

Colonial New York City

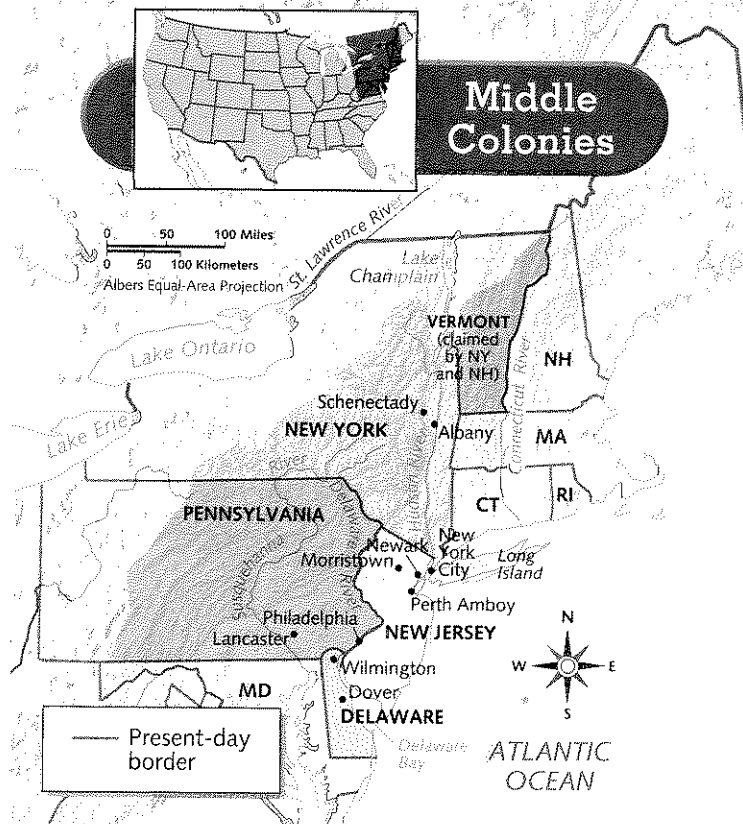
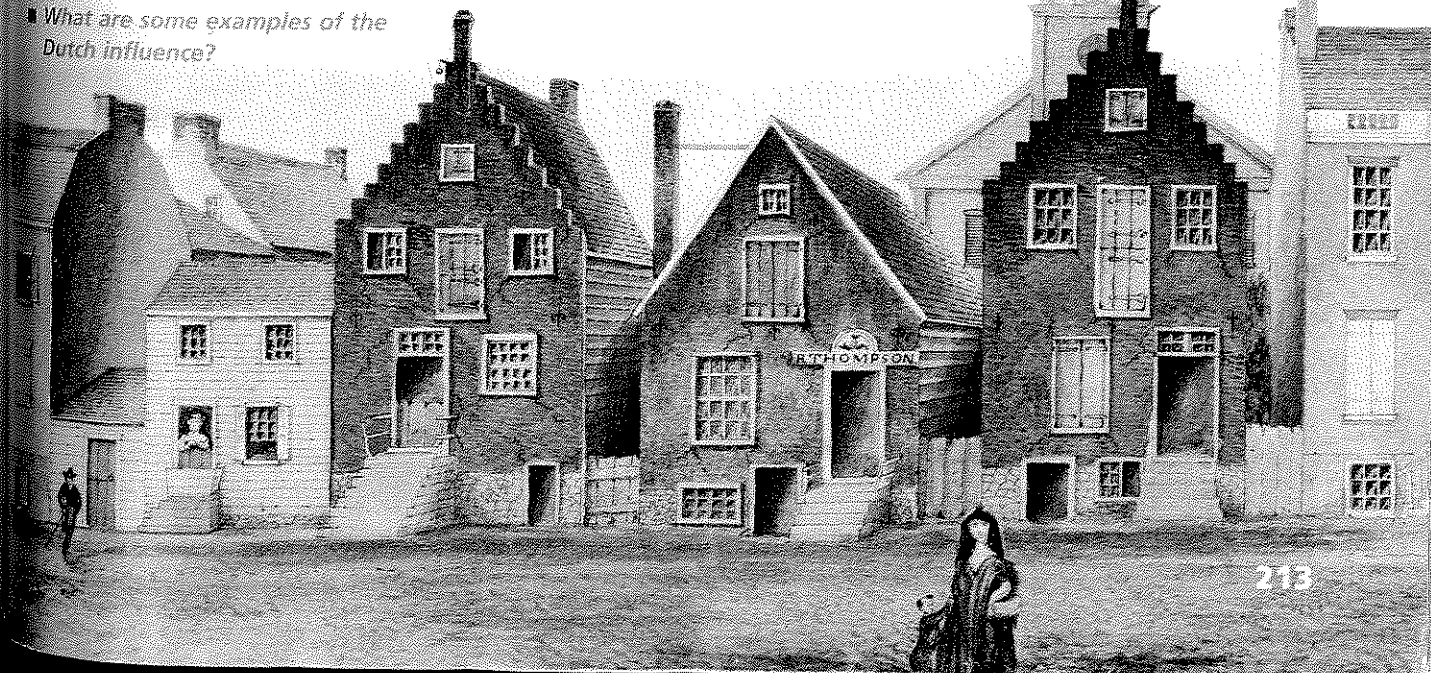
In colonial times transportation was often slow and difficult. At that time the only way to travel was by boat, by horseback, or on foot. The journey from one colony to another could take days. The first colonial roads started as trails through the countryside. Later, the trails were widened for those traveling by horseback and in carriages.

