the Jamestown colonists but maintained primarily a peaceful coexistence with the desperate Englishmen during their first few years in North America. The natives provided much needed corn during the lean winter months and there were only minor skirmishes between the colliding cultures in Virginia.

John Rolfe’s arrival in Jamestown changed many aspects of the colony. Accounts of Rolfe’s marriage to Chief Powhatan’s daughter, Pocahontas, differ dramatically between the English version of a consensual marriage and the American Indian version of the story that depicts a kidnapping and forced marriage. Regardless of the circumstances of the marriage, the relationship between the Englishmen and Virginia’s American Indians declined rapidly as more settlers arrived to seek fortune in tobacco cultivation. The increased number of settlers took greater amounts of land from the Powhatans. The death of Chief Powhatan, who had remained relatively peaceful with the Englishmen, also marked a change in the relationship Jamestown had with the region’s American Indians. Powhatan’s brother, Opechancanough, came to power in 1618 and subsequently launched large scale attacks on the quickly growing English colony.

Maryland

In 1632, King Charles I granted Lord Baltimore proprietary rights to land in the Chesapeake Bay region to plant a colony. The land was a reward for the noble’s service to the king. The resulting colony of Maryland was settled initially as a haven for Catholics who were being persecuted by Protestants. Because the Chesapeake Bay region was fertile ground for tobacco production, similar to land in neighboring Virginia, Maryland’s Catholics were quickly outnumbered in their own colony. In an effort to preserve the rights of Catholics in Maryland, the Lord Baltimore quickly had the Act of Toleration passed in the Maryland legislative assembly. This colonial law guaranteed religious freedom in Maryland to all Christians – Protestant and Catholic. As was true in Virginia, Maryland became a lucrative colony for tobacco production even though its initial purpose was religious in nature. The colony’s location, which was conducive to agriculture, was more influential in its development than the plans of the proprietor.
Carolina (North and South)

The Carolina colony was originally a single proprietary colony located between Virginia and Spanish Florida. The land was given in 1663 to eight nobles who had helped Charles II reclaim the monarchy from Oliver Cromwell in what is known as the Restoration. The eight nobles who were given Carolina were referred to as the Lord Proprietors of the vast colony.

Location impacted the development of the Carolina colony as it had the other Southern Colonies of Virginia and Maryland. Southern Carolina along the coast became a great producer of rice and indigo on large commercial plantations. The city of Charleston in the southern Carolina colony was a transportation hub for exporting the valuable cash crops. Northern Carolina, above the fall line, had a different soil and climate, which did not lend itself as readily to rice and indigo cultivation. Instead, the farmers in the northern region of the colony developed small tobacco farms. The Carolina Colony was officially divided in 1712 after the wide ranging single colony proved too difficult to manage. South Carolina, with its valuable Charleston based resources, was then taken from the proprietors by the king and made a royal colony in 1719. Later, in 1729, the proprietors sold their shares of North Carolina to the Crown making it too a royal colony.

Georgia

Georgia was the last English colony established in North America prior to the Revolutionary War. In 1732, Georgia was created by England for two purposes. First, and foremost, England wanted to create a defensive buffer between the dangerous Spaniards in Florida and the increasingly valuable South Carolina plantations and Charleston port. The second purpose was to reduce the number of debtors crowding London jails by sending many of them to the new Georgia colony for a fresh start and to provide defense of South Carolina.

General James Oglethorpe and the twenty trustees who were given the charter for Georgia regulated the colony and its inhabitants with strict rules. Land holdings were limited in size to small farms, slavery was banned, and alcohol prohibited. The trustees believed the strict limits on land holdings would prevent the wide economic stratification of the population that had developed in Carolina. After the original wave of settlers established the colony at Savannah under Oglethorpe and the trustees’ strict guidance, greater resistance to the rules developed over time. The Georgia colonists wanted greater autonomy and local legislative participation that settlers of the other twelve colonies enjoyed. By the 1740s, the trustees had given in to most of the Georgia colonists’ demands.

c. **Explain the development of the New England Colonies, including but not limited to reasons established, impact of location and place, relations with American Indians, and economic development.**
The New England Colonies (Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire) were marked by poor, thin, rocky soils and a relatively short growing season that made farming difficult. However, plentiful forests and proximity to the sea led New Englanders to eventually develop a thriving ship building industry. Fishing, whaling, and commercial trade from harbors such as Boston became important economic engines for the region. New Englanders became the merchants of the colonies and New England-based ships were the carriers of colonial goods in the trans-Atlantic trade.

