**Middle Colonies or Mid Atlantic Colonies**

1. **New York:** In 1624, the Dutch founded a colony in the region that would come to be known as New York. This new settlement, dubbed New Netherland, was established for economic and political reasons under the leadership of Peter Minuit. Its capital, New Amsterdam, quickly became a bustling hub of commerce and trade. However, in 1664, the English King Charles II granted his brother, James, Duke of York , a large tract of land in the region that included New Netherland. The English viewed the Dutch presence in the area as a threat to their own colonial ambitions, and so they launched a military campaign to seize control of the colony. After renaming the colony New York in honor of the Duke of York, the English allowed the original Dutch settlers to remain and preserve their cultural and religious practices. The colony continued to thrive as a center of trade and commerce, ultimately being proclaimed a Royal colony by King James II in 1685.
2. **Pennsylvania:** Pennsylvania was founded in 1681 by William Penn, a wealthy English Quaker who received a charter from King Charles II of England as a debt payment to his father. Penn belonged to a religious group known as the ‘Quaker'. It refers to ‘religious society of friends. One of the most important aspects of Penn's vision for Pennsylvania was his commitment to religious freedom and tolerance. He believed that all people should be free to worship as they saw fit, and he welcomed settlers of all faiths to his colony. To attract settlers to the colony, Penn established a liberal land policy that allowed individuals to purchase large tracts of land at relatively low prices. He also encouraged immigration from England and other European countries by promising religious freedom, political autonomy, and economic opportunity in Pennsylvania. Penn's land policy and vision for the colony were successful in attracting a diverse group of settlers to Pennsylvania, including many wealthy and influential English families. The colony quickly attracted over 1000 settlers in the first year from all over Europe. Penn himself settled in his colony and named its capital Philadelphia.
3. **Delaware:** Delaware was originally a Quaker colony. In 1638, a group of Swedes led by Peter Minuit established the first permanent European settlement in the region, which they called New Sweden. However, the settlement was later taken over by the Dutch and in 1664, the English seized control of New Netherland, which included Delaware, from the Dutch. In 1681, Delaware became part of Pennsylvania under the leadership of William Penn. However, as Delaware's population grew and its economy developed, the colony began to demand greater political autonomy. Delaware claimed that the distance to Philadelphia, the capital of Pennsylvania, was too far to travel for governance purposes. Penn ultimately accepted Delaware's request for a separate government, and in 1701, Delaware became a separate colony with its own legislative assembly. As a Quaker colony, Delaware was known for its religious tolerance and acceptance of all faiths.
4. **New Jersey:** New Jersey was founded in 1664 by a group of English colonizers led by Sir George Carteret and John Berkeley, who were granted the land by the Duke of York. Carteret and Berkeley named the new colony after the English Channel Island of Jersey, where Carteret was originally from. They envisioned New Jersey as a profitable venture, where they could establish a trade route between New England and Virginia, and grow profitable crops such as tobacco. Land in New Jersey was sold at low prices to attract more settlers. New Jersey grew quickly in the late 1600s and early 1700s, attracting many settlers from Europe and other colonies. It became an important center of trade and commerce, with thriving ports in cities like Newark and Camden.

**Southern Colonies**

1. **Virginia:** In 1606, King James I granted a charter to two companies, the London and Plymouth for the colonization of North America. The Plymouth Company established a colony in the north which struggled during its early years but eventually merged with the Massachusetts Bay Colony. The London Company, however, was more successful. In December of the same year, it sent a hundred men aboard three ships, the Susan Constant, the Godspeed and the Discovery. The first permanent English colony in North America was founded in 1607 at Jamestown, Virginia which was named after their King, James I. The establishment of Jamestown was for economic purposes. The company planned to send colonists to find gold and other valuable natural resources in America. Although the colonists faced a lot of hardships such as starvation and diseases, they succeeded to start the permanent English colony in America, thanks to the help of the neighboring Indian tribes and the good leader ship of John Smith who supported them to work in the land. By 1619, the colony had developed not with gold but from the tobacco agriculture. To increase production and profits, the company introduced the Headright system, which attracted more settlers and planted other settlements outside Jamestown.
2. **Maryland :** In 1632, King Charles I of England granted a charter to Sir George Calvert, a wealthy Catholic nobleman and former secretary of state, to establish a colony north of the Potomac River from King Charles I in what became known as Maryland. The colony was a refuge for Catholics who were facing persecution in Anglican England. In fact, Calvert never saw his colonies because he died and the colony was inherited by his son and was a source of income for the family. The first settlement was established at St. Mary's City, which became the capital of the colony. The settlers were a mix of Catholics and Protestants, and Leonard Calvert's instructions were to ensure religious toleration for all. Maryland's policy of religious toleration was enshrined in the colony's founding document, the Act Concerning Religion, which was passed in 1649. The act guaranteed freedom of worship for all Christians, but it also declared that anyone who denied the divinity of Jesus would be punished by death.
3. **Carolinas:** Between 1663 and 1665, King Charles II of England granted a large tract of land south of Virginia to eight nobles who had helped him regain the monarchy from Oliver Cromwell in what is known as the Restoration. These nobles were referred to as the Lord Proprietors, and the land was given to them for investment purposes. This land eventually became known as the Carolina colony. In 1712, the Carolina colony was officially divided into two separate colonies, North Carolina and South Carolina, with different governors appointed to each because it was too difficult to manage as one colony.In 1719 and 1729, the two colonies became royal colonies.
4. **Georgia :**Georgia was the last English colony to be established, founded in 1732 by James Oglethorpe and a group of philanthropists. The colony was intended to serve as a refuge for debtors and other poor people in England, as well as a buffer against Spanish Florida. The colony restricted slavery and alcohol. In 1751, it became a royal colony. It was famous for agriculture especially rice and indigo like other southern colonies.