

## Core Lesson 3

### VOCABULARY

plantation  
legislature  
refuge  
debtor

#### Vocabulary Strategy

**plantation**

Think of the word **plant** to remember the meaning of **plantation**. A plantation is a very large farm on which crops are planted and grown.



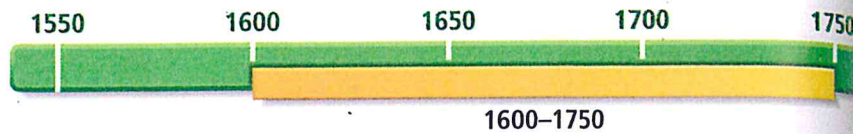
### READING SKILL

**Sequence** As you read, list the main events in the order in which they occur.

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# The Southern Colonies



**Build on What You Know** You go into a movie theater, but all the good seats are taken! In the Southern Colonies, the first settlers claimed the best farmland near the ocean. Later colonists had to settle farther inland.

## Virginia

**Main Idea** Virginia was the largest and wealthiest English colony and had the first elected government.

In 1607, Virginia became the first permanent English colony in North America. The first colonists came to Virginia to search for gold. When they realized that there was no gold there, many started plantations on the rich soil of the tidewater. A **plantation** is a large farm on which crops are raised by workers who live on the farm.

In the Southern Colonies, most plantation workers were indentured servants or enslaved Africans. Many plantation owners, or planters, became wealthy by growing and selling cash crops such as tobacco and rice.

As large plantations filled the tidewater, new colonists had to settle in the backcountry, farther from the ocean. To get more farmland, colonists often moved to areas where the Powhatan Indians lived. The Powhatans did not want colonists to take over this land, and they fought back. Many colonists and Indians were killed in these conflicts.



## Governing the Colony

As Virginia grew, colonists wanted to have a voice in the laws of the colony. In 1619, colonists created the first elected legislature in the colonies. A **legislature** is a group of people with the power to make and change laws. The legislature was called the House of Burgesses (BUR jihs iz) because the representatives in Virginia's legislature were known as burgesses. Colonists elected the burgesses, but only planters and other white men who owned property were allowed to vote or be elected.

Nearly all of the members of the House of Burgesses were members of the Church of England, or the Anglican (ANG gli kun) Church. In 1632, the House of Burgesses made the Anglican Church the official church of Virginia. Puritans, Quakers, and others who were not Anglican had to leave the colony.

## New Colonies in the South

**Main Idea** England founded four more colonies in the South during the 1600s and early 1700s.

Between 1632 and 1732, English colonists settled four more southern colonies. The colonies of Maryland, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia were all created for different reasons.