Whereas England’s Southern Colonies were developed for primarily economic gain, the New England Colonies developed initially as religious outposts by various subjugated groups. In particular, Calvinists in England faced increased persecution for their desire to reform the Anglican Church (also known as the Church of England) and their opposition to the growing power of the English monarchy. These religious dissenters, known as Puritans, disagreed with the Protestant Anglican Church’s continued use of Catholic rituals and traditions. The Puritans wanted to “purify” their Protestant sect of its heavily entrenched Catholic features. Although the Puritans came to North America for religious reasons, they were not religiously tolerant of those who did not fully comply with their views of religion.

American Indians were viewed by the Puritans as needing to be saved from their sinful ways since they were not Christians. In the early years of English colonization, the relationship between the American Indians and the Puritans was based primarily on trade and diplomacy given that the Englishmen were greatly outnumbered. The Puritans did not openly embrace the American Indians but relied on them for help in the difficult early years for survival. As the English population increased, so did the conflict with natives of the area. A series of bloody wars (King Philip’s War and the Pequot Wars) ensued during the colonial period between the Puritans and the American Indians of New England.

Anglican Church Conflict Leads Puritans to Colonize New England

There were two types of Puritans – separatist Puritans and non-separatist Puritans. The separatist Puritans, also known as Pilgrims, were no longer interested in simply reforming the Anglican Church. Instead, the Pilgrims planned to organize a completely “separate” church without the King’s influence- hence the name separatist Puritans. The non-separatist Puritans, or simply Puritans, wanted the Anglican Church to “purify” itself of what they saw as problematic Catholic traditions. They wanted to remain part of the Anglican Church if it could become the truly Protestant faith it claimed to be.

Using their influence and wealth, the Puritan leadership was able to acquire a majority share in a trading company. Using the trading company as a front, the Puritans moved the headquarters of the London Company of Plymouth to Massachusetts. Afterwards, many Puritans and their families immigrated to the American colonies in order to escape persecution. Thus, the New England Colonies were established by separatist Pilgrims at Plymouth in 1620 and the non-separatist Puritans at Massachusetts Bay in 1630. Like the Virginia colonists, the New England settlers had similar problems acclimating to their new environment and suffered substantial
losses in the early years. Eventually in 1691, Plymouth and Massachusetts Bay colonies were combined into one Massachusetts colony.

Plymouth Colony

The Pilgrims set sail on the Mayflower in 1620, with approximately 100 passengers, headed for Virginia. After a storm blew them off course, their landing on the North American coast was a few hundred miles north of their intended destination. The group decided to stay in the undeveloped area and create a new colony called Plymouth. Before disembarking the Mayflower, the Pilgrims created and signed the Mayflower Compact. The document is important in the study of the early colonial period in that it was a pledge by the colonists to govern themselves through majority rule.

Massachusetts Bay Colony

A group of about 1000 non-separatist Puritans were led by John Winthrop on their voyage to North America. They established the Massachusetts Bay colony near present-day Boston. While crossing the Atlantic, Winthrop set the tone for the Puritan colonists in his famous “Model of Christian Charity” speech, which is often referred to as the “city upon a hill” speech. He challenged Puritans to work as hard as they possibly could to make the new colony thrive since the world would be watching to see if they were successful. Essentially, their ability to prosper as a colony through hard work would prove their devotion to God and be a symbol to the world. Any person who was not completely committed to the overall success of the colony would not be allowed to remain.

