

Subject Guides

Colonial America

Greenwood Public Library



This pathfinder is designed to help you locate all kinds of information on Colonial America. It focuses on materials relevant for students grades K-12; these materials include [online searches](#), [print materials](#), [multimedia items](#), [websites](#), and [teacher resources/activities](#).

It all started in Jamestown, Virginia in 1607. Known as the New World, colonists left Europe to escape religious persecution, and in the end, started a whole new country. This pathfinder provides resources to help you learn all about life in the Thirteen Colonies, and to better understand the events leading to the American Revolution.

The print materials and multimedia materials were located using the Greenwood Public Library Evergreen search website, and they may all be located at Greenwood Public Library. The electronic materials were located through Google searches and other online databases.

Keywords & Searching Tips

When searching for information through an electronic database or Internet search engine, you may find more or stronger resources by using the following tips:

When looking for a particular phrase, such as *Colonial History*, surround the phrase with quotation marks ("Colonial History"). This ensures that your results will include this entire phrase, rather than just "Colonial" or "History."

If you do not want something in your results, put a minus sign (-) in front of it. For example, if I do not want information regarding Jamestown in my Colonial History search, I could type: "Colonial History"- Jamestown.

If you want to search for more than one phrase at the same time, use the word "OR" between the phrases. For example, if I searched "Colonial history" OR "Pilgrims," I can locate materials that use either of these phrases.

You can narrow down your search even further by using the word "AND." If I want to research Jamestown, I can search "Jamestown" AND "John Smith" to get more appropriate results.

Try using the following search terms to locate various materials regarding Colonial Period.

- Colonial Period
- United States History - Colonial Period
- Thirteen Colonies
- Colonists

- Jamestown
- Mayflower
- Plymouth
- Pilgrims

The following search terms can be used to locate information on a specific topic on Colonial History:

- Bradford, William
- First Thanksgiving
- French and Indian War
- Huguenots
- Jamestown
- Mayflower Compact
- Names of Colonies
- Names of People
- New Amsterdam
- New Plymouth Colony
- Penn, William
- Pocahontas
- Puritans
- Raleigh, Sir Walter
- Revere, Paul
- Samoset
- Smith, John
- United States - History - Colonial Period
- Williamsburg
- Witchcraft trials

If looking for information on a particular (for example: “elections” AND “Pennsylvania”)

If looking for information on a particular individual that lived during the Colonial period, type their last name, first name. For example, “Smith, John.”

Multimedia

The following multimedia items contain both educational and recreational materials regarding Colonial and Early America.

[The Last of the Mohicans](#) The love of Hawkeye, rugged frontiersman and adopted son of the Mohicans, and Cora Munro, aristocratic daughter of a British colonel, blazes amidst a brutal conflict between the British, the French and Native American allies in colonial America.

[A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving](#) A Charlie Brown Thanksgiving: When Peppermint Patty and a group of hungry pals show up at Charlie Brown's house expecting food, Charlie Brown is too wishy-washy to refuse. With the help of Linus, Snoopy and Woodstock a very unusual feast is prepared. The Mayflower voyagers: Charlie Brown and his friends show us what the voyage of the Mayflower would have been like and how the colonists settled into their new land.

[Desperate Crossing](#) From their self-imposed exile in Holland to their perilous crossing of the Atlantic, to their first year in the new world, Desperate Crossing is the definitive story of how the Pilgrims came to live and prosper in an unfamiliar land.

Fiction/Nonfiction Books

Nonfiction : Grades K-5

[Colonial America](#) by [Bonnie L. Lukes](#) Discusses settlement in colonial America and life in the thirteen colonies. (J 973.2 LUK)

[Government and politics in colonial America](#) by [Charlie Samuel](#) (J 325.341 SAM)

[Money and finance in Colonial America](#) by [Charlie Samuel](#) (J332.0973 SAM)

[Home life in Colonial America](#) by [Charlie Samuel](#) (J 306.0973 SAM)

[Entertainment in Colonial America](#) by [Charlie Samuel](#) (J 790.973 SAM)

[Science in Colonial America](#) by [Brendan January](#) Describes the scientific contributions made by people in colonial America, including natural history, medicine, astronomy, and electricity. (J 509.73 JAN)

[Governing and Teaching : a sourcebook on colonial America](#) by [C. Carter Smith](#) Describes and illustrates the historical, political, and religious aspects of life in colonial America through a variety of images produced during that time. (J 973.2 GOV)

[Inventors and Inventions in Colonial America](#) by [Charlie Samuel](#) (J 609.74 SAM)

[Good Women of a Well-Blessed Land : women's lives in colonial America](#) by [Brandon Marie Miller](#) A social history of the American colonial period with a focus on the daily lives of women, including European immigrants, Native Americans, and slaves. (J 305.4097 MIL)

[The Story of Thanksgiving](#) by [Robert Merrill Bartlett](#) Relates the history and customs of Thanksgiving, from the harvest festivals of the ancient world and the first Thanksgiving in colonial America to today's celebrations. (J 394.2649 BAR)