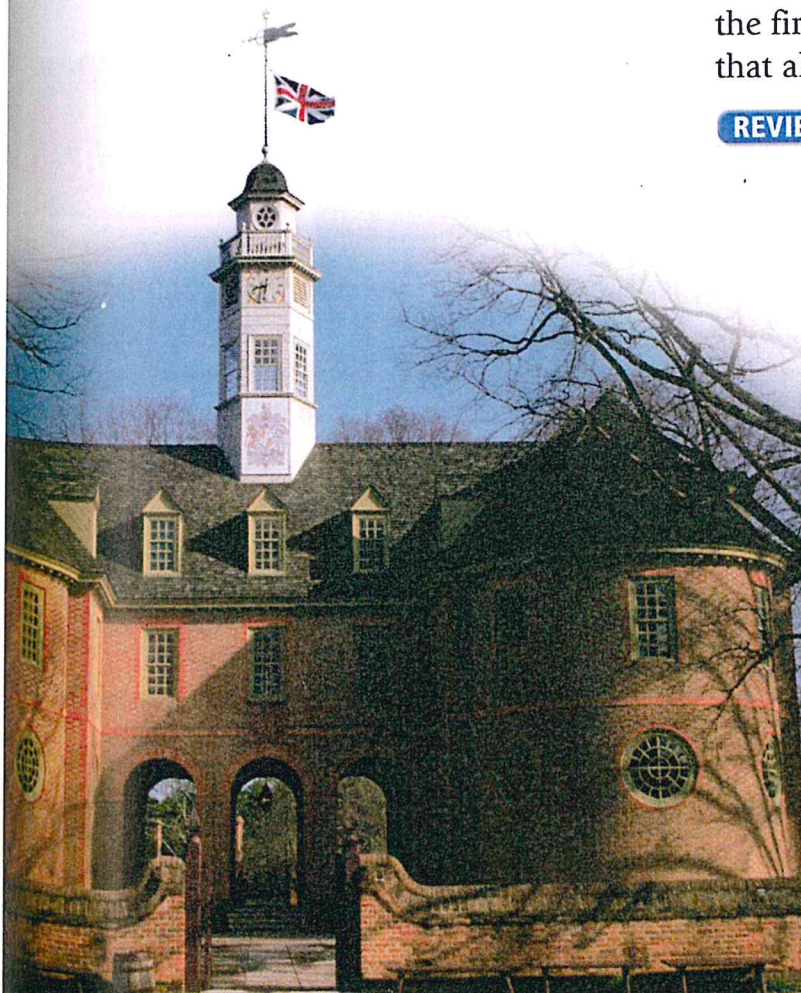
### Maryland

The colony of Maryland began in 1632, when **King Charles I** of England gave land in North America to **Cecilius Calvert**. Calvert, also known as **Lord Baltimore**, was a Catholic. Like Puritans and Quakers, Catholics in England were often punished for their religious beliefs. Calvert hoped to make Maryland a refuge for Catholics. A **refuge** is a safe place. In 1649, the Maryland government passed the Toleration Act. The Toleration Act was the first law in North America to promise that all Christians could worship freely.

**REVIEW** Who were burgesses?



**House of Burgesses** The Virginia legislature first met in 1619. The burgesses later moved to this site (left):





## The Carolinas

During the late 1600s, England, France, and Spain all claimed land that was south of Virginia. The new English king, **Charles II**, wanted to start another colony on this land. He hoped that a settlement would help keep France and Spain out of the area. In 1663, Charles II formed a new colony south of Virginia called Carolina.

Colonists first settled the southern part of Carolina. The southern area had good farmland and many excellent harbors. Planters built rice plantations in the tidewater. The city of Charles Town, later called Charleston, grew large and wealthy. The northern part of Carolina had few harbors and was not as good for farming. It grew more slowly than the south. In 1729, Carolina became two colonies, North Carolina and South Carolina.

