

**Questions for Day 22-30**

*Describe the slave trade and the nature of early slavery in the American colonies.*

The slave trade and early slavery in the American colonies is a heartbreaking memory. Horrific conditions on slave voyages limited the number of slaves that arrived on the mainland. These “middle voyage” treks each carried hundreds of African slaves chained by their neck and extremities on the cargo deck. In most cases, the slaves were so crowded in that they had to lay on their back for the entire trip. Some captains allowed the slaves to be washed regularly, but harsher ones kept the slaves captive, laying in their own excrement, for the three-to-six month voyage. These conditions were a breeding ground for disease, and between one and two million slaves died en route to America.

Slavery was slow to take hold in American. At first indentured servants from England and Native Americans were used for labor. Natives provided to be not a good source of forced labor because they knew the land and had family near by and this made escape possible. The harsh conditions and improving economic opportunities in England made fewer indentured servants available. This led to an increase in demand for African slaves, who could not escape and could be used for labor for their entire life.

*How were the different regions of the colonies (New England, Middle, and Southern) distinct?*

The New England, Middle and Southern regions of the colonies were each distinct. The area known as New England was comprised of Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, and Rhode Island. This region was highly English, with scatterings of Scotch-Irish population. With its proximity to the ocean, this area’s major commodity was fish. Other major exports included whale products and timber. Major imports included sugar from the West Indies, wheat from the Chesapeake region, and manufactured items from Britain.

The middle, or mid-Atlantic, colonies included New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. This region was known for being the most ethnically diverse during the colonial period. Large concentrations of Dutch, Scots, and Scotch-Irish settled in New York, along with some Germans and a few Huguenots, or French Protestants. New York also had the largest concentration of Africans in the middle colonies. New Jersey had a similar ethnic makeup, with a handful of Swedes in the Delaware River Valley. Delaware was heavily English, while Pennsylvania was predominantly German and Scotch-Irish.

The Chesapeake region of Maryland and Virginia, also known as the Upper South, was the wealthiest of the eastern regions. A heavily English region, this area was also

populous with Germans and Scotch-Irish. The Chesapeake also had a great deal of racial diversity, with a population of 60 percent white, 40 percent black. Not surprisingly, then, slaves were common on both large and small farms. Tobacco served as the major crop of this region, although wheat also became a popular crop. The Chesapeake exported both tobacco and wheat, along with some food to the West Indies, and imported manufactured goods from Britain and slaves from the West Indies and Africa.

#### *What was the Great Awakening?*

The Great Awakening was a religious revival that swept through the colonies in the 1730s and 40s. This led to a more distinct American identity.

#### *What was the Enlightenment?*

The Enlightenment, also called The Age of Reason, is described by scholars as an epistemology (a method of thinking and knowing) based on the presumption that the natural world is best understood through the use of close observation by the human faculties coupled with a reliance on reason.

#### *What were the Salem Witch Trials?*

The Salem Witch Trials were a series of trials resulting from a mass hysteria about witches; 150 were accused and 29 convicted.

#### *Explain the cause and effects of the Enlightenment.*

The Enlightenment had a profound effect on religion. Many Christians found the enlightened view of the world consistent with Christian beliefs, and used this rational thinking as support for the existence and benevolence of God. Preachers incorporated the vocabulary of reason and natural law into their sermons to explain how God works through natural causes without giving up their postulates that He is the first cause of everything.

Another outcome of the Enlightenment was deism, a belief held by some intellectuals that God functioned as a clock-maker, creating the universe and then stepping back to watch his creation function. However, the Enlightenment led other Protestants in a very different direction. More liberal Congregationalists as well as Anglicans denounced traditional doctrines about the nature of God, arguing that He was a benevolent, rather than arbitrary, deity. They also disputed the divinity of Christ (some began to think he was entirely human) and the process of salvation, arguing that God saves sinners not because he predestines them to grace but because he foresees the good works they will perform through their own volition. These positions fostered Anglicans' complacency that the world was ordered in the best possible way, and generated liberals' distaste for the spiritual frenzies of religious enthusiasm.

