

Name _____



Colonial Lives

In Colonial America, people had very different lives depending on their social class. Some were wealthy landowners, while others were farmers, artisans, laborers, indentured servants, or enslaved people. Each group had unique experiences that shaped their daily lives.

Wealthy Landowners

Wealthy landowners lived in large homes and owned plantations or large farms. They had servants or enslaved people to do most of the work, while they managed their businesses. Many landowners were involved in politics and had power in their colonies. Their children were taught by private tutors or sent to schools, sometimes even to England.

Farmers and Artisans

Most people in the colonies were small farmers who grew crops for their families and sold extra food in markets. They worked hard every day, planting, harvesting, and taking care of animals. Some colonists were artisans, or skilled workers, who made things like furniture, shoes, tools, and clothing. Artisans often lived in towns and ran their own shops.

Indentured Servants

Some people came to the colonies as indentured servants. This meant they signed a contract to work for 4 to 7 years in exchange for a trip to America. Many worked on farms or in homes, hoping to start a new life when their contract ended. However, life was very hard for them, and not all indentured servants were treated fairly.

Enslaved People

Enslaved people had the hardest lives in the colonies. They were forced to work on plantations, in homes, or in cities without pay. They could not leave, earn money, or own land. Families were often separated, and their lives were controlled by the people who owned them. Despite this, many enslaved people kept their traditions, music, and beliefs, helping them stay strong.

Life in the Colonies

Your experience in Colonial America depended on where you lived and what social class you were in. Wealthy people had power, farmers worked hard for a simple life, and others faced extreme hardship. No matter their class, all people played a role in shaping the future of America.

