The Colonial Era
Original Thirteen

- With the creation of Georgia in 1732, the English colonies now numbered 13.
Colonies Begin to Thrive

- Trade with English homeland brought money to colonies and allowed them to grow
- Colonies allowed some self-government
New England

- Mostly Subsistence Farming
  - Too far north for “cash crops”
- Exported natural recourses to England
  - Cod
  - Timber
The Middle Colonies

- Fertile soil and temperate climate allowed them to grow cereal crops
  - Wheat
- Large Seaports, like Philadelphia and New York, became trading centers
Southern Colonies

- Near the coast mostly plantations growing tobacco
- Inland mostly family farms
The lives of Women

• Did not have any legal rights or responsibilities outside of homes
• Mostly took care of cooking, gardening, housework and raising the children
Beginnings of the Slave Trade

• More labor was needed as indentured servants stopped coming
• Mostly sent to southern and middle colonies to work on farms
Triangular Trade

- Captured Africans transported to North and South America and sold into slavery
- Helped harvest raw materials (cotton, sugar, timber) to be sent to England
- Raw materials turned into manufactured goods (guns, cloth), which could be sold in the Americas, or traded for more slaves
Triangular Trade
The Enlightenment

- New ideas beginning to rise in Europe in 17th and 18th Centuries
- Challenged old beliefs in Religion, Science, and Government
  - Began questioning rule of Kings
The Enlightenment in the Colonies

• Freedom of Religion
  – Great Awakening
  – George Whitefield

• Scientific Revolution
  – Benjamin Franklin