[Going to School in Colonial America](#) by [Shelley Swanson Sateren](#) Discusses the school life of children who lived in the thirteen colonies, including lessons, books, teachers, examinations, and special days. (J 370.973 SAT)

[What people wore in early America](#) by [Allison Stark Draper](#) Describes what people wore in early America, discussing colonial, puritan, and Native American styles. (J 391 DRA)

[The Salem Witch Trials](#) by [Stephen Currie](#) Discusses the events of the Salem witch trials, those that were unfairly accused, and the effects on the people. (J 345.7445 CUR)

[Witch Hunt : it happened in Salem Village](#) by [Stephen Krensky](#) An account of the madness that overtook Salem Village, Massachusetts, when several young girls accused a number of adults in the community of being witches. (J 974.4 KRE)

[The Salem witchcraft trials in American history](#) Discusses the issues and controversy surrounding the trials, highlighting possible causes and the key figures. (J 974.4 FRE)

Fiction : Grades K-5

[Standing in the light : the captive diary of Catherine Carey Logan by Mary Pope Osborne](#) A Quaker girl's diary reflects her experiences growing up in the Delaware River Valley of Pennsylvania and her capture by Lenape Indians in 1763. (J DEAR)

[Felicity's dancing shoes by Valerie Tripp](#) In colonial Williamsburg, nine-year-old Felicity's dancing skills improve when she changes from wearing clumsy shoes to dainty slippers but ultimately she learns that "Gracefulness is in the foot, not the shoe." Includes information on the education of girls in colonial America, focusing on dance, and presents square dance instructions. (J AMER)

[Enemy in the fort by Sarah Masters Buckey](#) In 1754, with her own parents taken captive, twelve-year-old Rebecca must confront her fear and hatred of the Abenaki when a boy raised by members of that tribe is brought to the fort at Charleston, New Hampshire, just before a series of thefts occurs. (J AMER)

[Blood on the river : James Town 1607 by Elisa Carbone](#) Traveling to the New World in 1606 as the page to Captain John Smith, twelve-year-old orphan Samuel Collier settles in the new colony of James Town, where he must quickly learn to distinguish between friend and foe. (J CAR)

[Our Strange New Land by Patricia Hermes](#) Nine-year-old Elizabeth keeps a journal of her experiences in the New World as she encounters Indians, suffers hunger and the death of friends, and helps her father build their first home. (J NYAM)

[The Starving Time by Patricia Hermes](#) Elizabeth Barker continues to write to her "friend," her diary, as disease and lack of food further plague the suffering settlers at Jamestown. (J MYAM)

[Season of Promise by Patricia Hermes](#) In 1610, ten-year-old Elizabeth continues a journal of her experiences living in Jamestown, as her brother Caleb rejoins the family, a new strict governor comes to the colony, and her father considers remarriage. (J MYAM)

[A Journey to the New World : the diary of Remember Patience Whipple by Kathryn Lasky](#) Mem presents a diary account of the trip she and her family made on the Mayflower in 1620 and their first year in the New World. (J DEAR)

[The Journal of Jasper Jonathan Pierce : a pilgrim boy by Ann Rinaldi](#) A fourteen-year-old indentured servant keeps a journal of his experiences on the Mayflower and during the building of Plymouth Plantation in 1620 and 1621. (J DEAR)

NonFiction : Grades 6-12

[The Writer's Guide to Everyday Life in Colonial America by Dale Taylor](#) (973.2 TAY)

[Daily life : a sourcebook on colonial America by Carter Smith](#) Describes and illustrates daily life in colonial America through a variety of images produced at the time. (973.2 DAI)

[The Explorers and settlers : a sourcebook on colonial America](#) by [Carter Smith](#) Describes and illustrates the first discoveries and settlements in North America through a variety of images produced at that time. (J973.2 EXP)

[A New World : an epic of colonial America from the founding of Jamestown to the fall of Quebec](#) by [Arthur Quinn](#) (973.2 QUI)

[Colonial Craftsmen and the Beginnings of American Industry](#) by [Edwin Tunis](#) Describes and illustrates the work of craftsmen and artisans in Colonial America. Shows types of work done in town shops and factories, as well as, in homes, village shops, and country forges. (609.73 TUN)

[The First Frontier: life in Colonial America](#) by [John C. Miller](#) (917.3 MIL)

[In the Devil's Snare : the Salem Witchcraft Crisis of 1692](#) by [Mary Beth Norton](#) (133.4 NOR)

[The American Heritage History of the Thirteen Colonies](#) (973.2 AME)

Fiction : Grades 6-12

[Virginia Bound](#) by [Amy Butler](#) Thirteen-year-old orphaned beggar Rob Brackett is kidnapped from the streets of London and taken to the New World for a cruel tobacco farmer master, who also owns a Pamunkey Native American girl named Mattoume. (YA BUT)

[Sorceress](#) by [Celia Rees](#) Eighteen-year-old Agnes, a Mohawk Indian who is descended from a line of shamanic healers, uses her own newly-discovered powers to uncover the story of her ancestor, a seventeenth-century New England English healer who fled charges of witchcraft to make her life with the local Indians. (YA REE)

