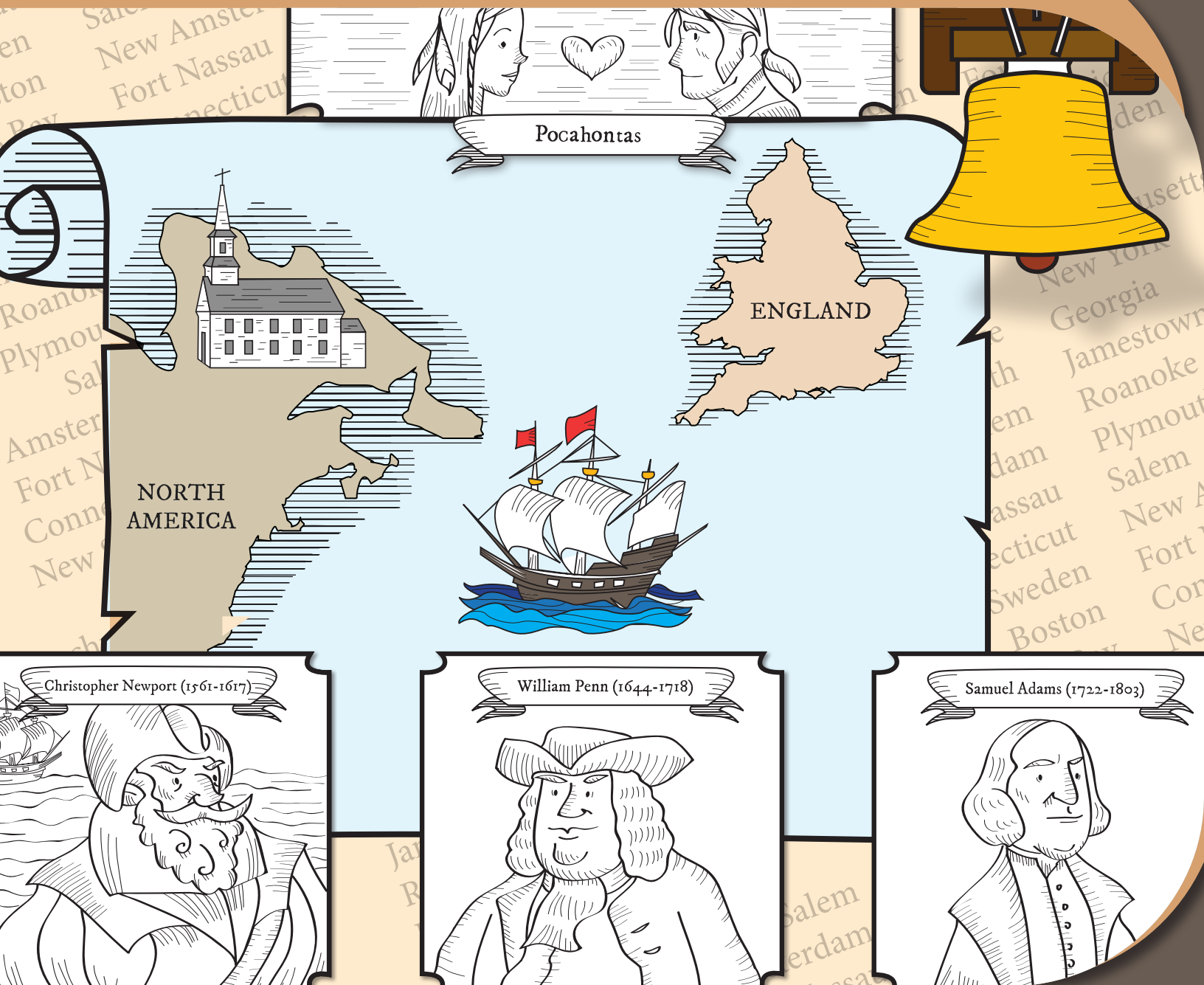


# Come to the Colonies

5<sup>th</sup>  
Grade



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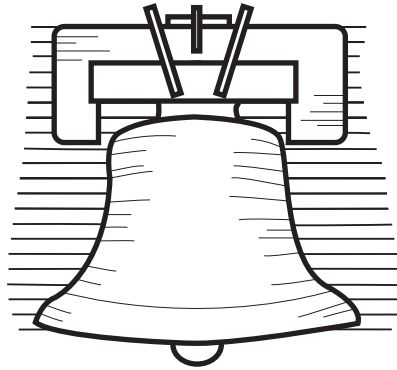
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# Come to the Colonies!

Once word got out that an entire continent of land waited across the Atlantic, there was no stopping the waves of determined colonists. They came from England, France, Spain and Portugal, abandoning their homes for the promise of a better future in the New World.



No one knew what to expect. The miles and miles of unsettled land were beautiful and majestic... and full of strange, unknown dangers. Imagine trying to survive the winter without a real house; just a tent or a half-finished hut. Some of the colonists didn't even know how to farm the soil or hunt for food. Without reliable shelter or food supplies, life often became a daily struggle for survival.

The colonists were tough and stubborn, though, and soon their shabby settlements evolved into full-fledged towns and cities. Colonial America was no longer an experiment of desperate immigrants or curious royals. It was a thriving haven for people who wanted new lifestyles, new beginnings and, perhaps most importantly, new politics.