Strict Puritan rules and an essential work ethic resulted from Winthrop’s pivotal speech to the colonists. Excerpts from this speech are also effective in helping students understand why the Puritans were so regimented in their governing of Massachusetts Bay. The Puritans tightly controlled the political and social structure of the community. Communities were run using town meetings. Voting rights were limited to men who belonged to the church, and church membership was tightly controlled by each minister and congregation. Towns were run as direct democracies with each voting member having a direct role in the administration of government. The church was the central force in governing the community. As a result of their strict religious beliefs, the Puritans were not tolerant of religions that differed from their own. Frequently, those who disagreed with Puritan ideology and practices were banished from the colony (see Rhode Island below).

In England, the monarchy was restored to power in 1660. The Crown decided to assert control over semi-independent Massachusetts. In 1686, King Charles II canceled the Massachusetts Charter. To get more control over trade with the colonies, James II (who followed Charles II as King of England) combined colonies throughout New England into a single territory, the Dominion of New England. James appointed his own governor, Sir Edmund Amdros, to be the administrator of the Dominion and govern it as a royal colony. The colonists greatly disliked this centralized authority and overthrew the royal governor. Events in England led to the dissolution of the Dominion of New England, but Massachusetts remained a royal colony.
Political turmoil may have been a factor in one of the most notorious incidents in colonial American history. In 1692, the Salem Witch Trials took place. The incident began when three girls, ill with symptoms including convulsions and “fits,” accused several local residents of using witchcraft to cause the illness. The hysteria spread and led to over 150 Massachusetts colonists being accused of witchcraft. Of the 150 accused, 29 were convicted and 19 hanged. At least six more people died in prison. Contributing causes of the Salem Witch Trials included extreme religious faith, stress from a growing population, deteriorating relations with American Indians, and the narrow opportunities for women and girls to participate in Puritan society.

Initially, relations with the American Indians living in the coastal regions of New England were cordial. Each side engaged in a profitable exchange of trade goods. However, as the English colony grew in size, so did the tension between the Puritans and Native Americans. King Philip’s War (1675-1676) was an early and bloody conflict between English and regional American Indian tribal groups. King Philip, or Metacom, was the regional leader of the American Indians. The conflict originated as the Puritan community spread out from Boston and took more land from the natives. Additionally, some tribal members had converted to Christianity disrupting traditional political and cultural ties among the region’s tribes. Many colonists died in the war, but it also caused a heavy loss of life among the American Indian population. As a result, large areas of southern New England were opened to English settlement.

Rhode Island

The Puritans did not tolerate people in their colony who ran afoul of the church’s teachings and rules. Banishment from the colony was a common action taken against those who did not uphold the Puritan ideals. Roger Williams was a Puritan minister who faced banishment when his teachings emphasized the limitations of the church to control an individual’s conscience. Once forced out of the colony, Williams left Boston with a few supporters and settled a new colony to the south on the Narragansett Bay. Providence, in the new Rhode Island colony, was founded by Williams in 1636. Two unique characteristics of the Rhode Island colony were 1) American Indians were treated more respectfully and they were paid for their land and 2) true religious toleration was practiced in the colony. Colonists were allowed to practice any religion in Rhode Island.

Anne Hutchinson was another colonist who was banished from Massachusetts. As a female who challenged the Puritan ministerial leadership, Hutchinson was brought to trial. She defended herself at trial against the famed John Winthrop. Although Hutchinson defended herself in an impressive manner, she was ultimately forced from the colony. She, too, fled to Rhode Island with her family.

Connecticut
Another group of Puritans left Massachusetts Bay in 1636. **Thomas Hooker** was a Puritan minister who differed with the church over the colonists’ individual participation in governing. Massachusetts was governed by the church’s leadership and Hooker’s ideas challenged the hierarchy. Hooker and his followers established the new colony at Hartford, west of Rhode Island. The newly organized colony made a significant contribution to the foundation of the future United States when it drafted America’s first written constitution, *The Fundamental Orders of Connecticut* in 1639. The document established a representative government led by a popularly elected legislature and a governor chosen by that legislature.

Connecticut was also the site of the very bloody **Pequot War** with the area’s American Indians in 1637. The English settlers to Connecticut won a decisive, yet controversial, battle at Mystic Fort. The war resulted in over 400 Pequot men, women, and children being killed when the fort was attacked and burned by colonists.

