



National Humanities Center Resource Toolbox

# Becoming American: The British Atlantic Colonies, 1690-1763

A collection of primary resources—historical documents, literary texts, and works of art—thematically organized with notes and discussion questions



## I. GROWTH

	printout pages
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1 <b>The Colonies, 1690-1712</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–Massachusetts: Pamphlet debate between colonists &amp; the governor, 1707-1708</li> <li>–Connecticut: Journal of a woman traveler, 1704</li> <li>–Pennsylvania: Description by a German settler, 1700</li> <li>–New York: Report of an English chaplain, 1695</li> <li>–Virginia: Status report by a planter, 1705</li> <li>–Carolina: Views of an official and a settler, 1699, 1712</li> <li>–Map: North America, 1685 (zoomable)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	39
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>3 <b>Coming to America</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–Europeans' journeys:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–Christopher Sauer from Germany, 1724</li> <li>–Gottlieb Mittelberger from Germany, 1750</li> <li>–John Harrower from Scotland, 1774</li> <li>–Emigrate or not? Writings from Ireland, 1700s</li> </ul> </li> <li>–Africans' journeys:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–Olaudah Equiano from Benin, ca. 1756</li> <li>–Boyrereau Brinch from Mali, ca. 1759</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	25
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>5 <b>Servants &amp; Slaves</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–Indentured servants from Europe:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–Pennsylvania: William Moraley, 1729-1734, memoir</li> <li>–New York: Elizabeth Ashbridge, 1732-1735, memoir</li> <li>–Maryland: Elizabeth Sprigs, letter, 1756</li> <li>–Middle colonies: John Grimes, statement, 1765</li> </ul> </li> <li>–Slaves from Africa               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–Maryland: Job ben Solomon, 1730s, memoir</li> <li>–Rhode Island: Venture Smith, 1750s, memoir</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>6 <b>New Colonies</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–Georgia (founded 1733): five documents, 1717-1742</li> <li>–Failed colonies: proposals and reports, 1698-1763</li> <li>–Maps of Caledonia, 1698; New Bern, ca. 1714; North America, 1771 (zoomable)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	19
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7 <b>Indian Lands</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–On the taking of Indian lands: views of colonists, Indians, and the king, 1707-1765</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	8
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>8 <b>The Land</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–Animals, plants, and natural resources of British America, commentary and drawings, 1692-1760</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	13
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>9 <b>The Colonies: 1720-1763</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>–Massachusetts: A governor's history of 1760-1763, publ. 1770s</li> <li>–Pennsylvania: Poets' descriptions, 1724, 1730, 1756</li> <li>–Pennsylvania: An immigrant's perspective, 1750</li> <li>–Virginia: A visitor's survey, 1724</li> <li>–Carolinas &amp; Georgia: A Q&amp;A for potential settlers, 1750</li> <li>–Maps of North America (zoomable): 1755, 1760, 1765</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	50

## II. PEOPLES

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	–Benjamin Franklin, <i>Autobiography</i> , selections on his young adult life, 1720s-1730s	
	–William Moraley, <i>The Infortunate</i> , memoir, 1743; selections on his young adult life, 1729-1734	
	–Portraits of Benjamin Franklin (by R. Feke, 1736-1748) and of John Larrabee (by J. Badger, ca. 1750)	
2	<b>Europeans II: The Continent</b>	10
	–Non-British immigrants in British America: selections from letters, memoirs, and records, 1687-1758	
3	<b>Native Americans</b>	19
	–Indians and colonists view each other: selections from journals, letters, memoirs, etc., 1710-1760	
	–Samson Occom (Mohegan), on becoming a Christian minister (1730s/40s), memoir, 1768	
	–Oil portraits of four Iroquois leaders, by John Verelst, 1710	
	–Oil portraits of two Lenni Lenape leaders, by Gustavus Hesselius, 1735	
	–Watercolors and sketches of Yuchi Indians, Georgia, by P. G. F. von Reck, 1736	
4	<b>African Americans</b>	14
	–Black & white colonial Americans view each other: selections from journals, narratives, etc., 1696-1798	
	–Three depictions of African American by white artists, 1710-1761	
	–Two views of the Stono Rebellion: white, 1739; black, ca. 1937	
5	<b>Women (British ancestry)</b>	31
	–Mary Cooper, Long Island, New York farmwife; diary, 1768-1773	
	–Eliza Lucas Pinckney, South Carolina plantation wife/manager; letters, 1739-1762	
	–Mary Jemison, captive and adoptee of Seneca Indians; narrative, 1758-1780s	
	–Elizabeth Ashbridge, indentured servant and Quaker convert; narrative, 1730s	
	–Jane Turell, Massachusetts daughter/wife/mother; poems and letters, ca. 1727-1735	
6	<b>Diversity</b>	12
	–On the colonies' religious and ethnic diversity: commentary from letters, journals, etc., 1698-1769	
	–The Van Bergen overmantel, oil on wood, attributed to John Heaten, New York, ca. 1728-1738	
	<b>PEOPLES: Total Pages</b>	<b>105</b>