**Pretend a brand new continent has just been discovered in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean. Would you leave your home, your family and your friends to start a new life there? Why or why not?**

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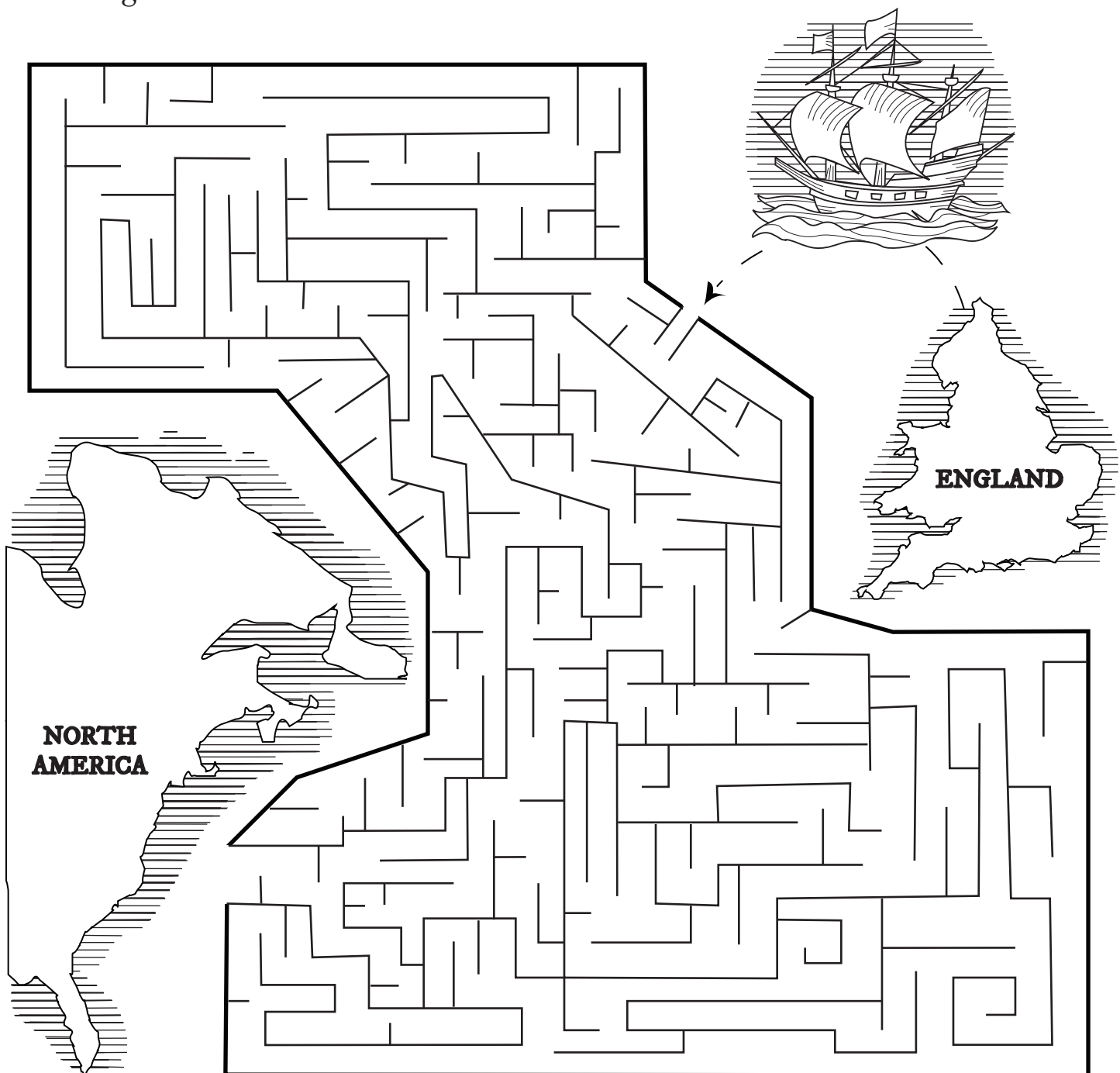
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# Journey to the New World

Without the luxury of planes, early settlers were forced to travel across the Atlantic Ocean aboard slow, often leaky ships. Most of these wooden vessels were hardly larger than a tennis court. Battling strong winds, starvation and disease, travelers were lucky to make it to the New World in weeks, if not months. The ship below is preparing to depart from London, England. Help it safely navigate the rough waters of the Atlantic to reach North America.



# New England Colonies

Greetings  
from the

NEW ENGLAND  
COLONIES



The New England Colonies consisted of the present-day states of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Connecticut and Massachusetts. One of its earliest settlements was Plymouth Colony.

Imagine you have just arrived in the New World from England. Report back to Queen Elizabeth I. She'll want to know exactly what you've found so far and what supplies you'll need to survive.

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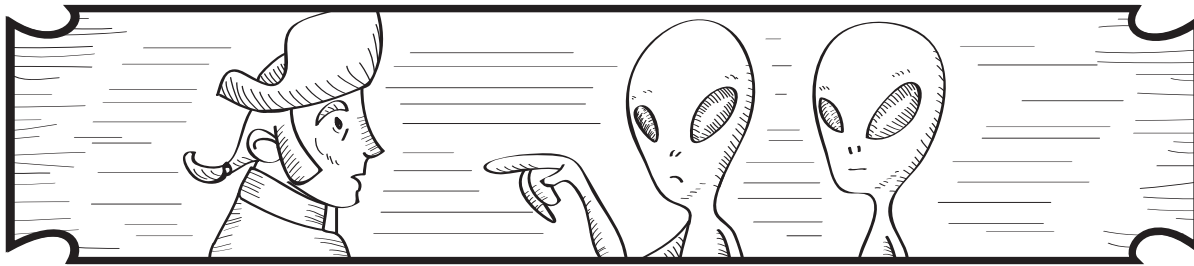
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To:  
Queen  
Elizabeth I

# The Mystery of Roanoke

Attention, history detectives! Here's a case that needs some serious sleuthing. In 1584, Sir Walter Raleigh sent out a small group of explorers and settlers to establish a colony in North America. By the following year, the colony of Roanoke was founded. Despite the difficult conditions, Roanoke enjoyed early triumphs. The first child of English parents was born in America in 1587. Her name was Virginia Dare.