[A Break with Charity : a story about the Salem witch trials](#) by [Ann Rinaldi](#) While waiting for a church meeting in 1706, Susanna English, daughter of a wealthy Salem merchant, recalls the malice, fear, and accusations of witchcraft that tore her village apart in 1692. (YA RIN)

[The Crucible : a play in four acts](#) by [Arthur Miller](#) (812 MIL)

[I Walk in Dread : the Diary of Deliverance Trembley](#) by [Lisa Rowe Fraustino](#) Twelve-year-old Deliverance Trembley writes in her diary about the fears and doubts that arise during the 1692 witch hunt and trials in Salem Village, Massachusetts, especially when her pious friend, Goody Corey, is condemned as a witch. (J DEAR)

Teacher Resources

All Ages

[Salem Witchcraft Hysteria](#) Experience the 1692 Salem witch-hunt in a terrifying online trial: 'Are you a witch? How long have you been in the snare of the devil? Confess!'

[Colonial America Map](#) A blank map to be labeled and colored.

[Cultures in Conflict](#) A ten page teacher's guide in PDF format that provides information and activity ideas about the interactions between the English settlers of Jamestown and Native Americans.

[Explore the Amazing World of Early America](#) Read George Washington's 1789 proclamation declaring Thanksgiving a national holiday (see Firsts). This is just one of many interesting 18th Century documents taken from newspapers- books- maps and magazines of the period.

[Welcome to America: Life in the Thirteen Colonies](#) This week, in the latest edition of our year long Millennium Series, Education World travels to the *New World* to explore life in the 13 original colonies. In the stories below, you'll have the opportunity to "discover" colonial America during the 1700s, and compare the lives of the country's earliest citizens to the lives of citizens today!

K-5 Activities

[Colonial America: A Webquest](#) Pretend you can travel back in time to the earliest days of our country's history. You could experience what life was like in a land ripe with new possibilities for religious, economic, and political opportunities. View the colonial experience through the eyes of either a slave, a farmer, a woman, or an artisan. Choose one and learn about the beginnings of our country through their unique perspective.

[Come to America](#) Students create a brochure that would attract settlers to the east coast of North America in the late 1600s or early 1700s.

[Of Pen and Ink](#) Students learn about the writing tools used by the colonist before the invention of pens and pencils.

[Life on Plymouth Plantation](#) Students explore Plymouth colonial life, answer questions, and write a series of letters through this web-based lesson plan with teacher notes.

6-12 Activities

[Salem Witch Trials](#) Enter a world very different from our own and discover the fears, struggles and beliefs of everyday people in Salem.

[A Study of the Colonial Economy from 1600-1750](#) Information and pictures, project ideas, classroom games, and a colonial marketplace reenactment about colonial markets, trade, jobs, money, imports and exports, and mercantilism.

[How did European colonies in North America differ?](#) Look at colonial America from a geographic perspective. Locate the physical features of North America, the boundaries of lands controlled by the English, French, Spanish and Dutch, and explain how geography influenced claims and settlement. Describe the economic, political, and social factors that influenced the development of the colonies. Create a persuasive poster to bring immigrants for a specific colony.

[Summarize the Reasons Why English Settlers Came to America](#) Using the Mayflower Compact as a primary source, identify and describe the reasons why the Pilgrims came to North America.

Websites

Databases

A database is a collection of related electronic records in a standardized format, searchable in a variety of ways, such as title, author, subject, and keyword. Common examples of databases are the library catalog and citation indexes. The library subscribes to a variety of websites and also provides access to a state run database known as Inspire. Through each database you can access journal and magazine articles from a variety of sources.

[Inspire](#)

[Student Research Center](#)

Websites

When searching for information on the Internet, you need to find out where the information is coming from. Anyone can create a website so make sure that the information is referenced or is provided by an educated source. An educated source can be from a university/school, a teacher or usually a site that ends in .edu or .org. Some .com sites have good information just make sure that the person that created the website is qualified. If you are not sure, look for their contact information at the bottom of the website.

[Colonial Williamsburg](#) Information on Colonial Williamsburg in Williamsburg, VA. Site also includes teacher resources and games/activities for kids.

[America's Story: Colonial America](#) This Web site is brought to you from the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C., the largest library in the world and the nation's library.

[History of Jamestown](#) Information on the National Park Service Jamestown site and Jamestown Settlement, a Virginia state organization that includes a living history museum. The site includes history on Jamestown, archaeological information, and teacher resources.

[Colonial Occupations](#) A list of job titles and descriptions from the Colonial period.

[Colonial Diseases and Cures](#) A list of diseases and common cures prevalent during the Colonial period.

[USHistory.org](#) Offers a free online textbook on United States History. Created and hosted by the Independence Hall Association in Philadelphia.

[Salem Witchcraft Hysteria](#) Experience the 1692 Salem witch-hunt in a terrifying online trial: 'Are you a witch? How long have you been in the snare of the devil? Confess!'

[The Salem Witch Trials of 1692](#) A collection of images, documents, essays, maps, links, games, and other information pertaining to the Salem Witch Trials of 1692.

[Salem Witch Trials](#) Enter a world very different from our own and discover the fears, struggles and beliefs of everyday people in Salem.