## III. ECONOMIES

1	<b>Commerce I: Empire</b>	15
	–American perspectives on the colonies' commercial ties with Great Britain: William Clarke, <i>Observations</i> , with appendix: Benjamin Franklin, <i>Observations</i> , written 1751	
	–European perspectives on Great Britain's ties with the colonies: five views, 1699-1760	
	–Herman Moll, <i>This Map of North America</i> , 1715 (zoomable)	
2	<b>Commerce II: Colonies</b>	16
	–Snapshots of colonial economies: selections, 1705-1762	
	–Rev. Cotton Mather, <i>Theopolis Americana [God's City: America]. An Essay . . . against the Corruptions of the Market-Place</i> , sermon, 1709	
3	<b>Merchants</b>	27
	–Satirized in poetry: Ebenezer Cooke, "The Sot-Weed Factor," poem, 1707	
	–Satirized in dialogue: Lewis Morris, <i>Dialogue Concerning Trade</i> , 1726	
	–Satirized in art: George Roupell, <i>Mr. Peter Manigault and His Friends</i> , ink drawing, ca. 1760 John Greenwood, <i>Sea Captains Carousing in Surinam</i> , oil, ca. 1752-1758	
4	<b>Consumers</b>	18
	–Benjamin Franklin on wealth, luxury, and virtue: selections, 1727-1784	
	–Luxury consumer goods by American & European artisans; and residential interiors, ca. 1695-ca. 1765	
5	<b>Planters</b>	16
	–Diary of William Byrd II of Virginia, selections, 1709-1712	
	–Diary of Landon Carter of Virginia, selections, 1758	
	–Portraits of William Byrd II, and of "Virginia's Colonial Dynasties," ca. 1697-1773: online exhibition	
6	<b>Servitude</b>	11
	–On the two forms of servitude, slaves & indentured servants: views of five white Europeans, 1705-1750	
	<b>ECONOMIES: Total Pages</b>	<b>103</b>

## IV. IDEAS

1	<b>Religion I: Religion and Reason</b>	16
	–On religion and reason: Puritan sermons and essays, 1720s	
	–On God and earthquakes: Puritan sermons and publications, 1727, 1755	
	–On God, earthquakes, electricity, and faith: Puritan sermons, letters, and publications, 1755	
2	<b>Religion II: The Great Awakening</b>	14
	–George Whitefield revivals described, 1739-1765	
	–Puritan clergymen debate revivalism, 1740-45	
	–Poems on revivalists (3), 1739-1771	