Things took a turn for the mysterious in 1590. John White, Virginia's grandfather, brought a ship to the New World with plans to help resupply the new colony. However, when he reached Roanoke, the colony was completely deserted. Over a hundred people – men, women and children – had all disappeared. White noted that there was no sign of battle or any message left that indicated what had happened. Where had the colonists of Roanoke gone? To this day, no one knows for sure. Theories range from practical to other-worldly: Some historians guess that the colonists joined local Native American tribes, others claim that aliens abducted them.



What do you think happened? Write up your own theory to explain the mystery of Roanoke.

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# Colonial Heroes:

## Christopher Newport (1561-1617)

Captain Christopher Newport started his career as a privateer, raiding Spanish ships and stealing their supplies for England (back in the 16th century, crowned heads asked privateers to raid foreign ships for them). Newport was a sought-after privateer and the go-to guy for important missions.

In 1606, the Queen called on Newport to lead an exciting expedition to the New World. As captain of the *Susan Constant*, Newport led the sea voyage from London across the Atlantic Ocean to strange, foreign shores. It was not an easy trip. Battered by storms and starvation, the voyage lasted an incredible 144 days – roughly five months! However, Newport never gave up, and he eventually brought the colonists to the New World. Together they helped create Jamestown, the first permanent English settlement in North America.

From pirate to colonial settler, Newport wasn't your average hero, but without him, the quest to colonize the New World might never have been a success.

What is the difference between a pirate and a privateer?

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Why do you think the Queen of England chose Newport to lead the voyage to the New World?

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If you had to spend 144 days on a small ship, what would you do?

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# Chesapeake Colonies

Greetings  
from the



The Chesapeake Colonies surrounded the Chesapeake Bay, a large estuary that stretched over 200 miles long. A comparatively tiny region compared to the bigger New England and Middle Colonies, this area covers parts of modern-day Virginia and Massachusetts.

Imagine you're a settler in the Chesapeake Colonies, but your best friend lives in the Middle Colonies. What would you say to convince your friend to move to Chesapeake?

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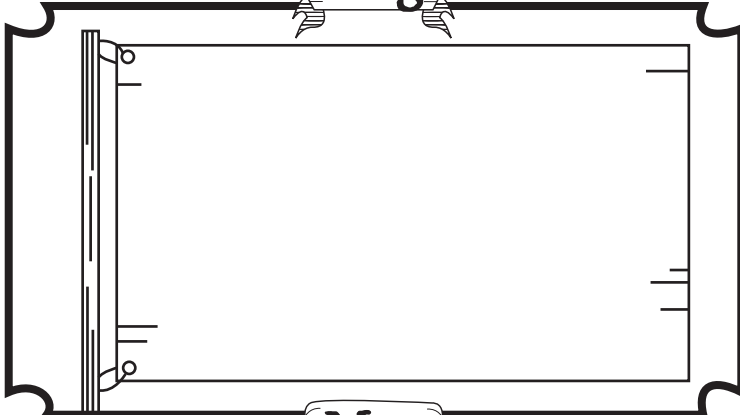
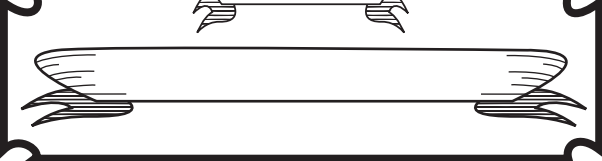
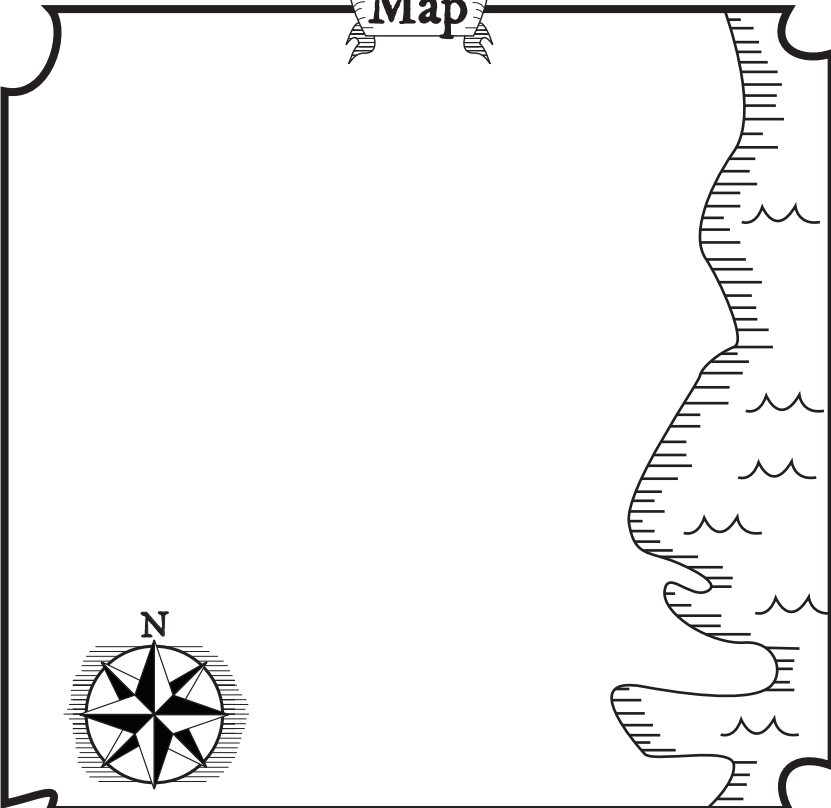
*To:*



# Creating a Home

The initial joy of reaching the New World was often cut short by the realization that their new home was just an empty forest or a rocky plain. To survive and to thrive, the settlers needed to work together.

