

| Year | Political | Economic/Technological | Social/Cultural |
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| 1651 | | 1. Parliament prohibits trade with the colonies, a move which stimulates New England shipbuilding. | 2. English portrait painter Robert Walker completes an oil portrait of Edward Winslow. It is the only existing authentic likeness of any of the Mayflower Pilgrims. 3. Two Baptist ministers, John Clarke and Obadiah Holmes, are arrested in Massachusetts during a service in a private home. Clarke is released against his wishes because a friend pays his fine, but Holmes is whipped in the streets of Boston. |
| 1652 | 1. Massachusetts General Court rules that Maine is part of the Bay colony. | | 2. A form of miniature golf is popular in the New Netherlands Colony. 3. Coins (pine-tree shillings) are minted at Boston. 4. New Amsterdam regulates the speed of traffic. |
| 1653 | 1. Resistance against Stuyvesant's harsh rule forces him to give local self-government to New Amsterdam. | | 2. Puritan missionary John Eliot prints <i>Catechism in the Indian Language</i> , probably the first book in Indian in the Colonies. 3. Boston has its first "great fire," after which it adopts a fire code. |
| 1654 | | | 1. Twenty-four Jewish immigrants arrive in New Amsterdam. |
| 1655 | 1. Stuyvesant, with Dutch forces, seizes Swedish forts on the Delaware River. | | |
| 1656 | | | 1. Members of the Society of Friends (Quakers) arrive in Boston. They are imprisoned for 15 weeks and then deported. Quakers are prohibited from coming to Massachusetts. |
| 1657 | | | 1. Measles epidemic strikes Boston. 2. Virginia organizes a postal system. 3. Quakers arrive in New Amsterdam. They are imprisoned, then freed to go to Rhode Island. |
| 1658 | | | 1. Typhoid fever epidemic strikes New Amsterdam. 2. Police force of 10 men is formed in New Amsterdam. The men are paid about 50 cents a night. |
| 1659 | | 1. Joseph Jencks, iron worker, builds the first "fire engine," a portable water pump with a self-contained water supply. | 2. Two Quakers who return to Massachusetts after having been banished are hanged on Boston Common. 3. First classical elementary school is established in New Amsterdam. |

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| 1660 | 1. Virginia Colony proclaims Charles II King of England. It restores Sir William Berkeley as governor. Puritans had ousted him in 1652. | | 2. Massachusetts fines violators 5 shillings for celebrating Christmas. 3. John Eliot, colonial missionary, establishes the first American Indian church in Massachusetts. 4. Wigs come into fashion. The authorities in Massachusetts try to prevent their use. 5. Connecticut requires all men to live with their wives. A man separated from his wife for more than 3 years is ordered out of the colony. |
| 1661 | | 1. John Winthrop, Jr., is elected as the first American Fellow of the Royal Society of London. | 2. John Eliot's translation of the New Testament into Algonquian is printed by Samuel Green of Cambridge, Mass. It is the first Bible printed in North America. 3. Persecution of Quakers ends in Massachusetts. |
| 1662 | | | 1. Virginia requires that children be baptized. If they are not, parents are fined. 2. Printed material is censored in Puritan New England. |
| 1663 | | | 1. John Eliot completes his translation of the Old Testament into Algonquian. 2. A New Amsterdam court sentences a man to be flogged and to have his right ear cut off for selling his wife. |
| 1664 | 1. English forces capture New Amsterdam (rename it New York) and Fort Orange (rename it Albany). Dutch power in the region is broken. 2. England's attempt to regulate its New England colonies is opposed by General Court of Massachusetts. | | 3. Wills and diaries attest to the presence of viols, guitars, and virginals in the Massachusetts Bay Colony. Drums and trumpets were used for military and civil purposes throughout New England. 4. Marriage by a justice of the peace instead of by a clergyman is made legal in new York. 5. Maryland law provides for life-long servitude of Negro slaves. Similar laws are passed in other colonies. 6. Horse races are run regularly on Long Island, N. Y. |
| 1665 | 1. New Haven colony united with Connecticut. 2. English laws are introduced into New York, providing for organization of courts and militia. 3. Colony of New Jersey is founded. 4. English colony, called Clarendon Colony, is established near Wilmington, N. C. | | 5. <i>Ye Bare and Ye Cubb</i> by Philip Alexander Bruce is performed in Virginia. It is the first theatrical performance in the North American colonies. 6. First American Indian graduates from Harvard College. |