The Enlightenment also had an impact on education. It led to the formations of colleges whose primary focus remained to train ministers. The Enlightenment opened up education beyond that single purpose, however. The focus on education led to the establishment of public libraries and an increasing amount of social activism.

*Explain the causes and effects of the Great Awakening.*

The very nature of the American frontier set the stage for the Great Awakening. Isolated from their seaboard peers, the pioneers were often too far away to attend churches and religious gatherings. The stage was set for a series of religious revivals, which would collectively become known as The Great Awakening.

The effects of the Great Awakening were felt far from just on the pioneering edges of America. In the short run, the Great Awakening accelerated church membership and was the first concerted effort to convert African Americans and Native peoples. It brought more people into the church, but it also divided it.

Some traditionalists rejected the teachings of Whitefield, Edwards, and other preachers of the Great Awakening as too radical, which divided their churches into two distinct groups. The traditionalists became known as "Old Lights" in the Congregational Churches and "Old Sides" in the Presbyterian Churches. Their counterparts who were accepting of the new doctrines became known as "New Lights" and "New Sides." Both sides agreed on the need for living a life that glorified God, but the New Lights and New Sides took the view that salvation was man's responsibility, rather than God's which caused a split in many churches.

One last effect of The Great Awakening happened because it was the first true "American" event. Even as those with differing beliefs developed new religious organizations, the shared experiences of the revivals encouraged settlers to begin identifying themselves as Americans.

*What are the causes of King Philip's War?*

There were many causes that led up to King Philip's War. Tensions had long existed due to the cultures' different ways of life. With the passing of the first generation, the personal bonds which had maintained peace were broken. Also the colonists' livestock trampling native cornfields was a continuing problem and competition for resources created friction. Then in 1662 colonial forces took Wampanoag leader Wamsutta at gunpoint in an attempt to exert control. This greatly angered Wampanoag. Wamsutta sickened and died shortly afterwards.

Also in January 1675, the Indian John Sassamon died at Assawampsett Pond, about 15 miles north of present-day New Bedford. Sassamon was literate and a Christian convert. He may have been acting as an informer to the English and was murdered, probably at Philip's instigation. Increase Mather, writing after the war, suggested he was killed "out of hatred for him for his Religion..." On June 8 Sassamon's alleged murderers were tried and executed at Plymouth. Wamsutta's brother Metacom (King Philip) became leader and ultimately led his people into war to preserve their traditional way of life.

*Give a description of the war.*

The almost two-year conflict between the colonists and the Native Americans in New England stands as perhaps the most devastating war in this country's history. One in ten soldiers on both sides were wounded or killed. At its height, hostilities threatened to push the recently arrived English colonists back to the coast. And, it took years for towns and urban centers to recover from the carnage and property damage.

It began in western Plymouth colony in June of 1675 and spread through New England. King Philip's warriors attacked Swansea in western Plymouth Colony. Encouraged by success they carried the war to neighboring Plymouth Colony towns. Most Natives who had converted to Christianity—called "Praying Indians" or "Christian Indians"—fought with the English or remained neutral.

The hostilities expanded and many settlements were burned. Philip's winter quarters were destroyed in a crucial colonial victory. An Indian soldier named Alderman in the service of Capt. Church killed Philip after his hiding place at Mt. Hope (Bristol, R.I.) was betrayed. Philip's body was drawn and quartered and his head exposed on a pole in Plymouth. King Philip died and effectively ended the war.

*What are the effects of the war?*

There were many long term effects of King Philip's War. There was destruction of family and communities for both native and colonist alike. It took decades for the colonists to recover from the loss of life, property damage and the huge military expenditures. Entire Native families were sold into slavery abroad or forced to become servants locally. Political independence for the Natives ended, but many Native Peoples continued to live in Plymouth Colony and maintained tribal ties and a strong sense of community.