**New Hampshire**

Originally a portion of the Massachusetts Bay colony, the small settlements in the north eventually formed their own New Hampshire colony in 1679. The region had become somewhat more religiously diverse than the strict Puritan settlement of Massachusetts Bay.

d. **Explain the development of the Mid-Atlantic Colonies, including but not limited to reasons established, impact of location and place, relations with American Indians, and economic development.**

The Dutch established the North American colony of **New Netherland** in 1614. The colony, held by one of England’s European rivals, was founded as a private money-making venture by the Dutch. Trade was centered around New Netherland’s port of **New Amsterdam** (present day New York City). The Dutch colony’s location between England’s Southern and New England colonies in North America made it attractive for English annexation. England did seize control of New Netherland from the Dutch in 1664. New Netherland’s governor, Peter Stuyvesant, negotiated the colony’s transfer to English control without much resistance. The Mid-Atlantic colonial region is noted for its significant cultural and religious diversity due to its unique transition to England as an already established colony.

The English **Mid-Atlantic Colonies** (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware) that were created from the previous Dutch New Netherland colony were geographically fortunate to have good harbors and river systems that significantly shaped their development. The Hudson and Delaware Rivers provided highways to the interior of North America. Furs acquired from American Indians through trade for European goods, such as iron tools and firearms, were transported toward the coast along swift rivers. Later, the region’s farmers were able to use the rivers to ship wheat and other agricultural goods to markets in other colonies and Europe. The rivers also provided the colonists of the mid-Atlantic region with access to manufactured goods imported from European markets. Harbors in cities such as Philadelphia and New York City
allowed the Mid-Atlantic Colonies to grow into major commercial hubs for all of England's American colonies.

American Indians of two major language groups, Algonquian and Iroquois, resided in England’s Mid-Atlantic Colonies. The natives who resided there were typically relied upon for trade with the English and not the target of war, as was often the case in the other English colonial regions. Pennsylvania, in particular, treated the American Indians with more respect as evidenced by William Penn’s insistence on compensating the natives for their land.

The Mid-Atlantic Colonies geographic position united the American coast line under English control. Economically, the region’s colonies developed into strong merchant centers similar to their New England neighbors to the north. However, the Mid-Atlantic Colonies also farmed significant quantities of wheat and corn, similar to the cash crop production of their southern neighbors. The Mid-Atlantic Colonies were truly a bridge between the large scale farmers of the Southern Colonies and the merchants of the New England Colonies due to the geography and climate of the mid-Atlantic region.

**New York**

King Charles II gave the recently acquired New Netherland colony to his brother James, the Duke of York, as a proprietary colony in 1664. The colony and port were renamed New York in honor of the new proprietor. The original settlers from the previous Dutch colony were allowed to remain in residence, speak their own languages, and worship as they pleased. Thus, the cultural and religious diversity of New York was preserved. The colony and New Amsterdam continued to grow as a leading trade center. Colonial maps of New York City reflect some elements still found in the modern layout of the city. Wall Street, location of the United States’ modern financial center, was literally a twelve-foot wall that ran the width of Manhattan Island during the colonial period. The wall’s purpose was to keep the natives out of the settlement at the tip of the island. Broadway is another well-known modern street in New York City today that was also prominent in the colonial New York settlement. The modern city plan of grided streets and avenues begins north of Wall Street. South of Wall Street the old colonial city plan can still be detected.

**New Jersey**

James, the Duke of York who had received the New York colony from his brother, believed the colony was too large to administer. He gave two friends, Lord John Berkeley and Sir George Carteret, part of the land from which the New Jersey colony was created. Land in New Jersey was sold at low prices to attract settlers.