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| 1666 | 1. Puritans from Connecticut settle Newark, N. J. | | 2. First Presbyterian Church is established in New Jersey. |
| 1668 | 1. French establish Jesuit mission and fur-trading post at Sault Ste. Marie, Mich. | | 2. First sports trophy, a silver porringer, is presented to the winner of a horse race on Long Island, N. Y. |
| 1669 | 1. Plan of government for Carolina is drawn up; religious freedom is granted, but revision in 1670 officially recognizes only the Church of England. | | |
| 1670 | 1. First permanent colony is South Carolina is established by the English at Albemarle Point, near present-day Charleston. 2. Act of Virginia says that servants who are not Christians before coming to America are slaves for life. Act is repealed in 1682. | | 3. The first section of Salem's House of the Seven Gables, made famous by Hawthorne's novel, is built. 4. Population in the colonies is estimated at 114,500. Virginia has 40,000 residents. |
| 1671 | | | 1. First Seventh-Day Baptist Church is founded in Newport, R. I. |
| 1673 | 1. Dutch forces occupy New York until the English regain control in early 1674. 2. Jacques Marquette, French missionary, and Louis Joliet, French explorer, travel down the Mississippi River as far as the Arkansas River. | | 3. Regular mounted mail service begins between New York and Boston. |
| 1674 | 1. By the Treaty of Westminster between England and the Netherlands, the inhabitants of New York and New Sweden are recognized as English subjects. | 2. First commercial corporation, the New York Fishing Company, is chartered. | 3. Samuel Sewall begins the diary which he kept for more than 50 years. Much of our knowledge of colonial life comes from its pages. |
| 1675 | | | 1. More than 600 ships and 4000 men are now involved in New England fishing. 2. Fire in Boston destroys 46 houses and other buildings. 3. Massachusetts passes laws to control fashions, particularly that of men wearing long hair—whether it be their own hair or wigs. 4. Massachusetts law requires that church doors be locked during services because too many people leave before the long sermon is completed. |
| 1676 | 1. Indian tribes under Philip, son of Massasoit, are subdued after a year of vicious Indian attacks on settlements (King Philip's War). Philip is shot and killed, thus ending the bloodiest Indian war in New England. | | 3. Connecticut forbids anyone to wear clothes that do not match their place in society. This applies to the wearing of silk, gold or silver lace, or any other luxurious fabric or metal. 4. Massachusetts regulates the price of shoes: |

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| | 2. Nathaniel Bacon leads rebellion against severe rule of governor of Virginia in attempt to gain protection against the Indians; Bacon dies, but Indian attacks end. | | five pence half penny for all plain and wooden heeled shoes, and more than seven pence half penny for well-made “French falls.” |
| 1677 | 1. Quakers from England settle in Burlington, N. J. | | |
| 1678 | | | 1. Anne Bradstreet publishes <i>Several Poems</i> in Boston. |
| 1679 | 1. England proclaims New Hampshire a royal colony, separate from Massachusetts. | | |
| 1680 | 1. French plan colonial empire stretching from Quebec to the mouth of the Mississippi River. | | 2. Population in the colonies is estimated at 155,000. |
| 1681 | 1. Sieur de La Salle (Robert Cavellier), French explorer, travels to the mouth of the Mississippi River, claims entire region from Quebec to Gulf for France, and names it Louisiana after King Louis XIV. 2. William Penn , English Quaker, receives charter from King Charles II of England for lands that become the state of Pennsylvania. He founds the city of Philadelphia. | 3. William Penn decrees that at least 30% of the land in Pennsylvania must remain forested. | 4. William Penn writes <i>Frame of Government</i> , giving his ideas on religious liberty. 5. First dancing master appears in Boston and is quickly driven out by the authorities. Dancing is a constant source of complaint among ministers. |
| 1682 | 1. French establish first white settlement in Arkansas. | | 2. Governor Berkeley suppresses an attempt to establish a printing press in Virginia. |
| 1683 | 1. Mennonites from Germany settle Germantown, near Philadelphia. | 2. Increase Mather and others form the Philosophical Society in Boston to promote scientific research and experimentation in the colonies. | |
| 1684 | 1. England issues new royal charter making Maine and Plymouth part of Massachusetts, revoking original charter of Massachusetts Bay Colony. | 2. First excise tax on liquor goes into effect in Pennsylvania. | |
| 1685 | 1. La Salle leads French expedition that explores east Texas. | 2. William Bradford sets up a printing press in Philadelphia, the first outside Boston. | 3. Pennsylvania orders evacuation of caves being used for homes in order to fill them in. Because early settlers lacked sawmills, saws, and facilities for cutting and using stone, many of them lived in caves dug into the sides of hills. 4. Huguenots flee France and settle in Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Virginia, and South Carolina. |