In October 1704 a colonist named Sarah Knight made a journey by horseback to New York City from Boston. When she reached New York City, she wrote in her diary that the city was a "pleasant" place. She noted that it was located on a river with a "fine harbour for shipping." She found New York City different from Boston in many ways.

The Dutch had been the first European settlers of New York, but a mixture of people from other countries had also settled there. In addition to the English, there were free Africans, French people, and Jews from many European countries. New York was

LEARNING FROM PICTURES This painting by James Eights shows that more than 100 years after the English took over, the Dutch influence was still strong in many parts of New York.

■ *What are some examples of the Dutch influence?*



Regions

The middle colonies were between the New England colonies and the southern colonies.

■ *How do you think the location of the middle colonies affected contact with the other colonies?*

different from Boston in part because of this mixture of cultures.

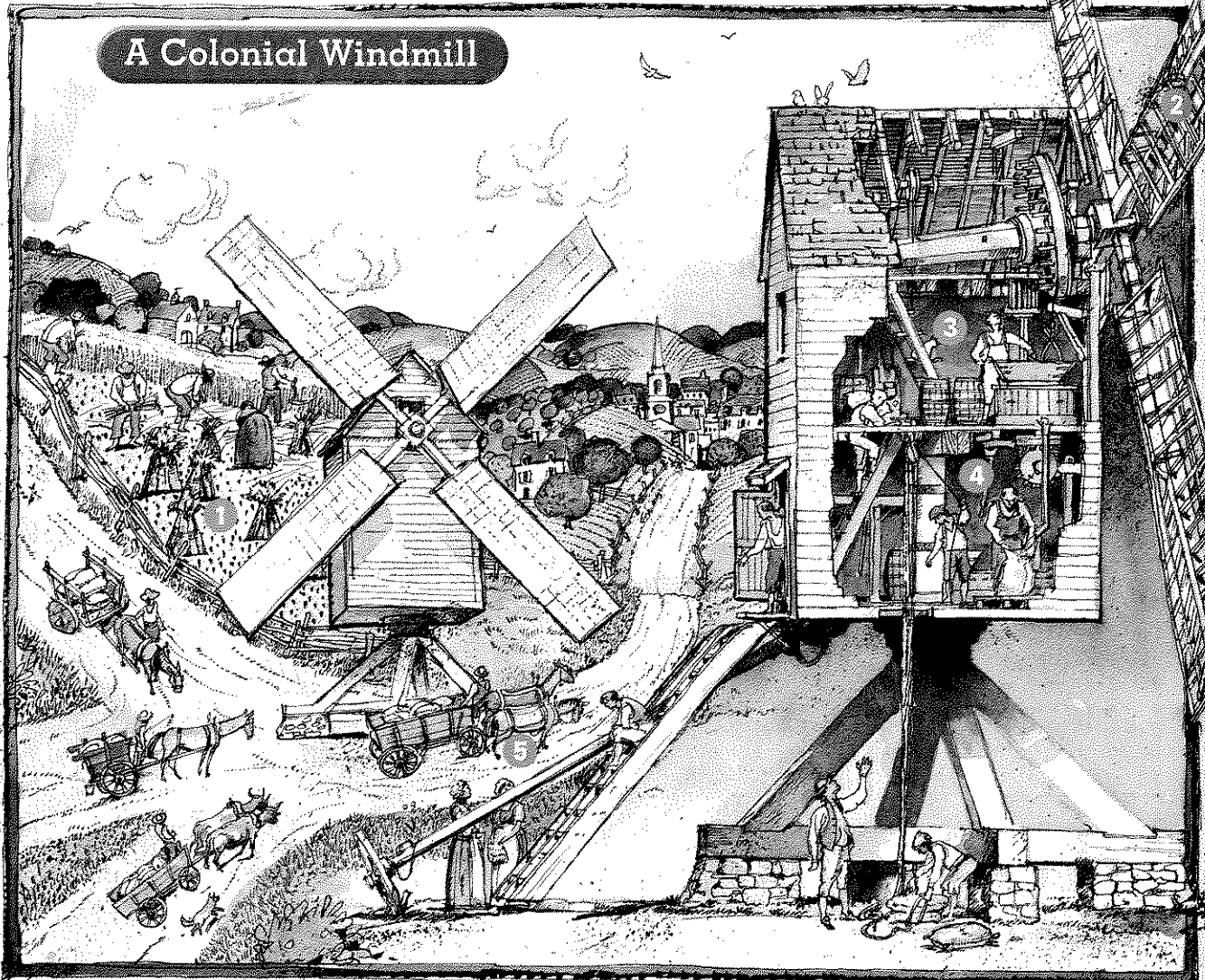
When Sarah Knight visited New York, the Dutch influence was still strong. **Influence** is the ability people or things have to affect other people or things. Many houses in New York were built in the Dutch style, using bricks of different colors. Like Dutch houses, they often had a stoop—a wide, high doorstep. Family members spent their free time there talking with each other and with neighbors passing by.