**Pennsylvania**

William Penn was granted land in North America as repayment of a debt the king owed his father, an admiral in the English navy. William Penn belonged to a religious group known as the
Quakers. The Religious Society of Friends, as the Quakers were formally known, were persecuted in England for their beliefs. The basic ideology followed by Quakers is that everyone possesses an “inner light” through which individuals are capable of their own religious interpretation without the need for formal clergy. Women also were afforded full participation in the faith, as they too possessed an inner light. Pennsylvania was established as a Quaker colony in 1682. The Quakers believed in religious toleration and fair treatment of the American Indians in the area. Penn advertised his colony throughout Europe and quickly attracted over 1000 settlers in the first year. Philadelphia rapidly grew to be a vibrant port city engaged in the trans-Atlantic trade of goods. Because of the religious and cultural tolerance practiced by Penn and the Quakers, Pennsylvania exemplifies the diversity for which the Mid-Atlantic Colonies are known.

Delaware

Delaware was originally the North American colony of New Sweden. The Swedish owned colony was taken by the Dutch and absorbed into New Netherland in 1631, prior to England taking possession of the region. The area known today as Delaware remained under the control of the Duke of York until he transferred the land to William Penn in 1682. It remained a part of Pennsylvania until 1704, when Delaware became a separate colony and allowed to govern itself through a legislative assembly.

SSUSH2 – Describe the early English colonial society and investigate the development of its governance.

English colonial society was made up of diverse ethnic groups and individuals who arrived in North America with different goals and under different circumstances. The colonies grew quickly once the initial challenges of settlement were overcome. Economic opportunity and the social mobility that came along with financial gain attracted colonists from many different locations to make the journey to America. Traditions of local self-government also emerged in the different colonies during England’s early period of salutary neglect. Although economic opportunity, religious freedom, and self-government came to be colonial traditions embraced by the colonists, not all people came to the English colonies by choice. Africans, brought against their will to America on the Middle Passage, were forced into permanent slave labor arrangements and did not benefit from the emerging successes of colonial society.

The different English colonial regions (Southern, Mid-Atlantic, and New England) developed different societal characteristics during the early colonial period. England faced significant unemployment as well as political and religious turmoil prior to 1660. These factors prompted immigrants to leave England and travel to America for new opportunities. The Southern Colonies tended to attract young English men seeking financial gain and the New England Colonies, with their religious foundations, tended to attract more English families for settlement. Women in the colonies, and in England, were primarily viewed as inferior to men and possessed few rights. The Mid-Atlantic Colonies had greater ethnic and religious diversity
than the other regions during the early colonial period due to England’s acquisition of the previously settled territory from other European countries (Discussed in SSUSH1d). After 1660, with the Restoration of the English monarchy, England’s economy improved. The more stable conditions led to fewer Englishmen immigrating to America. However, other European countries began to experience greater economic and political difficulties, which resulted in heightened Irish, Scottish, and German immigration to the English American colonies.

Education was emphasized differently in the colonial regions. The New England Colonies tended to support the establishment of schools within their townships. The population of New England Colonies was primarily concentrated into towns, making schools more feasible given the close proximity of students. The New England religious foundation also fostered literacy in order to read the Bible. The Southern colonies, with their strong emphasis on large-scale agriculture, were not conducive for formal schools. Fewer towns and cities formed in the Southern Colonies due to landowners being more spread out for farming. There were few locations where a schoolhouse would have been practical. Instead, wealthy planters in the Southern Colonies who wanted to educate their children relied on privately hired tutors or sent their children to boarding schools in England. The Mid-Atlantic colonies emphasized the importance of education in similar fashion to the New England colonies.

Religion in the colonies also varied by region. New England’s Puritan roots formed the foundation for all aspects of society in the region. As was true concerning education, the scarcity of towns in the Southern Colonies, made formal churches less practical. The steady growth of the Enlightenment in the eighteenth century threatened religion’s influence, whether formal or informal, on colonial society. The Great Awakening was the religious response to the Enlightenment and emphasized more individual relationships with God through the messages of highly engaging revivalist ministers who traveled all thirteen colonies. The religious “awakening” of the early eighteenth century fostered an independence among colonists that would later contribute to the independent political thought of the revolutionary period. The colonies did develop systems of local self-government during the early colonial period. Most colonies had local assemblies to legislate on local matters while still remaining loyal to the king in England. Voter eligibility, even where land ownership was required, was much greater in the colonies than in England. Land was scarce and expensive in England, while more abundant and cheaper in the colonies. Thus, a more representative local government in the colonies existed during the early colonial period. The English Crown had limited involvement in local government matters in the colonies as long as the mercantilist demand for resources was being met. This system of salutary neglect continued until after the French and Indian War in 1763, at which time England faced mounting debt and began to seek greater local control over the colonies. Having the long-standing tradition of colonial self-government made the Crown’s new, stricter policies and taxes less tolerable.

