**Thirteen Colonies -- facts**

**New England Colonies (4)**

**Massachusetts**

* Established by Puritans who wanted to have religious freedoms
* The Puritans were called Pilgrims because they had embarked on a *pilgrimage* (a trip made for religious reasons)
* This colony was governed by the rules of the Bible
* Fishing and farming made $
* After surviving the first year (due to tutoring and help from the native peoples), they invited the Native Americans to a feast in order to celebrate and give thanks – the first Thanksgiving (1621)

**New Hampshire**

* Named after Hampshire County in England
* Wild, mountainous land
* First alarm clock invented here
* Known for huge deposits of granite ($)

**Connecticut**

* U.S. Constitution modeled after their colonial laws
* Settled by Puritans from Massachusetts
* Fundamental Orders – guaranteed the right to vote for any ***men***who were members of the Puritan Church
* “Charter Oak” – symbol of freedom for Connecticut

**Rhode Island**

* Founded by Roger Williams, a minister from Massachusetts who preached “different” ideas and was put on trial for it
* Port towns used as a major center for the slave trade
* Originally called “Rogues’ Island” (place for criminals)
* First to declare independence from England, but last to get statehood because of worries over representation (they were such a small state)

**Middle Colonies (5)**

**Pennsylvania**

* Founded by William Penn
* Name means “Penn’s Woods”
* King gave charter to Penn for 2 reasons: (1) owed debt to Penn’s father and (2) wanted to get rid of Penn, who was a Quaker
* Quakers wanted equality for all people, refused to bow to the king, and refused to pay taxes

**New York**

* Named after James, the Duke of York (brother of King George II)
* Duke wanted to have control, but the people wanted to have rights
* Originally settled by the Dutch, who purchased Manhattan Island from Native Americans for goods valued at $24
* New York City was originally called New Amsterdam

**Delaware**

* Famous fighting unit, the Blue Hen army, named after their leader’s vicious pet rooster
* Was originally part of New York, but was ceded to William Penn, who wanted it as a passageway from his colony to the ocean

**Maryland**

* Part of this colony later became Washington DC
* First law guaranteeing religious freedom (didn’t apply to atheists or Jews)
* Named after the king’s wife, Mary

**New Jersey**

* Charter given to the governor of the Isle of Jersey
* Site of the first Indian reservation (1758)

**Southern Colonies (4)**

**Georgia**

* Last colony settled
* Named after King George II
* Founded by James Oglethorpe, who wanted to build a society in which poor debtors could build a new life (rather than going back to prison)
* Laws against alcohol and slavery

**North Carolina**

* First child (of European descent) born here
* The coast, during colonial times, was terrorized by the infamous pirate, Blackbeard
* “Tar Heels” – lots of pine trees whose sap was used to waterproof ships (workers often got the sticky “tar” on their feet)

**South Carolina**

* Wealthy plantation owners owned huge lowland farms
* Poor Scotch-Irish farmers in the highlands (further west)
* Lots of conflict over representation between the two above groups

**Virginia**

* Main crop was tobacco, which needed to be planted in large quantities to be successful
* First people enslaved were Native Americans. Many died from disease.
* Next people brought to work the plantations were poor whites (as indentured servants)
* Finally, slaves brought from Africa
* 4 of the first 5 U.S. presidents came from this colony