Building Colonial Towns

Read how people and leaders shaped growing colonies.

SS24.4.4 "Describe how the contributions of various groups living in colonial North America helped colonies develop, including artisans, farmers, large landowners, tradespeople, women, children, Indigenous peoples, enslaved people..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each group or leader who helped a colony develop. Circle the words that tell what each one did.

Who Helped a Colony Grow?

1. In colonial North America, a growing town needed food before it needed a busy market. Farmers raised crops and animals to feed families. Large landowners used wide fields to grow crops for sale. Women often grew food, cooked, and cared for families. Children carried water and helped with chores. Enslaved Africans were forced to work without freedom or pay. Indentured servants worked for a set number of years to repay travel costs.

2. After a harvest, people needed ways to use and move what they grew. Artisans, such as potters, made useful goods by hand. Tradespeople bought and sold goods, connecting farms with towns and ports. Indigenous peoples shared knowledge of local plants and farming with some colonists and traded food and other goods. They also defended their lands as colonies grew. These contributions helped towns grow, but groups did not share the benefits equally.

3. Leaders helped shape where and how colonies developed. In 1681, William Penn received land from England's king and founded Pennsylvania. He welcomed people of different Christian groups and made agreements with Lenape people to buy land. In 1733, James Oglethorpe helped found Georgia and planned its first settlement, Savannah. These leaders made choices about land and towns, while the labor and knowledge of many groups made daily life possible.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did farmers and large landowners each help colonies develop?

2. How did artisans and tradespeople help people get the goods they needed?

3. What work did enslaved Africans and indentured servants provide, and how were their situations different?

4. How did William Penn and James Oglethorpe each help establish a colony?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Imagine a day in a growing colonial town. Write four sentences showing how a woman, a child, and an Indigenous person each contributed, and include one challenge Indigenous peoples faced as colonies grew.

ANSWER KEY

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GRADE 4 · SS24.4.4

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline each group or leader who helped a colony develop. Circle the words that tell what each one did. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did farmers and large landowners each help colonies develop?	**Farmers raised crops and animals to feed families. Large landowners grew crops for sale.**
2	How did artisans and tradespeople help people get the goods they needed?	**Artisans made useful goods by hand. Tradespeople bought and sold goods, connecting farms, towns, and ports.**
3	What work did enslaved Africans and indentured servants provide, and how were their situations different?	**Both provided labor. Enslaved Africans were forced to work without freedom or pay, while indentured servants worked for a set number of years to repay travel costs.**
4	How did William Penn and James Oglethorpe each help establish a colony?	**Penn founded Pennsylvania, welcomed different Christian groups, and made land agreements with Lenape people. Oglethorpe helped found Georgia and planned Savannah.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A woman tends a garden that helps feed her family and neighbors. A child carries water so the family can cook and wash. An Indigenous farmer shares knowledge of local plants with some colonists, helping them grow food. As the town spreads, Indigenous families defend their land.

Accept other contributions stated in the passage when students explain how they helped a colony develop. For Your Turn, look for four sentences that include all three requested people and the challenge of defending Indigenous land.