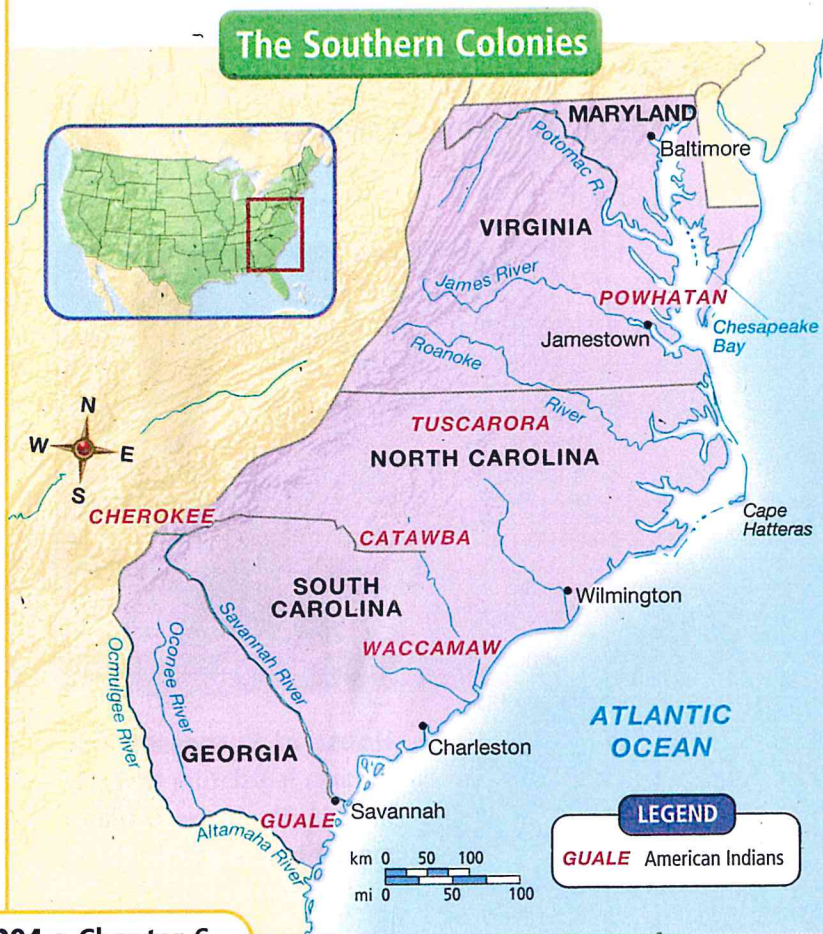
## Georgia

In 1732, England's King George II started another colony to keep the Spanish and French away from South Carolina. He gave this land to **James Oglethorpe**, an English lawmaker and army officer. The new colony was named Georgia to honor King George.

Oglethorpe wanted Georgia to be a place for poor people and debtors (DEBT-ers). A **debtor** is a person who owes money. In England, debtors who could not pay the money they owed were put in prison. Oglethorpe thought it would be better to let debtors start new lives in Georgia. He offered them a free trip to Georgia and small farms of their own.

In 1733, Oglethorpe led the first group of settlers to Georgia. Soon, Oglethorpe developed friendly relations with nearby American Indians. He traded with Choctaws, Cherokees, and Creeks.

Oglethorpe made strict rules for his colony. Georgian colonists could not drink alcohol. They also could not own slaves or elect their own legislature.



**The Southern Colonies** The region's fertile land and many waterways allowed most Southern colonists to make their living by farming.

**SKILL Reading Maps** Which places were named after people mentioned in this lesson?



Some colonists did not like these rules, and later many of the rules were changed. Slaves were brought to work on plantations as soon as slavery was allowed. Georgia quickly became a wealthy plantation colony like South Carolina.

**REVIEW** What were differences between North Carolina and South Carolina?



**James Oglethorpe** Under the leadership of this proprietor, the economy of Georgia succeeded.

## Lesson Summary

Colony	Reason founded
Virginia	To find gold
Maryland	As a refuge for Catholics
Carolina	To help England control southeastern North America
Georgia	To help debtors and other poor people

## Why It Matters ...

Establishing the Southern Colonies gave England control of the North American east coast, from New France in the north to Spanish Florida in the south.

## Lesson Review

1619  
House of Burgesses formed

1729  
Carolinas created

1732  
Georgia founded

1600 1630 1660 1690 1720 1750 1780

- 1 **VOCABULARY** Choose the correct words to fill in the blanks.

**refuge** **plantation** **legislature** **debtor**

To be a member of the Virginia \_\_\_\_\_, a person had to own a \_\_\_\_\_ or other piece of land.

- 2 **READING SKILL** In what **order** were the Southern Colonies founded?

- 3 **MAIN IDEA: Government** What was the House of Burgesses?

- 4 **MAIN IDEA: History** Why was Maryland founded?

- 5 **PEOPLE TO KNOW** Who was James Oglethorpe, and why did he found Georgia?

- 6 **TIMELINE SKILL** How many years after the House of Burgesses was formed was Georgia founded?

- 7 **CRITICAL THINKING: Decision Making** If you were a debtor in England in the 1700s, what could have been the costs and benefits of moving to Georgia?

**WRITING ACTIVITY** Learn more about the Powhatan Indians. Then write a short speech from a Powhatan Indian's point of view. Explain how he or she might feel about the conflicts with colonists over land.



## Core Lesson 4

### VOCABULARY

indigo  
overseer  
spiritual

#### Vocabulary Strategy

overseer

The small two words in the compound word **overseer** show its meaning. An overseer watches over workers.

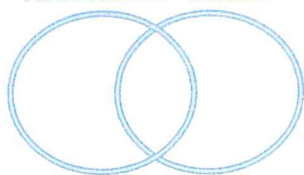


### READING SKILL

#### Compare and Contrast

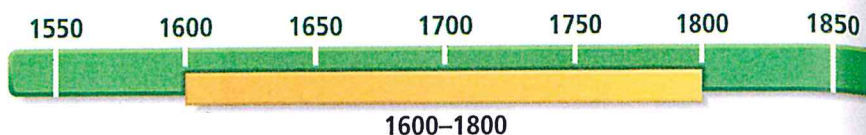
Note the similarities and differences between plantations and backcountry farms.