a. Describe European cultural diversity including the contributions of different ethnic and religious groups.
Various European cultures came to be represented in England’s American colonies. Beginning with the first permanent settlement at Jamestown in 1607, approximately 250,000 Europeans migrated to the colonies by 1700. By the outbreak of the American Revolution, the population of England’s colonies in North America was approaching 2.5 million. Most immigrants to the colonies were from England during the early period, but over time immigrants began coming to America from other European countries.

The European ethnic groups living in America during the colonial period included immigrants from Scotland, Ireland, and Germany. Various “push factors” led immigrants from these countries to seek opportunity in England’s American colonies. Scottish immigrants had easier access to the colonies after the political union of Scotland and England was formalized in 1707. Most of the Scottish and Irish immigrants to America settled in the mountainous backcountry frontier located west of established colonial settlements. The unique speech patterns and folks songs characteristic of the United States’ Appalachian region can be traced to the Scottish and Irish colonial immigrants who settled there in the decades prior to the Revolutionary War. German immigrants also began to populate England’s American colonies during the early period. Germany was divided into many small rival principalities whose quests for power led to violence. To finance each principality’s defense, the common people living there were taxed heavily and often forced into military service. The strict control German princes exerted over their lands left the commoners searching for better financial opportunities and autonomy. William Penn recruited these disgruntled Germans to immigrate to his new colony of Pennsylvania. After coming to America, the German immigrants reported back to their kin in Europe that abundant land, plentiful food, cheap taxes, and no forced military service was the way of life in Pennsylvania. Thus, more Germans arrived in America seeking land and opportunity.

The Mid-Atlantic colonies came into English possession (Discussed in SSUSHd) as already ethnically diverse places. The cultures represented in these colonies included Dutch, Swedish, Finnish, German, Scottish, and French. Because the diversity beyond English culture was so great, the various groups had to work together and tolerate the differences between them. Elements of these various European cultures, from language, style, food, and architecture, came together to eventually create a basis for a uniquely American culture.

Various religious groups also made their way to England’s American colonies seeking opportunity for the free practice of their faiths. Puritans firmly established their religious values in the New England colonies of Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth (Discussed in SSUSH1c). Although the Puritans immigrated to the colonies to escape religious persecution, they did not tolerate other religious practices in their own colonies. Maryland was originally established as a colony for Catholics to worship freely and legislated their religious protection through the passage of the colony’s Acts of Toleration in 1649. Rhode Island was accepting of all religions including followers of Protestant sects, Catholicism, Judaism, and Quakerism. The Quakers, however, settled primarily in Pennsylvania and were also very tolerant of other faiths. The diversity of religions, particularly in Rhode Island and Pennsylvania, meant that no one faith held a majority in those colonies. Therefore, no one religion became the established religion in
those colonies. The American tradition of separating church and state was born from this religious diversity in the colonies. The foundation for cultural and religious diversity in the United States was set during the early colonial period with the planting of English colonies that became home to a wide array of immigrants from various countries and religious backgrounds.

b. **Describe the Middle Passage, the growth of the African population and their contributions, including but not limited to architecture, agriculture, and foodways.**

As tobacco farmers and other cash-crop farmers prospered in the colonies, they greatly expanded the size of their farms. Because of the resulting need for workers to plant, grow, and harvest the crops, farmers turned to African slaves to fulfill their growing labor needs. The first Africans arrived in Virginia in 1619. During the colonial period, approximately 250,000 Africans were imported to the colonies. The vast majority of these slaves were concentrated in the agriculturally intensive Southern Colonies, although all of the English colonies allowed and had slaves during the colonial period.