Imagine that you're the newly elected leader of a group of colonists. Your ship has just dropped anchor, and now everyone is looking to you to get started. Start out with four simple tasks: name your colony, design your flag, write up a duty log, and draw a map of your colony.

Flag	Name												
													
Map	Duty Log												
	<table border="1"><thead><tr><th>Duty Log</th></tr></thead><tbody><tr><td>8:00 A.M.</td></tr><tr><td>9:00 A.M.</td></tr><tr><td>10:00 A.M.</td></tr><tr><td>11:00 A.M.</td></tr><tr><td>12:00 P.M.</td></tr><tr><td>1:00 P.M.</td></tr><tr><td>2:00 P.M.</td></tr><tr><td>3:00 P.M.</td></tr><tr><td>4:00 P.M.</td></tr><tr><td>5:00 P.M.</td></tr><tr><td>6:00 P.M.</td></tr></tbody></table>	Duty Log	8:00 A.M.	9:00 A.M.	10:00 A.M.	11:00 A.M.	12:00 P.M.	1:00 P.M.	2:00 P.M.	3:00 P.M.	4:00 P.M.	5:00 P.M.	6:00 P.M.
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# Colonial Word Search

All across the globe, people began to hear about the New World. Despite the harsh living conditions, settlers continued to travel to America in search of a better life. More settlers meant more colonies. Find the names of some of these colonies in the word search. How many of them do you recognize?

A	N	E	W	A	M	S	T	E	R	D	A	M	B	F	U	W	L
B	C	G	I	T	R	R	S	E	O	K	Y	D	E	E	Q	L	Y
V	O	E	L	E	G	O	A	E	U	T	O	B	I	U	A	Q	T
X	N	O	J	V	B	A	L	W	A	B	C	Y	L	J	W	Z	C
O	N	R	W	I	C	N	E	W	S	W	E	D	E	N	S	I	R
N	E	G	K	X	H	O	M	F	H	A	P	B	G	F	J	L	O
R	C	I	P	L	O	K	A	E	G	T	C	O	B	M	P	A	N
A	T	A	S	I	D	E	A	K	P	O	U	F	M	H	Z	I	B
H	I	B	M	X	Y	Q	R	O	A	N	Q	O	N	K	O	V	F
O	C	V	K	Z	T	O	D	E	N	V	A	R	M	O	T	R	H
S	U	H	S	C	Y	L	U	C	W	T	N	T	O	Y	Q	X	L
A	T	P	A	W	R	O	C	J	O	K	O	N	X	E	L	A	T
I	L	E	E	B	U	K	B	N	T	E	A	A	R	L	M	P	N
B	Y	N	U	T	P	J	T	U	S	S	O	S	W	M	J	S	O
M	A	S	S	A	C	H	U	S	E	T	T	S	B	A	Y	U	T
C	E	Q	E	P	R	O	S	W	M	H	Y	A	I	U	P	G	S
B	M	Y	F	G	K	N	X	D	A	P	W	U	M	Z	O	G	O
W	N	S	U	T	O	U	T	L	J	Y	E	A	X	P	G	R	B

Salem	Connecticut	Massachusetts Bay	Jamestown
New Amsterdam	New Sweden	New York	Roanoke
Fort Nassau	Boston	Georgia	Plymouth

# The Story of Pocahontas

Imagine you're a Hollywood filmmaker as you read through the following true facts about Pocahontas. Using your own research and imagination, fill in the blank lines with the untold stories about this colonial hero.

Pocahontas was hardly older than ten when her tribe came into contact with the English settlers in Jamestown. She was the daughter of Powhatan, the tribe's chief. As a child, she enjoyed visiting the settlers, playing games and even bringing supplies.

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When John Smith, one of the Jamestown settlers, was captured by her tribe, Pocahontas risked her life to save his. She pleaded with her father to show mercy, and her intervention saved Smith's life.

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In 1614, she married John Rolfe, an English settler. Their marriage was the first recorded interracial marriage in America. She traveled to England with her husband two years later, finding herself something of a celebrity among the people curious about the New World.

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# Mercantilism

If you were a colonist, there were probably few words you hated more than mercantilism. Mercantilism was a policy the British Empire imposed on their colonies. It was a way to ensure England's government and England's merchants made a lot of money – often by taking advantage of merchants in the colonies. Using taxation and trade barriers, England made it difficult for many of the colonists to earn any money.

To get around the unfair tactics of mercantilism, some colonists turned to smuggling goods. While illegal, smuggling was often the only way merchants in the colonies could make money.

What do you think was worse, British mercantilism or colonial smuggling? Why?