The door of the house also made it easy to be friendly to neighbors. It was made in two parts. The top part could be open while the bottom part stayed closed. This kept dogs and pigs from wandering into the house.

The New York skyline in colonial days also showed a Dutch influence. Large windmills stood on the highest hills. The sails captured the wind's power to turn the mills that ground grain into flour.

REVIEW How did the Dutch influence colonial New York City?

LEARNING FROM DIAGRAMS Ships docked at the port of New York City to pick up cargoes of wheat flour. The flour was brought to other colonies and to people across the sea. ❶ Wheat is harvested. ❷ Sails catch the wind that powers the mill. ❸ Wheat is poured into a hopper to be ground. ❹ Flour slides down a chute and is put into sacks. ❺ Flour is ready to be taken to market. ■ Why do you think the windmills face different directions?

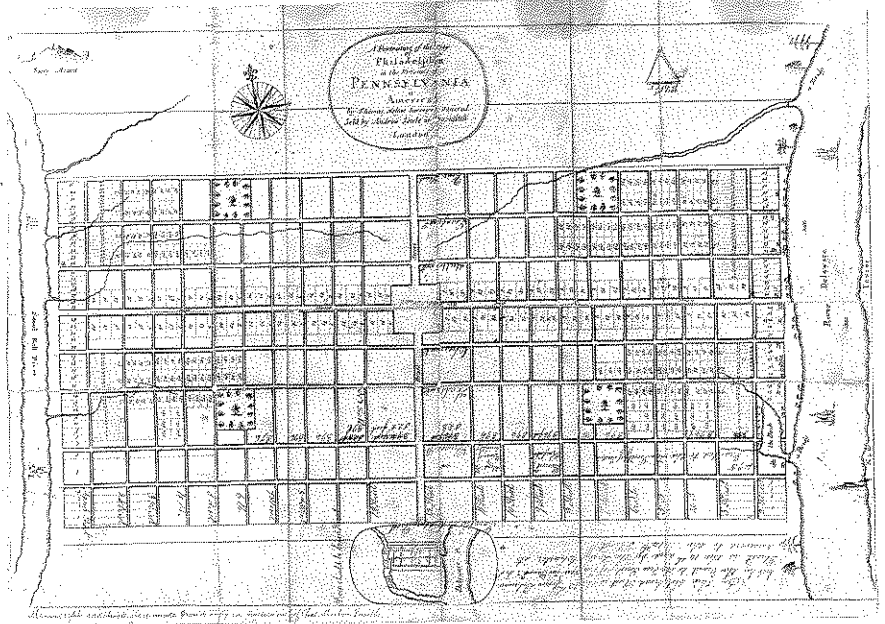


Pennsylvania

While the Dutch had been settling New York and northern New Jersey, Swedish colonists had settled Delaware and southern New Jersey. The Swedish colonists also set up trading posts in what is now Pennsylvania. In 1681, after the English had taken control of New Sweden, the English king gave William Penn a charter that made him proprietor of Pennsylvania.