___ 3	<b>Religion III: Slavery</b>	13
	–Is slavery Christian? — pamphlet debate, Boston, 1700-1706	
	–What about slavery is <i>un</i> Christian? — Puritan, Anglican, and Quaker views, 1690-1760	
___ 4	<b>Learning</b>	42
	–Becoming a Learned Citizen	
	–John Adams, diary entries on learning, 1756-1765	
	–Benjamin Church, “The Choice,” poem, 1757	
	–Martha Wadsworth Brewster, acrostic poems for her children, 1757	
	–Colleges	
	–Yale College, rules for students, ca. 1701	
	–Benjamin Franklin, proposals for a Pennsylvania college, 1747	
	–William Smith, reasons to build the college of New York in the city, 1752	
	–Clubs, Societies, Salons, Tea-Tables, and Taverns	
	–Benjamin Franklin, autobiography, selections on the Junto Club, Philadelphia, 1727/1731	
	–Alexander Hamilton (not the Founding Father), Tuesday Club of Annapolis, founded 1745, history	
	–Benjamin Franklin, proposal for the American Philosophical Society, founded 1745	
	–Charlestown Library Society, founded 1748, Rules and Bylaws, Introduction	
	–Henry Brooke, “Modern Politeness,” poem, 1726	
___ 5	<b>Communication</b>	42
	–Newspapers	
	–Benjamin Franklin, editor, printer, <i>The Pennsylvania Gazette</i> , selections, 1730-1743	
	–Benjamin Franklin: editorials on the duties of a printer & the press, 1723-1740	
	–Pamphlets and Broad­sides	
	–Four “pamphlet wars” on politics, theology, and public health, 1700-1755	
	–Printed broadsides, selections, 1700-1760	
___ 6	<b>Science</b>	31
	–Rev. Cotton Mather, <i>The Christian Philosopher</i> , 1721, selections	
	–Benjamin Franklin & Cadwallader Colden, correspondence on science, selections, 1750-1753	
	–Dr. John Winthrop, report on the transit of Venus across the sun, viewed in Newfoundland, 1761	
___ 7	<b>Health</b>	17
	–Home medical guides: <i>Every Man His Own Doctor</i> , and <i>The Compleat Housewife</i> , 1727, selections	
	–The controversy over smallpox vaccination: a paper war in Boston, 1721, selections	
	<b>IDEAS: Total Pages</b>	<b>175</b>

## V. AMERICAN

___ 1	<b>Empire</b>	18
	–On the European competition for territory in North America: commentary, 1699-1763	
	–Letter from Benjamin Jones to John Jones, 1754, on the defense of the Pennsylvania frontier	
	–Benjamin Franklin, <i>The Interest of Great Britain Considered</i> , 1760, excerpts	
	–British maps of North America (zoomable), ca. 1750, 1763, 1763	
___ 2	<b>Power</b>	7
	–Jeremiah Dummer, <i>A Defense of the New England Charters</i> , 1721, excerpts	
	–Thomas Pownall, <i>The Administration of the Colonies</i> , 1764, excerpts	
___ 3	<b>Rights</b>	15
	–Religion: On preaching without a license; Rev. Frances Makemie, Massachusetts, 1707	
	–Religion: On paying taxes for a minister; “A Dissenting protestant,” Massachusetts, 1738	
	–Press: On printing “seditious libel” against the governor; John Peter Zenger, 1753	
	–Press: On printing a “profane poem” against the legislature; the “Old Tenor” controversy, 1751	
	–Women’s rights: Two poems, by Susanna Wright and by “Carolina, A Young Lady,” ca. 1750s	
___ 4	<b>Union?</b>	9
	–On the likelihood of a colonial union: commentary, 1724-1766	
	–Benjamin Franklin, “Join, or Die,” cartoon and editorial, <i>The Pennsylvania Gazette</i> , 9 May 1754	
___ 5	<b>Independence?</b>	10
	–On the likelihood of the colonies becoming independent: commentary, 1705-1767	
	–Rev. Jonathan Mayhew, <i>A Discourse Concerning Unlimited Submission</i> , 1750, excerpts	
	<b>AMERICAN: Total Pages</b>	<b>59</b>

**TOTAL: 679**

Images on page one:

Left: Joined chest (unidentified creator) made of oak and pine, Hatfield, Massachusetts, 1695-1720. Pocumtuck Valley Memorial Association, Deerfield, Massachusetts: #1892.13.03. Permission pending.

Right: Chest of drawers, made of mahogany, white pine, chestnut, and tulip poplar; created by John Townsend, Newport, Rhode Island, 1765. Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York, New York: #27.57.1. Permission pending.