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| 1686 | 1. England establishes a Dominion of New England , including New York New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. It is governed by Sir Edmund Andros . Harsh rulings by Andros cause much colonial dissent. | | |
| 1687 | 1. Yamasee Indians revolt under Spanish rule in Florida and Georgia and flee northward. | 2. John Clayton writes about medical practices among the Indians. This is his first in a series of scientific papers about the New World. | 3. First Anglican service (Church of England) is held in Boston. 4. Malaria epidemic strikes Virginia. |
| 1688 | | | 1. Year-long measles epidemic ends in new England. An influenza epidemic strikes Virginia. |
| 1689 | 1. England and France seek to gain control of eastern North America. King William's War begins; French, aided by Indians from Maine and Canada, attack English settlements. Iroquois Indians aid English. 2. Colonists rebel in Boston against Governor Andros, who is ousted and sent to England to stand trial for misconduct. | | 3. First public school is founded in Philadelphia. Tuition is charged only to those who can afford it. |
| 1690 | 1. French and Indians attack and burn English settlements at Schenectady, N. Y., and Casco Bay, Me. 2. English forces seize Port Royal, Nova Scotia, from the French, who recapture it. | 3. William Rittenhouse and William Bradford establish the first American paper mill in Roxborough, a town near Philadelphia, Pa. | 4. Benjamin Harris puts out the <i>New England Primer</i> , an elementary textbook whose rhymed sayings are designed to teach colonial youth Christian virtues along with reading. 5. The first newspaper in the colonies, <i>Publick Occurrence</i> , is soon suppressed by Boston authorities. 6. Paper money is issued in Massachusetts. 7. Population in the colonies is estimated at 213,000. |
| 1691 | 1. English forces regain control of New York. Jacob Leisler , German trader who led a revolt in the name of William and Mary of England and seized control (1689), is caught, tried for treason, and hanged. | | 2. Ducking stool, a form of punishment for scolds, is built in New York. Although not used frequently in New York, it is common in the South. |
| 1692 | | | 1. Trials for witchcraft begin in Salem, Mass. Of the 20 people condemned as witches, 18 are executed and two die in prison. 2. Maryland officially recognizes the Church of England. |

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| 1693 | | 1. Bradford established a printing press in New York. | 2. William and Mary College is founded in Virginia. 3. Postal service is established between New York and Philadelphia. |
| 1696 | 1. French successfully hold Quebec against attacks by the English and Iroquois. | | 2. The first book printed in new York is <i>Advice to a Young Gentleman Leaving the University</i> by Richard Lyon. |
| 1697 | 1. King William's War ends; Treaty of Ryswick restores all possessions to status quo before the war. | | 2. Smallpox strikes Charleston, S. C. 3. Massachusetts law provides that anyone denying the divine nature of the Bible can be imprisoned for 6 months, confined to a pillory, whipped, or have his tongue bored through with a hot iron. |
| 1698 | | 1. Colonies offer prizes of tobacco to the colonists who produce the best linen. | 2. The new edition of the <i>Bay Psalm Book</i> contains music for the first time—13 tunes, in 2-part harmony. It is the oldest existing music of American imprint. The tunes come from Playford's book. |
| 1699 | 1. Sieur d'Iberville (Pierre le Moyne) founds Old Biloxi (now Ocean Springs, Miss.)—first permanent white settlement in the French territory of Louisiana. | 2. Connecticut exempts the New Haven Iron works from taxes for seven years. Such financial inducements are becoming common and do much to stimulate increased industrialization in the colonies. | 3. Yellow fever epidemic in Charleston, S. C., and Philadelphia kills nearly one sixth of the population. 4. Captain Kidd, the notorious pirate, visits a friend in Narragansett, R. I., and leaves some treasure. Legend says that Kidd murdered a helper and buried him with the treasure to keep others away. |
| 1700 | | 1. Whaling increases along the New England coast. | 2. Samuel Sewall writes <i>The Selling of Joseph</i> , an anti-slavery tract. 3. Approximately 275,000 people live in the Colonies. Boston, the largest city, has about 7000 inhabitants; New York, 5000; Newport, R. I., fewer than 2000. 250 families live in Charleston, S. C., and Philadelphia has about 700 houses. |