Early English and Dutch Colonization

English and Dutch Colonies
The English Empire in North America
Early Contacts

• Fishing villages established as early as 1497
• Until 1607 energies mostly focused on Piracy and attacking Spanish
  – Sir Francis Drake
• Too far away and too big of Spanish presence
• 1604 Peace signed between Spain and England
  – Gave northern lands to British
First attempts at Colonization

• 1497 – Henry VII sends John Cabot to New World
  – Makes it to New Foundland and claims land for England
• Sir Walter Raleigh Follows to set up colony
  – 1578 lands in what is now North Carolina
  • Swamp
  • Algonquins
  • Named land Virginia, Settlement Roanoke
Jamestown 1607

- May 14, 1607 104 settlers landed in Modern day Virginia
- Sponsored by the Virginia Company
- Colony initially failed (Algonquin), had to be saved by near by natives (Powhatan)
- By 1610 Only 60 of original 500 settlers were still alive
Problems with Jamestown

- Poor leadership
- People were not good farmers
  - More worried about growing cash crops
- Fighting with Natives
- Disease
Virginia

• Term attached to most of early Colonies

• Focused primarily on Cash Crops
  – Tobacco
  – Cotton

• Both required slaves in order to run profitable business
Dutch Colonization
Henry Hudson

North East Passage
British Sailor hired by Dutch government to find NE Passage
1609 sailed up the coast of Norway in search of passage
After failure looked to find Northwest passage instead

North West Passage
Sailed across Atlantic trying to find route to Pacific
Sailed into large river and traveled as far up as possible
River named Hudson River, entire river claimed for Netherlands
West India Company

Offshoot of the Dutch East India Company

Established as a company that would oversee the colonization and trade with in the new colonies.
New Amsterdam

Peter Minut purchased island for equivalent of $24 from Natives.

Instead of subsistence agriculture settlers took part in fur trade.