Colonial life 1700-1775
Population

- 1700-300,000 people
- 1775-2.5 million
- About 800,000 black and white immigrants total in that time
- The rest babies
- Average age 1775—16
Melting pot

- English—49%
- African—20%
- Scottish—7%
- German—7%
- Scots-Irish, Irish, Dutch and other Europeans
The term melting pot refers to the idea that societies formed by immigrant cultures, religions, and ethnic groups, will produce new hybrid social and cultural forms. The notion comes from the pot in which metals are melted at great heat, melding together into a new compound, with great strength and other combined advantages.
In the salad bowl model, various American cultures are juxtaposed — like salad ingredients — but do not merge together into a single *homogeneous* culture. Each culture keeps its own distinct qualities. This idea proposes a society of many individual, "pure" cultures, and the term has become more *politically correct* than *melting pot*, since the latter suggests that ethnic groups may be unable to preserve their cultures.
Colonial Society

- Most Americans - small farmers
- Cities contained skilled artisans (blacksmiths, carpenters)
  -- Also shopkeepers and trades people
In the north, wealth in the hands of the shipping merchants
In the south, wealth in the hands of a few large slaveholders
As supply of unclaimed land dwindles—forces men to become wage earners or move west

- Slaves at the bottom of society
- 1760—South Carolina tries to stop importation of Africans—Britain vetoes this—Why?
Colonial Economy

- New England—Fishing, Lumber, Ship building, iron works, Rum distilleries
- Middle colonies-Grains, Iron works,
- Southern Colonies-Tobacco, rice, indigo, lumber

- The most profitable industry was agriculture
- Population goes up, people healthy, relatively living well-produce more babies
How do you make Rum?

- It’s sugar! More specifically, it’s molasses. When sugar cane is juiced and boiled, you can take out crystallized sugar. The sticky residue that’s left is molasses. They ferment it, distill it, and then age it for different lengths of time.
Rum still
Molasses Act

- Parliament puts a Tax on French goods coming from the French West Indies (mainly sugar and molasses) to the colonies
- Not meant to make money. What is it for?
- Control trade, force colonist to buy British goods
Molasses Act strains relationship between Colonist and England
Colonist ignored law
How did colonist get sugar and supplies? Bribery and smuggling
This strains relationship
TRIANGULAR TRADE
RELIGION

- Anglican church (Church of England)—official church of the south, support the king of England
- Congregational Church (grown out of the Puritan Church) in New England
Great Awakening

- Boring preachers
  Maybe humans are not predestined to damnation and hell
  Maybe there is Free will and soul
  could be saved by good works
Jonathon Edwards, then George Whitefield began sermons of eternal fires and torments in hell.

Became Revival meetings where hundreds of the “saved” jumped and yelled and rolled on the ground in religious ecstasy.

The awakening stressed a personal relationship with god, not the authority of a clergy person (reduces their prestige)
It was America's first mass movement and brought people together with a shared experience.
Leads to “New Light” centers of learning—Princeton, Rutgers, Brown, and Dartmouth
Eduction

- English idea-education for the aristocratic males
- Puritan New England interested in education for religious reasons-bible reading
- --establish primary and secondary schools
Education

- Elementary schools in the middle and southern colonies
- Some tax-supported, most private
- Wealthy southerners depended upon tutors, why?
- “birching”
birching
Education

- College was to prepare men for the ministry
- Rich families sent boys abroad for a better education
Culture

- Not much-little money to support the arts, BUT...
Culture

John Trumbull
Charles Wilson Peale
John Singleton Copley

John Singleton Copley

Watson and the Shark, 1778
National Gallery of Art
Ferdinand Lammot Belin Fund, 1963.6.1
The Copley Family
Phyliss Wheatley
'Twas mercy brought me from my pagan land, Taught my beknighted soul to understand That there's a God, that there's a Savior too: Once I redemption neither sought nor knew. Some view our sable race with scornful eye, "Their color is a diabolic dye." Remember Christians; Negroes, black as Cain, May be refin'd, and join th' angelic train.
John Peter Zenger

- Arrested with libel
- Judge told Jury-ignore that the story was true, papers can not criticize powerful people
- Jury ignored judge-not guilty of libel
- Set precedent for Freedom of the Press
Canada and Louisiana

- France enters the new world through, St. Lawrence river, Great lakes and down the Mississippi.
- Fur-trappers-mainly beaver
- French want Louisiana because of the Mississippi
Conflict between France and England

- Both countries had on and off wars over the last century
- Washington instigates war with France—almost by accident
- In Europe called the Seven Year War.
- In the colonies—French and Indian War