Penn was a member of the Society of Friends, a religious group also known as the Quakers. Quakers believe that all people are equal and are basically good. They feel that violence is always wrong, so they refuse to carry guns or to fight. They also believe in solving all problems peacefully.

English Quakers often were treated unfairly because of their beliefs. William Penn wanted to create a **refuge**, or safe place, where people could worship as they



This map of Philadelphia was drawn by William Penn. He planned this settlement with straight streets.

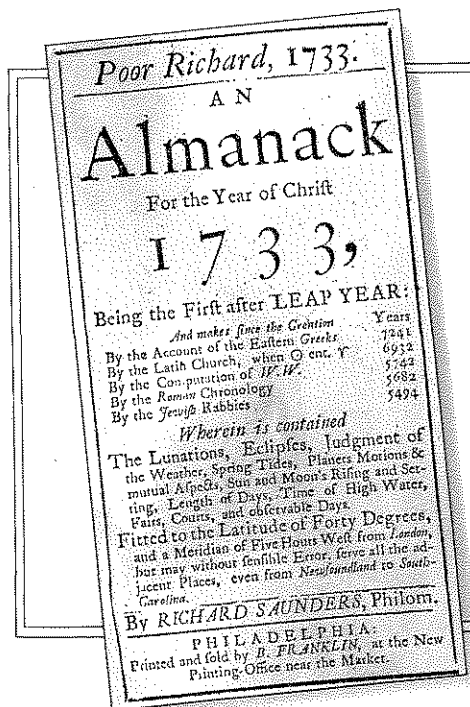
pleased. Quakers and other settlers who wanted religious freedom soon came to Pennsylvania, a name that means "Penn's Woods."

Before coming to Pennsylvania, William Penn had planned the government of his colony. He wrote a document called the Frame of Government, which allowed

BIOGRAPHY

Benjamin Franklin, 1706–1790

Ben Franklin was 12 years old when he learned to be a printer. In his spare time he read books and worked at improving his own writing skills. As an adult, Franklin owned a print shop in Philadelphia, where he published many of his own books. His best-known books are his *Autobiography*, or story of his life, and *Poor Richard's Almanack*. Many of the sayings in his almanac are about the value of hard work and saving money. Some well-known examples are "Early to bed and early to rise, makes a man healthy, wealthy, and wise," "God helps them that help themselves," and "Little strokes fell great oaks."



freedom of speech, freedom of worship, and trial by jury. In England and other European countries, people rarely had these freedoms. There was also a group, or council, of men appointed to make the laws for the colony. Penn called this council the General Assembly.

Penn also planned the settlements in Pennsylvania. One of them, the town of Philadelphia, was laid out like a checkerboard, with straight streets that formed squares. Philadelphia's location was excellent for shipping and trading since it was located on the Delaware River. The town became the colony's main port for receiving not only goods but also immigrants.

Immigrants are people who come to live in a country after leaving their home country.

People who liked Penn's ideas of freedom came to Pennsylvania and the other middle

colonies from all over Europe. These immigrants included Irish Catholics, German Lutherans, and Jews from many countries. These immigrants helped Pennsylvania prosper as a colony. Some were skilled workers—bakers, carpenters, shoemakers, tailors, butchers, and blacksmiths. They set up shops in Philadelphia and in smaller towns. Other immigrants started small farms nearby. They raised fruits, vegetables, and wheat, which they sold in the colony's city and towns.

Scotch-Irish settlers also came to Pennsylvania. These were people from Scotland who had settled in northern Ireland in the 1600s. The Scotch-Irish were among the first to settle the **frontier**, the land beyond the settlements.

REVIEW *How did immigrants help Pennsylvania prosper?*

This painting by Edward Hicks shows William Penn signing a treaty with the Indians.