PLANTATIONS FARMS



**Tobacco** Virginia farmers harvest tobacco leaves in the early 1600s.

# Life in the South



**Build on What You Know** Have you ever grown a plant from a seed or bulb? If you have, you know that plants need fertile soil, warm weather, and plenty of water. The Southern Colonies had all of these things.

## Southern Agriculture

**Main Idea** Cash crops grew very well in the Southern Colonies.

The long growing season and warm, damp climate of the Southern Colonies made the region perfect for growing tobacco and rice. Many southern planters became very wealthy exporting these cash crops to other colonies and countries. Planters found, however, that tobacco and rice needed much more work and care than other crops. Planters used indentured servants and enslaved Africans to do this hard labor.

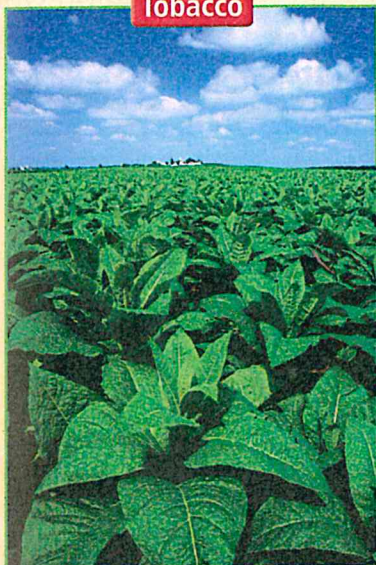
In Virginia and Maryland, the main cash crop was tobacco. Colonists grew tobacco on small farms as well as on large plantations. North Carolina had many small tobacco farms, but its greatest resource was its pine forests. Colonists took the sticky sap from pine trees and made it into a thick liquid called pitch. Pitch was used to seal the boards of ships and keep out water.





## Cash Crops

Tobacco



Southern tobacco was exported all over the world.

Rice



Rice needs a steamy, hot climate to grow well.

Indigo



Without indigo, blue jeans wouldn't have their special color.

South Carolina and Georgia had two main cash crops. One was rice, which flourished in the hot, wet tidewater region. Planters learned methods for growing rice from enslaved African workers. They brought their knowledge of rice growing from West Africa, where rice was an important food.

The other major cash crop in South Carolina and Georgia was indigo. **Indigo** is a plant that can be made into a dark blue dye. This dye is used to color clothing. Indigo was very difficult to grow, and planters had little success with it. Then 17-year-old **Eliza Lucas Pinckney** began to experiment with different kinds of indigo on her father's plantation.

In 1744, she developed a type of indigo that was much easier to grow. This indigo was so successful that colonists in South Carolina soon sold more than 100,000 pounds of indigo each year.

## Charles Town

The Southern Colonies had many farms and plantations but fewer towns and cities than New England or the Middle Colonies. By the mid-1700s, however, several ports in the South had grown into large cities. Charles Town, South Carolina, which became known as Charleston in 1783, was the biggest southern city. It was a busy center of trade and the capital of South Carolina.

In Charles Town, traders and planters bought, sold, and exported thousands of pounds of tobacco, rice, and indigo. Ships brought goods from Europe and the West Indies to sell in the colonies.

Charles Town had a diverse population. Its people were English, Scots-Irish, French, and West Indian. Free and enslaved Africans lived in the city as well.

**REVIEW** Why was Charles Town an important city?



## Plantations and Small Farms

**Main Idea** Southern plantations were large and needed many workers, but most southern colonists lived on small family farms.

The huge plantations in the South were more like small villages than farms. At the center of a plantation, often near a river or stream, was the planter's house. The planter's house was surrounded by horse stables, workshops, gardens, fields, and workers' houses.



Many laborers were needed to keep a big plantation running. Plantation workers were usually enslaved Africans. Most spent long hours working in the plantation's fields. Other workers took care of the gardens or animals. Cooks and maids worked in the planter's house.

The South was known for its large plantations, but small farms were much more common. Most southern colonists lived on small family farms in the backcountry, away from the tidewater. Backcountry colonists farmed with the help of family members and perhaps one or two servants or slaves. They grew their own food and sometimes small amounts of a cash crop, such as tobacco.

**Plantation Life** The planter's family usually lived in a grand mansion, such as this one in South Carolina (below). Mansions were often decorated with fine furniture like this chair (left). **SKILL Reading Visuals** Compare and contrast the chairs and houses shown on these two pages.