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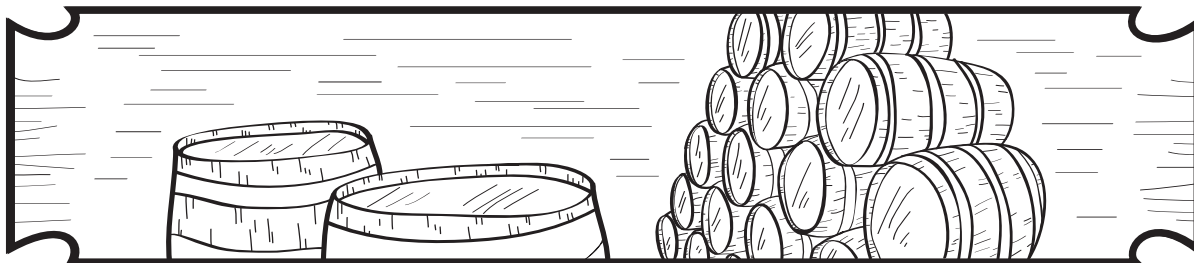
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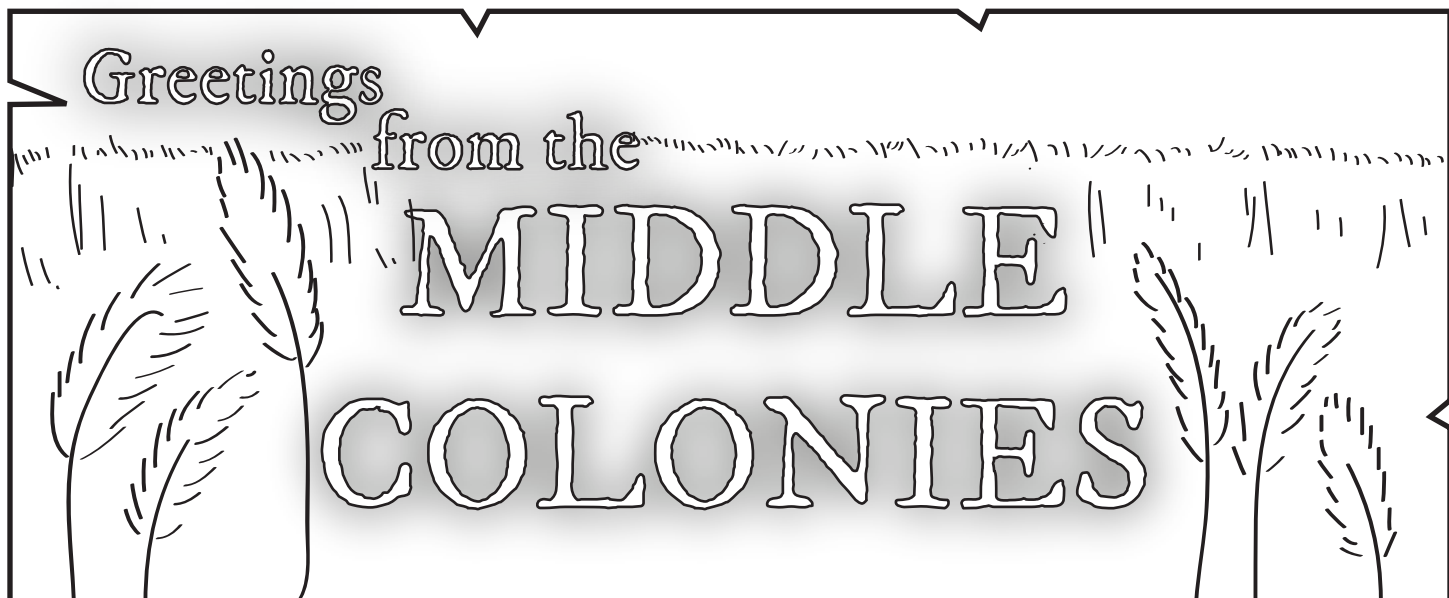
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# Middle Colonies



The Middle Colonies sat right below the New England colonies, extending over modern-day New York, New Jersey, Delaware and Pennsylvania. Its rich soil made the region an excellent place for farming.

Sadly, some immigrants had to leave their families behind when they left their homes to travel to the New World. Imagine you are a colonial settler in the Middle Colonies. Your parents are still at home in Europe. What would you write to them about your adventures so far?

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*To:  
Mom  
and  
Dad*

# Colonial Heroes: William Penn (1644-1718)

William Penn's family had high hopes for him that had almost nothing to do with the New World. Born in London, Penn attended some of the most prestigious schools in the country. His father believed his son would go on to serve an important role in the court of King Charles II. Instead, Penn ended up turning his back on England. In 1677 he climbed aboard a ship, his sights set on a large piece of land that would later be called Pennsylvania.

Like many of the early colonists, Penn had a reason for leaving the country of his birth to face an unknown future. Back in England, he and his friends often faced religious persecution for being Quakers, a branch of Christianity that was looked down upon at the time. When he reached the New World, Penn set about creating a colony that would serve both as a refuge for Quakers and a haven for anyone who faced religious persecution. He believed all people deserved the right to worship in any way they pleased. That belief would go on to inspire many of the founding fathers of the United States.

While his life was never easy, defending his often unpopular values, Penn made an unforgettable and incredibly valuable mark on the landscape of colonial America.

Why did Penn decide to sail to the New World?

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Do you think Penn's family was happy with the life he made for himself?

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Why do you think Penn's values were often so unpopular both in England and colonial America?

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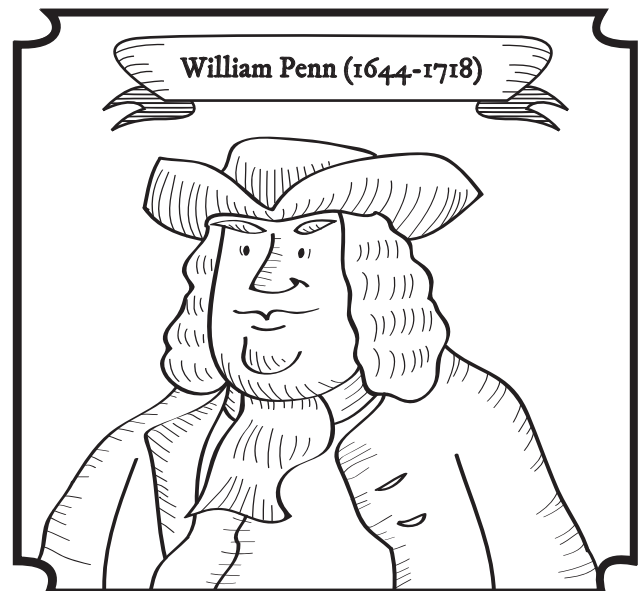
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# Southern Colonies

Greetings  
from the

## SOUTHERN COLONIES

The Southern Colonies were settled by British explorers in the 16th and 17th centuries. Situated beneath the Middle and Chesapeake Colonies, this region only extended as far south as the present-day states of North and South Carolina.

