Planters, servants, enslaved people and puritans

History

Lesson 2 of an enquiry of 4 lessons

Enquiry: Who lived in British America?

Who lived in Virginia? Create this table

Planters	Indentured servants	Enslaved people

Virginia

Last lesson we looked at the Powhatan Chiefdom and the arrival of the English.

The English called the area Virginia and created a **colony** called Jamestown.

Many people who ran Jamestown were **planters**.

Planters: John Rolfe

John Rolfe was born in Norfolk, England in 1585. He became a businessman and wanted to challenge Spain's control of the **tobacco** industry.

In 1609 he left England for Jamestown with his wife, Sarah. The colony was struggling. It needed supplies and people to stop it failing.

Many of the ships and passengers did not reach Jamestown. Sarah Rolfe and their daughter died before their ship arrived.

Planters: Virginia

Soon English colonists began creating tobacco **plantations** (farms) up and down the James river. Many became very wealthy.

Planters: John Rolfe

John Rolfe married Matoaka (who we know as Pocahontas).

However, as the English took more and more Powhatan land, conflict occurred. Over time the English colonists destroyed much of the Powhatan way of life.

Indentured Servants: Richard Frethorne

Tobacco plantations needed workers.

In England, the American colonies were viewed as a place to send the poor.

Young men signed **indentures** to get to the 'New World' of America. They hoped to become wealthy once they had finished their contract.

One of these young men was Richard Frethorne who was sent to Virginia in 1622.

Indentured Servants: Richard Frethorne

Richard Frethorne was born in London to a poor family. He hoped for a better life in Virginia.

In return for working for free for 7 years, his journey to Virginia was paid for and he was given food and accommodation.

In his letters home he spoke about how badly he was treated and how hungry he was. He also described the conflict between the colonists and the native people. He died within a year of arriving in Virginia.

Indentured Servants: Richard Frethorne

In a letter home Richard Frethorne wrote:

"I have nothing to comfort me, nor is there nothing to be gotten here but sickness and death, except [in the event] that one had money to lay out in some things for profit.

But I have nothing at all–no, not a shirt to my back but two rags...My cloak is stolen by one of my fellows...

I have eaten more in [one] day at home than I have allowed me here for a week."

Enslaved People: The White Lion

In 1619, John Rolfe wrote a letter to Sir Edwin Sandys of the Virginia Company in England.

He described the arrival of about 20 Africans on a ship called the White Lion who were swapped in Virginia for food.

It is likely that the Africans were originally sold as indentured servants. However, slavery soon became common in Virginia.

Enslaved People: John Punch

By the 1640s we have evidence that life was different for black indentured servants.

John Punch, a black African, and two European indentured servants ran away from their master.

When they were found, John was sentenced to serve as a slave for the remainder of his life. The two other men had 4 years added to their contract.

Enslaved People: Virginia

Enslaved people mostly worked on plantations, growing tobacco or in the main house. They were taken from Africa or descended from Africans. Enslaved people were often treated very cruelly.

While the 13 colonies in America gained their independence from Britain in 1783, Virginia's enslaved people didn't gain their freedom until 1865.

Who lived in Virginia?

Planters	Indentured servants	Enslaved people
- e.g John Rolfe - Grew crops like tobacco to sell back in England - Owned plantations - Often became rich	- e.g Richard Frethorne - Mostly poor, young people from Britain - Worked for free in return for journey - Badly treated	- e.g John Punch - Descended from Africans - Status got worse over time - Worked on plantations - Only free in 1865

Puritans: New England

Puritans felt the Church of England was still too
Catholic and was beyond repair.

They wanted to live in communities of fellow **devout** Protestants.

So they travelled to what became known 'New England'.

Puritans: Anne Hutchinson

Anne Hutchinson was a puritan who travelled to Boston in 1634 to escape punishment for her religious beliefs.

Anne was highly educated and began to run her own meetings after church. She began to question the elders' understanding of the Bible.

The men of Boston were angry at being challenged by a woman so they put her on trial.

Puritans: Anne Hutchinson

She defended herself brilliantly at her trial but she lost and was forced to leave Boston with her family.

She died near what would later become New York.

Questions

1. What was Virginia?

2. What was grown on many plantations in Virginia?

3. By the mid-1600s, who lived in Virginia?

4. Where did Puritans set up colonies?

5. Why did Anne Hutchinson travel to America?

Who lived in British America?

For each of the below statements, write down who it's referring to and if it is describing a **similarity** or **difference**.

All lived in Virginia.   Powhatan peoples, planters, indentured servants, enslaved people (**similarity**)

Owned the plantations, worked on the plantations.

Travelled to America in search of a better life.

Were primarily motivated by religion, were primarily motivated by profit.

Went to America of their own free will, were forcibly taken to America.

Became rich, lived in poverty.