**Backcountry Life** Simple wooden cabins (right) were home to most farming families who lived west of the tidewater. Most of their belongings, such as this chair (above), were either made by hand or traded from others.



## Family Life

The children of wealthy planters lived fairly easy lives. Most were educated at home. Their parents hired teachers to instruct the children in reading, writing, dancing, and music. Boys spent their free time outdoors, learning how to ride horses and hunt. Girls learned how to sew and sing. As children got older, fathers taught boys how to run the plantation. Girls learned how to manage a large household with many servants.

Life was very different on backcountry farms. Backcountry farmers often lived far from schools and towns. Children learned how to read and write only if their parents could teach them. Backcountry children started helping around the house and farm at an early age. This was how they learned skills such as plowing, hunting, sewing, and cooking.

## Southern Slavery

**Main Idea** Slavery was cruel, but enslaved people developed a culture that helped them survive.

The importance of slavery in the Southern Colonies changed over time. In the early 1600s, indentured servants did much of the hard work on plantations. As the number of plantations grew, however, southern planters began to use enslaved Africans as laborers.

More and more enslaved Africans were brought to North America during the 1600s and 1700s. By 1750, greater numbers of enslaved Africans lived in all thirteen colonies, but most slaves lived in the Southern Colonies.

**REVIEW** How did the children of planters and the children of backcountry farmers learn how to read and write?



## Life Under Slavery

Enslaved Africans were not treated as human beings. They were bought and sold as property. Under slavery, husbands and wives were often separated from each other, and families were torn apart.

On a plantation, slaves usually worked as laborers in the fields or as house servants. Even young children were forced to work. Field work was exhausting. Workers labored from morning to night in the heat and the cold, nearly every day of the year. Overseers sometimes whipped and punished workers to keep them working hard. An **overseer** is a person who watches and directs the work of other people. Enslaved people had to work so hard and had such poor food, clothing, and shelter that many died at an early age.

Planters used punishments and harsh laws to keep enslaved workers from resisting or running away. Many had to wear heavy iron chains. They could not leave the plantation without permission. They could be beaten or even killed by planters and overseers. Some slaves fought back by running away. Most resisted by working as slowly as they could without being punished.

## African American Culture

To survive their harsh lives, enslaved Africans formed close ties with each other. They created a community that was like a large family. Enslaved Africans helped each other to survive the hardships of slavery.

Another source of strength was religion. Many enslaved people began to practice Christianity and looked to the Bible and its stories for inspiration. They combined Christian beliefs and musical traditions from Africa to create powerful spirituals. A **spiritual** is an African American religious folk song.

Over time, enslaved people created a new culture that blended African and American customs and religions. They remembered their past by telling stories about their homelands in Africa. They made up work songs to help the time pass while working in the fields. They invented and played music on the banjo, a musical instrument based on African ones. In South Carolina, enslaved Africans created a new language, Gullah, out of African languages and English.

**REVIEW** What did slaves do to survive the hardships of slavery?

**Slave Cabins** This painting shows slave cabins on a South Carolina plantation. Slave houses were small and cramped.







**African Culture** Enslaved Africans dance and make music in this painting called *The Old Plantation* (above). The banjo (right) became a popular instrument in American folk music.

## Lesson Summary

The Southern Colonies had an agricultural economy. Most colonists lived on small family farms, but some owned large plantations that produced cash crops such as tobacco and rice. Many slaves worked on plantations. Slavery was a cruel system. Enslaved Africans developed a culture that helped them survive.

## Why It Matters . . .

Slavery would become a major source of conflict in the United States more than a hundred years later.

## Lesson Review

- 1 **VOCABULARY** Write a short paragraph telling why **indigo** was important in the South.
  - 2 **READING SKILL** What were some **differences** between plantations and backcountry farms?
  - 3 **MAIN IDEA: Economics** What were the main cash crops in the Southern Colonies?
  - 4 **MAIN IDEA: Culture** What new customs became part of the culture of enslaved Africans?
  - 5 **PEOPLE TO KNOW** How did Eliza Pinckney affect the economy of the South?
  - 6 **CRITICAL THINKING: Infer** Why did large plantations develop in the Southern Colonies?
  - 7 **CRITICAL THINKING: Compare and Contrast** Compare and contrast the lives of children on plantations and on small farms.
- WRITING ACTIVITY** Do research and write a report about the many ways African American culture has affected American culture.