The African slaves who were forced to fill this labor role in the American colonies were brought to North America on crowded and dangerous slave ships along the previously mentioned **Middle Passage** portion of the trans-Atlantic trade routes. The slaves were originally captured through the African slave trade within the African continent and then brought to the West African coast for barter with European slavers. Rum, cloth, weapons, and other manufactured goods from Europe were traded for Africans. Between three and four hundred slaves were packed into cargo holds of slave ships bound for North America. Sickness, fear, and brutality was the common experience for slaves on the Middle Passage. About two of every ten slaves died during the Middle Passage.

There was no single African culture. People brought from west Africa as slaves represented a large number of different cultures. In an effort to control the slaves, slave owners attempted to strip away the cultural identity of their slaves and sought to replace it with the culture of the plantation or region to which the slave was brought. However, the physical isolation of slaves from their masters led to the creation of a new blended culture rather than the replacement of one culture over another. What resulted was the creation of a unique African American or Black culture.

Foods, such as okra, watermelon, yams (sweet potatoes), rice, and even grits have been attributed to cultural blending of African and European cultures. The practice of blending different African tribes on a single plantation led to the creation of blended language patterns such as Creole in Louisiana and Gullah in coastal Georgia and the Carolinas. Economically, coastal South Carolina and Georgia owed its prosperity to the introduction of rice that was propagated by West African and West Indian slaves. Ironically, it was this same rice production that served as a food source for West Indian sugar plantations whose insatiable labor demands expanded slavery in the European colonies.
Architecture is another topic for which African influences can be detected in America’s development. Slave labor often built the homes and buildings of their American masters. Over time, traces of Africanism found their way into the styles of buildings being constructed. The “shotgun” style home has been traced to a dwelling style popular in Haiti and even further removed to a style of hut popular among the Yoruba people of western Africa. A shotgun house is characterized as being very narrow and long with a front porch. The simplistic style, with its entrance being on the short side of the home, is different from European styled homes. The homes are one room wide and two to three rooms deep with only doors separating the rooms – no hallway. Archaeologists also suggest that some of the building materials used on Georgia plantations may have African roots. The wattle and daub and tabby material used in early Georgia coastal construction is similar to the woven sticks covered in mud or clay technique of West Africa Ashanti homes.

c. Describe different methods of colonial self-governance in the period of Salutary Neglect.

The Catholic monarch, James II, took the English throne in 1685 and tried to singlehandedly rule without Parliament. England’s Protestant majority was fearful of the new king’s unrestricted power. James II also put the North American colonies more tightly under his control by revoking charters and combining the New England colonies with New York and New Jersey to form the Dominion of New England, which was to be governed not by colonial assemblies, but by a governor and council appointed by the King. In 1689, the Glorious Revolution marked the overthrow of James II. He was replaced by the Protestant monarchs, King William and Queen Mary, who signed the English Bill of Rights as a condition of their ascent to power. The Dominion of New England was dissolved by the colonies and they returned to their previous colonial arrangement as news of the Glorious Revolution reached North America. One outcome of the reestablishment of the colonies was the combination of Massachusetts Bay and Plymouth into one Massachusetts colony.

The colonies re-established their local governments with the transition of English political power at the time of the Glorious Revolution. In 1721, Robert Walpole became the first Prime Minister in England. His approach to the colonies became known as Salutary Neglect. Walpole believed that the colonies would become more economically productive if they were not restricted by cumbersome policies that limited their ability to trade, such as the Navigation Acts. From the 1720s until after the French and Indian War in the 1760s, the colonies were less restricted in their ability to build up their own trade networks and govern themselves locally because of the policy of Salutary Neglect. As long as England was receiving the colonial resources they needed to maintain production under the mercantilist arrangement, there would be less oversight of the colonies by the English Crown.

