

Life in the Colonies

West Branch Middle School
8th Grade U.S. History

Life on a Farm

- Economy based on farming, commerce (buying and selling goods, and handcrafts).
- Hard life, most families either raised or made nearly everything that they needed.
- Had to clear land of trees before it could be planted
- Only had axes and saws



Living on a Colonial Farm

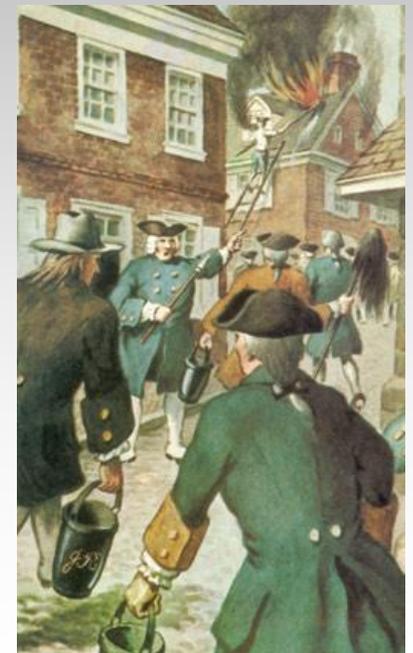
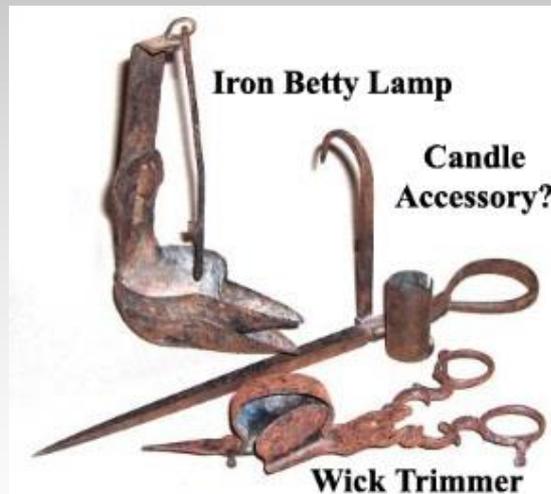
- Single large room with a fireplace at one end.
- Fireplace is the only source of warmth
- Fire is kept burning all of the time
- Life starts at sunrise

- Chores include
 - **Cutting wood**
 - **Feeding animals**
 - **Clearing land**
 - **Tending crops**
 - **Build fences**
 - **Making furniture and tools**
 - **Gathering eggs**
 - **Spinning thread**
 - **Weaving cloth**
 - **Sewing clothes**
 - **Making candles and soap**
 - **Cooking**
 - **Cleaning**
 - **Caring for babies**



Life in the Cities

- One colonist out of 20 lived in a city
- Streets were lined with shops
- Houses were built of wood with latched roofs
- Threat of fire was always present
- When there was a fire, the entire town participated in trying to put it out



Rights of the Colonists

- In 1215, the English people won the right to participate in their government.
- King John signed the “**Magna Carta**”
- In 1265, **Parliament** was added to the government.



The Glorious Revolution in America, 1689



- In 1688, leading English members of Parliament opposed James II for trying to reestablish absolute monarchy and promote Catholicism.
- They arranged for William of Orange to invade England and restore their liberties. King James fled England.
- This bloodless coup transformed England into a constitutional monarchy.
- William of Orange and his wife Mary became joint rulers after accepting the English Bill of Rights.

The English Bill of Rights, 1689

Religion Lawes and Liberties might not againe
be in danger of being subverted Upon which
Letters Elections having been accordingly
made and thereupon the said Lordes Spiritual
and Temporall and Commones pursuant to their
respective Letters and Elections being now
assembled in a full and free Representative of
the Nation taking into their most serious
consideration the best means for attaining
the ends aforesaid doe in the first place
their Ancestors in like case have usually done
for the vindicating and asserting their ancient
Rights and Liberties Declare That the pretended
power of suspending of Lawes or the Execution of
Lawes by Regall Authority without Consent of
Parliament is illegal That the pretended power
of dispensing with Lawes or the Execution of
Lawes by Special Authority as it hath been
assumed and exercised of late is illegal That
the Commission for erecting the late Court of
Commissioners for Ecclesiasticall Causes and all
other Commissions and Courts of like nature
are illegal and pernicious That stopping money
for or to the use of the Crowne by prettore of
the Exchequer without Seal of Parliament for
some time or in other manner then the same
is or shall be granted is illegal That it is
the right of the Subjects to petition the King
and all Commissions and prosecutions for such
petitioning are illegal That the raising or
levying of any charge within the Kingdom
in time of Peace without Consent of
Parliament is against Law That the Subjects
which are Protestants may have armes for their
better defence suitable to their Conditions and as
allowed by Law That Election of Members of
Parliament ought to be free That the Freedome

- The English Bill of Rights assured the English people of certain basic civil rights and became influential in the American colonies as well.

The Policy of Salutary Neglect



The Policy of Salutary Neglect



Prime Minister Robert Walpole

- Sir Robert Walpole served as England's first Prime Minister from 1721 to 1742.

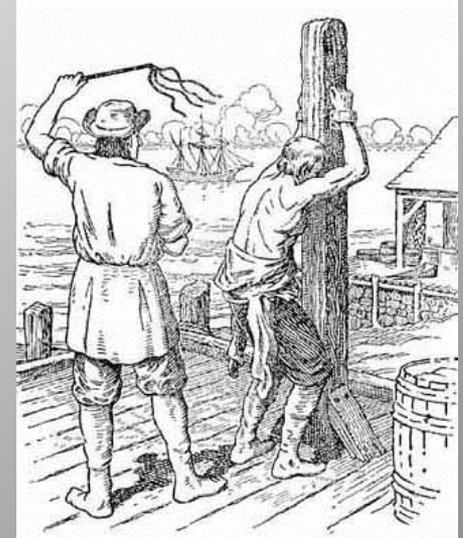
Crime and Punishment

- Each colonial assembly passed its own laws defining crimes and punishments
- Punishable by death
 - Murder
 - Treason
 - Piracy
- Puritan New England put to death those who “denied the true God” or cursed or hit their parents.



Crime and Punishment

- You might be jailed, whipped, or branded with hot irons.
 - Theft
 - Forgery
 - Highway robbery



Crime and Punishment



- Crimes such as drunkenness, and breaking the Sabbath
 - Fines, short jail sentences, public humiliation
 - Stocks

Crime and Punishment

- Puritans were much more strict
 - Everyone must attend church
 - No work or play allowed on Sunday
- Puritans believed that Satan worked through witches
- In 1691 fear exploded in Salem, Massachusetts
- 20 accused witches were put to death