By the late 17th century, some settlers were getting frustrated by increasing taxation from England. Imagine you're one of these settlers. Write down what annoys you about this growing trend of mercantilism and taxation. Who do you think would listen to the settlers' complaints?

*To:*

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# Colonial Heroes:

## Samuel Adams (1722-1803)

Samuel Adams discovered his disappointment with the British Empire very early in life. At the time, many of the colonies in North America were ruled by the Empire, but not everybody was happy about it. As a teenager, Adams saw his father lose a lot of money as a result of Britain's interference. That early encounter would spark an entire lifetime of dissatisfaction with British rule in Adams.

As an adult, Adams specifically opposed Britain's high tax rates and the presence of British troops in the colonies. In 1768, Adams wrote a letter that encouraged the colonists to publicly oppose British rule. The letter, not surprisingly, earned him a lot of attention, both positive and negative. When the Second Continental Congress gathered to write the Declaration of Independence, Adams was among those who signed it, instigating what would later become known as the American Revolution.

Without brave and bold heroes like Samuel Adams, the Thirteen Colonies might never have become the United States of America.

Why would Adams and other early revolutionaries be against the presence of British troops in the colonies?

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What sort of reactions do you think Adams's 1768 letter received?

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If you had been at the Second Continental Congress, would you have signed the Declaration of Independence? Why or why not?

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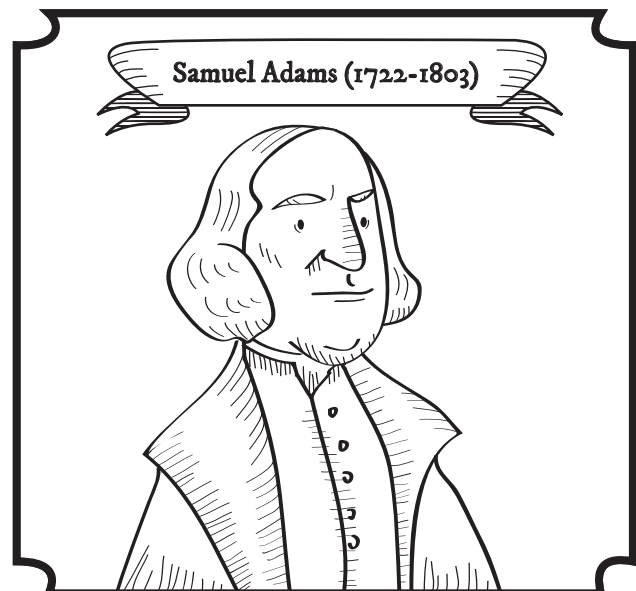
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# Mad King George

Every story, even the ones found in history books, needs a bad guy. For the colonists, their baddie was King George III, not-so-affectionately nicknamed “Mad King George.”

Take a look at the list below. Each is a real accusation colonists made against the monarch. Imagine you are the king’s public representative. It’s your job to keep the king’s subjects happy with their king. What would you write to the colonists in response to their accusations? (Nobody said it was an easy job!)

## Accusations against King George III:

1. Acting like a tyrant by seizing personal power from Britain’s Parliament
2. Ignoring all of the colonists’ complaints and requests
3. Plundering and ravaging the ships of honest colonial tradesmen
4. Destroying the lives of the colonists

*Dear Colonists,*

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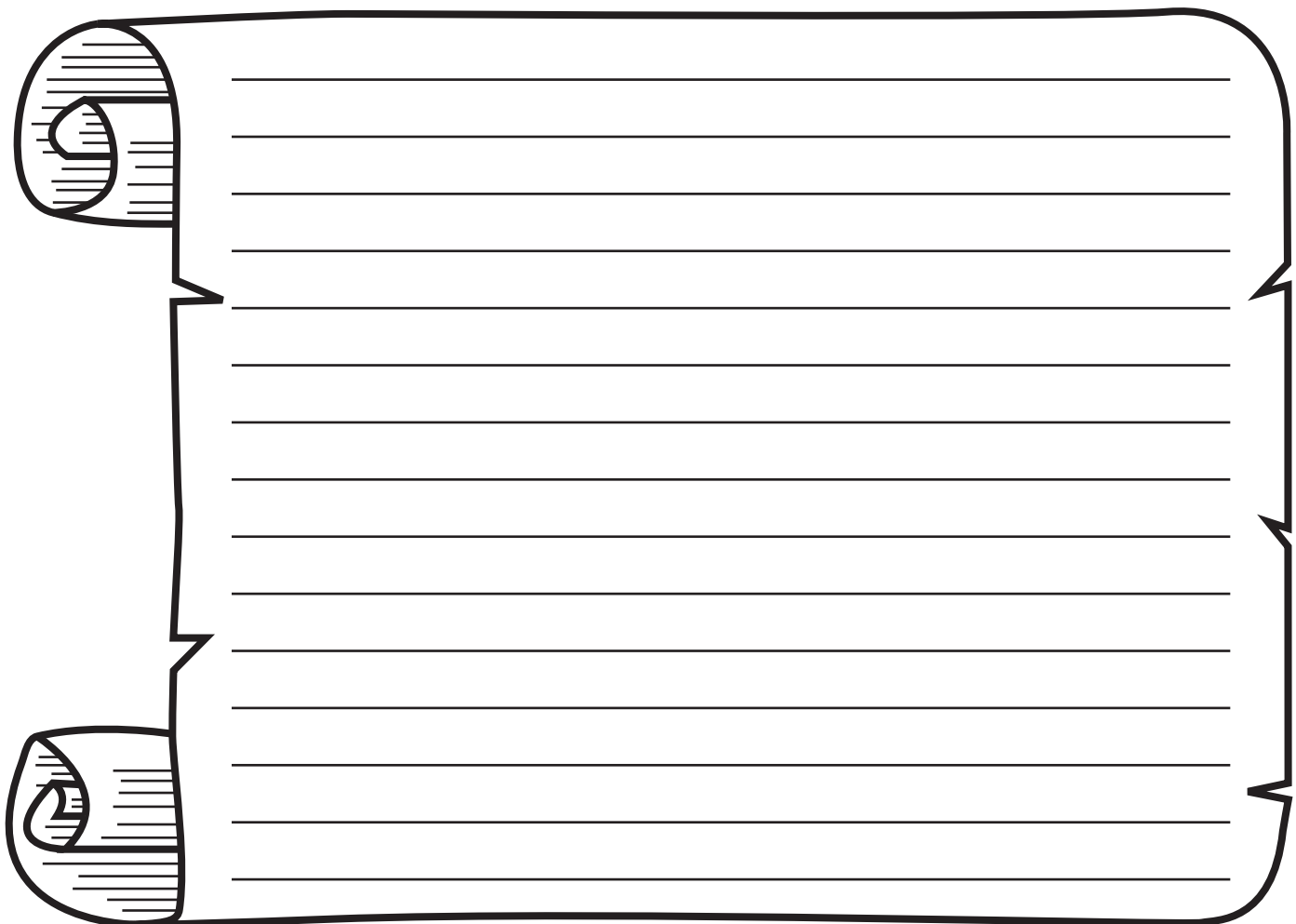
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# Moving to Independence