The colonies had always been somewhat independent of English control due to distance limitations, structure of the colonial governments, and the greater proportion of eligible voters in the colonies. The methods of colonial self-government that existed during the period of Salutary Neglect firmly established the tradition of independence that would later lead to revolution between England and her colonies. The political structure of each colony by the time
of the Revolutionary War consisted of a governor and an elected legislature. The earliest of the elected legislatures, the **House of Burgesses**, had been established shortly after Jamestown’s founding. Colonial legislatures, such as Virginia’s, had long traditions of making local policies and were made up of locally elected colonists. Taxes were levied by these colonial representatives and established the tradition of local taxation by locally elected representatives. Many New England colonies had town meetings that met regularly for people to vote directly on public issues.

Voting in the colonies was often restricted to only white males who owned at least some land. Even so, these criteria encompassed a much higher proportion of citizens than other countries - including England. Religious restrictions had even been removed from the New England colonies’ voter eligibility by the time of the American Revolution, which further expanded the tradition of local colonial participation in governing.

There was also an expectation that emerged in the colonies that the local legislatures would be responsible for looking out for the interests of all colonists and not just the wealthy. This concept played out dramatically with the events surrounding **Bacon’s Rebellion** in Jamestown in the late 1670s. Former indentured servants had worked off their debt but could not afford land in the township itself. Instead, they had to move farther into the frontier and often faced conflicts over land with the area’s American Indians. These poor citizens paid taxes and expected the House of Burgesses to provide protections for them, even though they lived further out from the wealthy Jamestown community. Nathanael Bacon led these poor citizens first against the American Indians and then against the Jamestown elite, including the Royal Governor William Berkeley. Bacon’ Rebellion, between the poor frontier colonists and Virginia’s colonial government, established an expectation in America that the government would work for the good of all citizens – not just the wealthy.

The tradition of English colonial self-government began early with the pledge of majority rule under the Mayflower Compact and the establishment of colonial legislatures. During the period of Salutary Neglect, the role of these local assemblies and town meetings expanded. It was during this time that the English government, following the Glorious Revolution, scaled back their political oversight of the colonies as long as the economic resources were being provided to England. Political autonomy and self-government in the colonies grew to be an expectation and formed an independent American identity that ultimately led to war between England and her colonies.

d. **Explain the role of the Great Awakening in creating unity in the colonies and challenging traditional authority.**

The **Great Awakening** was a religious movement influenced by the revivals that were sweeping through England, Scotland, and Germany in the 1730s. It spread from Europe to the colonies in the following decade and continued until the eve of the American Revolution. The revival placed an emphasis on individual religious experience rather than religious experience through
church doctrine. The Great Awakening challenged established authorities as the colonists questioned the need to follow not only the Church of England but also the orders of the English monarchy and its authorities. The idea of the shared struggle that Awakening ministers had spoken of was easily transferred to the shared struggle for independence that was beginning to unify the colonies.

The Great Awakening was in part a reaction to the Enlightenment, which emphasized logic and reason and stressed the power of the individual to understand the universe based on scientific laws. Similarly, individuals grew to rely more on a personal approach to salvation than church dogma and doctrine through a personal understanding of scriptures. Although the Enlightenment was really a movement of the intellectual elite, the Great Awakening had stronger appeal across all cross sections of society in each of the thirteen colonies.

Ministers such as Jonathan Edwards, William Tennent, and George Whitefield began to urge Christians to adopt a more emotional involvement in Christianity through fervent prayer and personal study of the Bible. Their sermons were emotional, appealing to the heart not just the head. New denominations such as Baptists, Methodists, and Presbyterians gained members and challenged some of the old established colonial denominations such as the Congregationalist Puritans in New England and the Anglicans in the South. Practicing religion became an emotional experience in addition to an intellectual experience.

One of the most famous sermons that typifies the religious fervor and emotional nature of the Great Awakening was Jonathan Edwards’ “Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God.” The sermon urged the congregation to repent and not provoke God who is all knowing.

The American colonies, especially those in New England, had been founded on the idea that government ruled on the basis of a covenant relationship with God and the people (e.g., The Mayflower Compact). The governance structure of the new churches reflected this idea as churches appointed their own ministers and administered their own churches. This sense of independence was soon reinforced by the political ideas of John Locke’s social contract and Thomas Paine’s emotional appeal for independence.