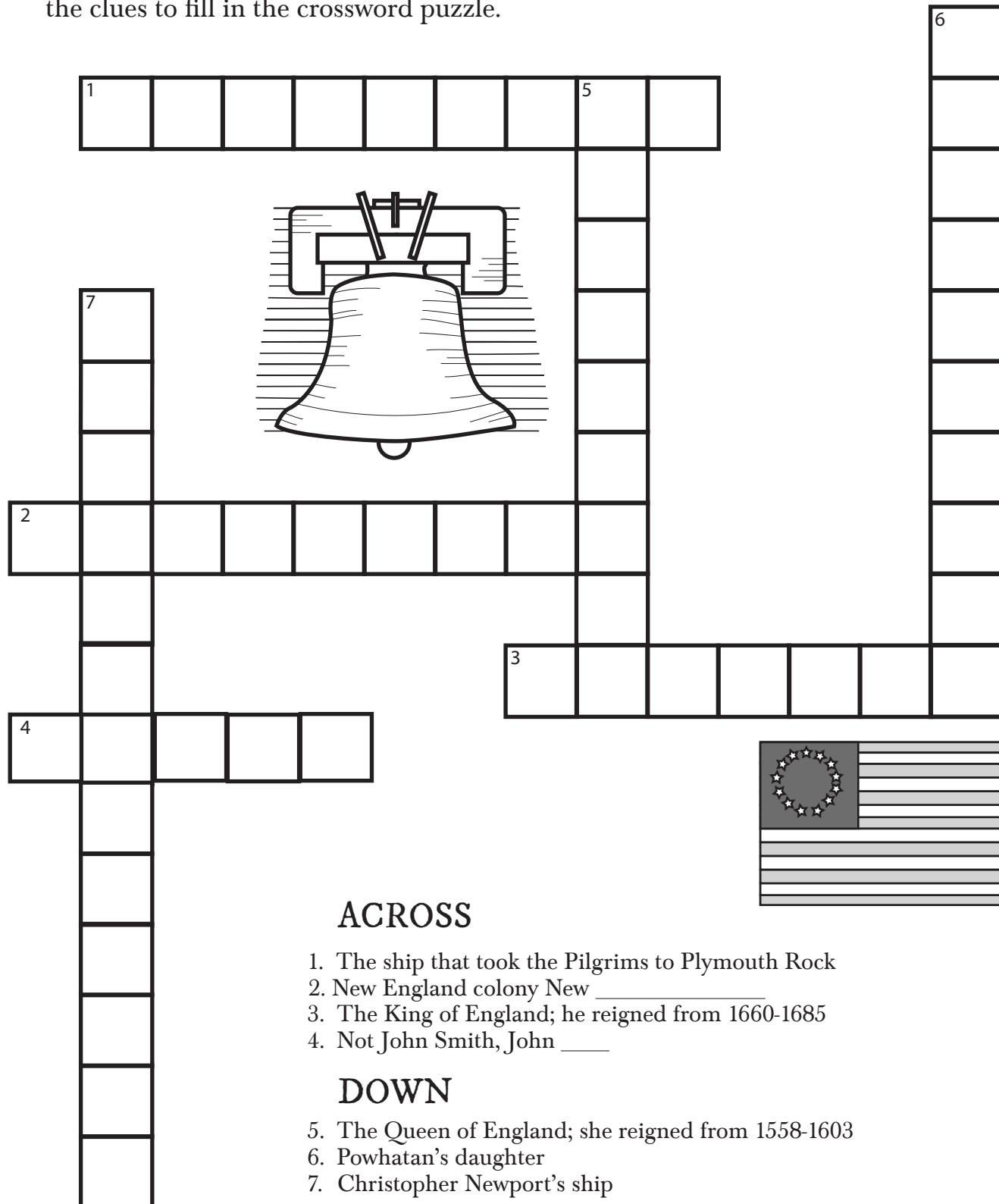
History is full of dissatisfied people who changed the course of whole countries and continents. If Mad King George and the rest of the British Empire had tried to please their unhappy colonists – by easing taxation, for example – who knows what America would be like today. The Second Continental Congress, a meeting of delegates from all the colonies, was the first step towards an exciting, unknown and potentially dangerous future for the early revolutionaries. The creation of the Declaration of Independence was easily one of the most important moments in America's history.

What would you write if you were responsible for creating the Declaration of Independence? Use the space below to draft your version of this infamous document. Use what you know of colonial America to address who you are speaking for and what you and your fellow colonists are dissatisfied with.

A large, hand-drawn scroll with horizontal lines for writing. The scroll is unrolled, showing a series of horizontal lines across its length. The left end of the scroll is rolled up, and the right end also has a small roll. The scroll is outlined with a thick black line, and the lines inside are thin and evenly spaced.

# Colonial Crossword

Test your memory of the important people and ships of colonial America. Just use the clues to fill in the crossword puzzle.




## ACROSS

1. The ship that took the Pilgrims to Plymouth Rock
2. New England colony New \_\_\_\_\_
3. The King of England; he reigned from 1660-1685
4. Not John Smith, John \_\_\_\_\_

DOWN

5. The Queen of England; she reigned from 1558-1603
6. Powhatan's daughter
7. Christopher Newport's ship

ANSWERS: 1. Mayflower 2. Hampshire 3. Charles 4. Rolfe 5. Elizabeth 6. Pocahontas 7. Susan Constant



# Great job!

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is an Education.com social studies superstar



# Answer Sheets

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## **Come to the Colonies**

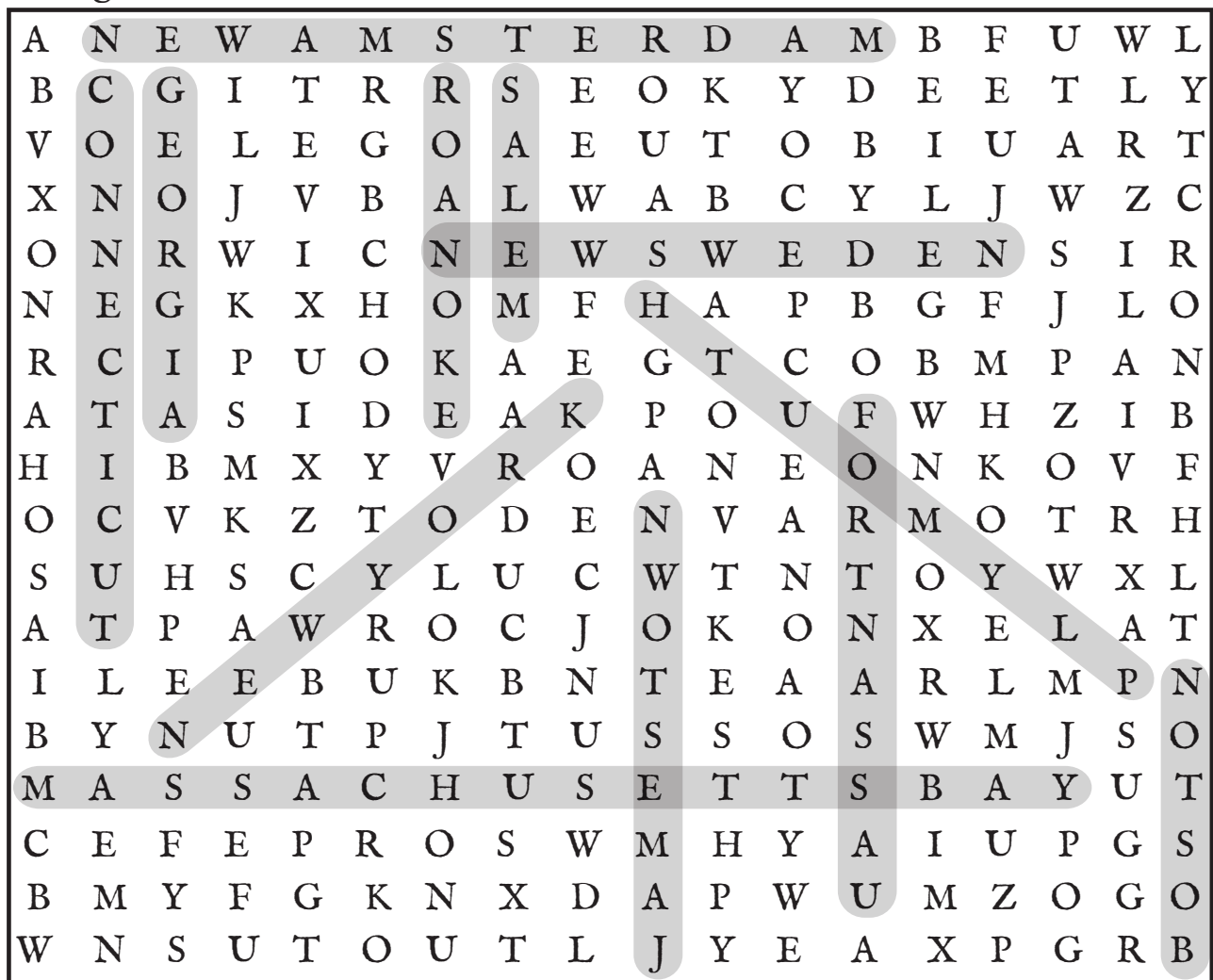
Colonial Word Search

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# Answer Sheet

# Colonial Word Search

**The appeal of the New World was seemingly unstoppable. Despite the harsh living conditions, settlers continued to travel to America in search of a better life. More settlers meant more colonies. Find the names of some of these colonies in the word search. How many of them do you recognize?**



Salem

## New Amsterdam

## Fort Nassau

## Connecticut

## New Sweden

Boston

## Massachusetts Bay Jamestown

New York

## Georgia

## Jamestown

## Roanoke

## Plymouth