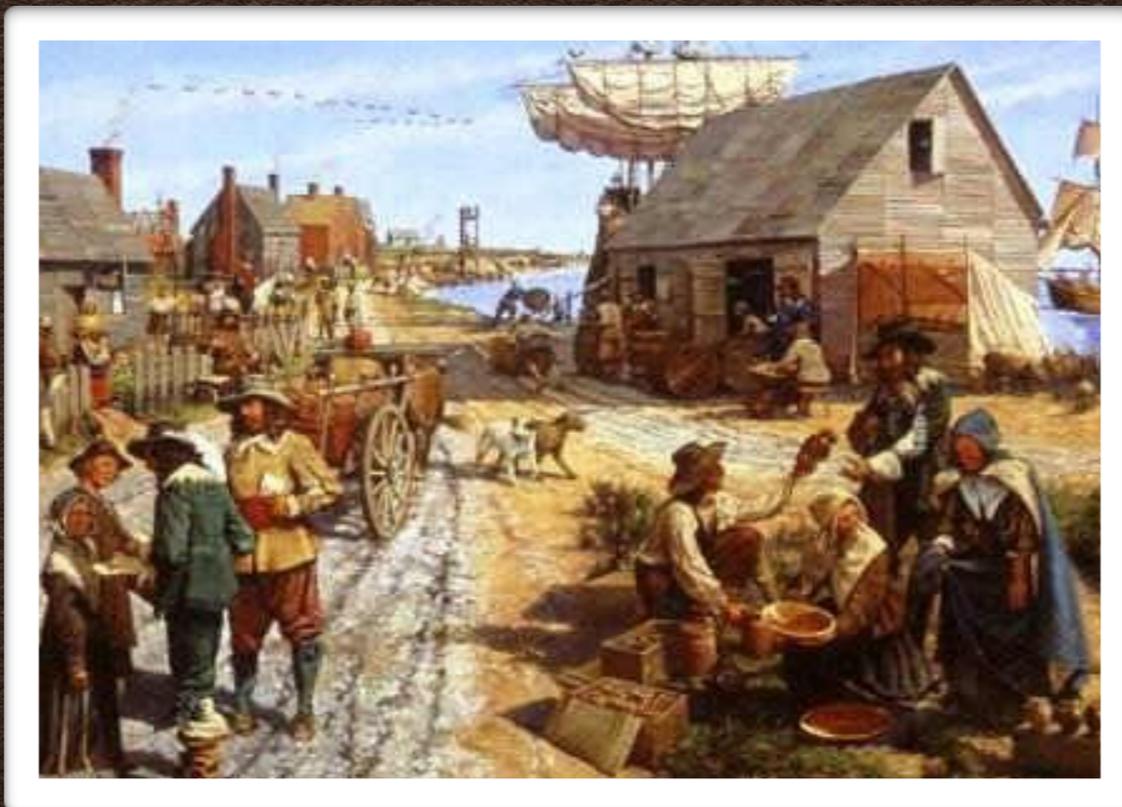


Colonial Life

1607-1763



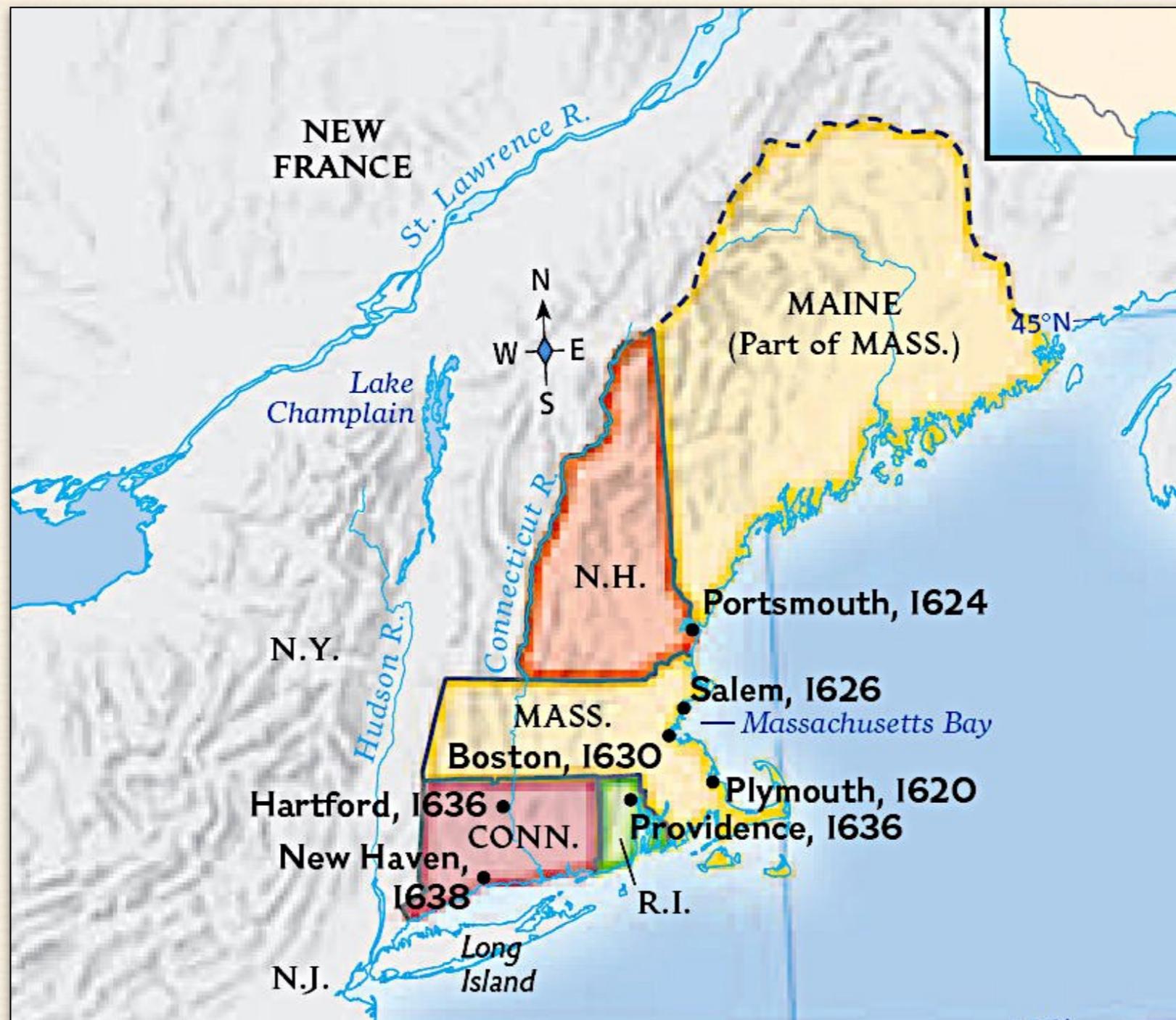
by Joe Burton

Colonial Life

From the mid-1600s to the mid-1700s, as the colonies grew, the inhabitants of each region developed unique lifestyles. In part, the differences arose from how people responded to the environmental conditions of their region, as was true of the American Indians before them.



New England (Northern Colonies)



New England (Northern Colonies)

- ❖ Long winters and thin...
- ❖ ...rocky soil made farming in the Northern Colonies...
- ❖ ...Vermont, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut...
- ❖ ...a challenge.
- ❖ Some farm families specialized in dairy products...

New England (Northern Colonies)

- ❖ ...since the land was better for grazing.
- ❖ In the early 1700s...
- ❖ ...young people started to move from the country side to coastal towns.
- ❖ Many became apprentices...
- ❖ ...learning a craft or trade to meet the growing demand for carpenters, cobblers, dressmakers, hatters, and other skilled workers.



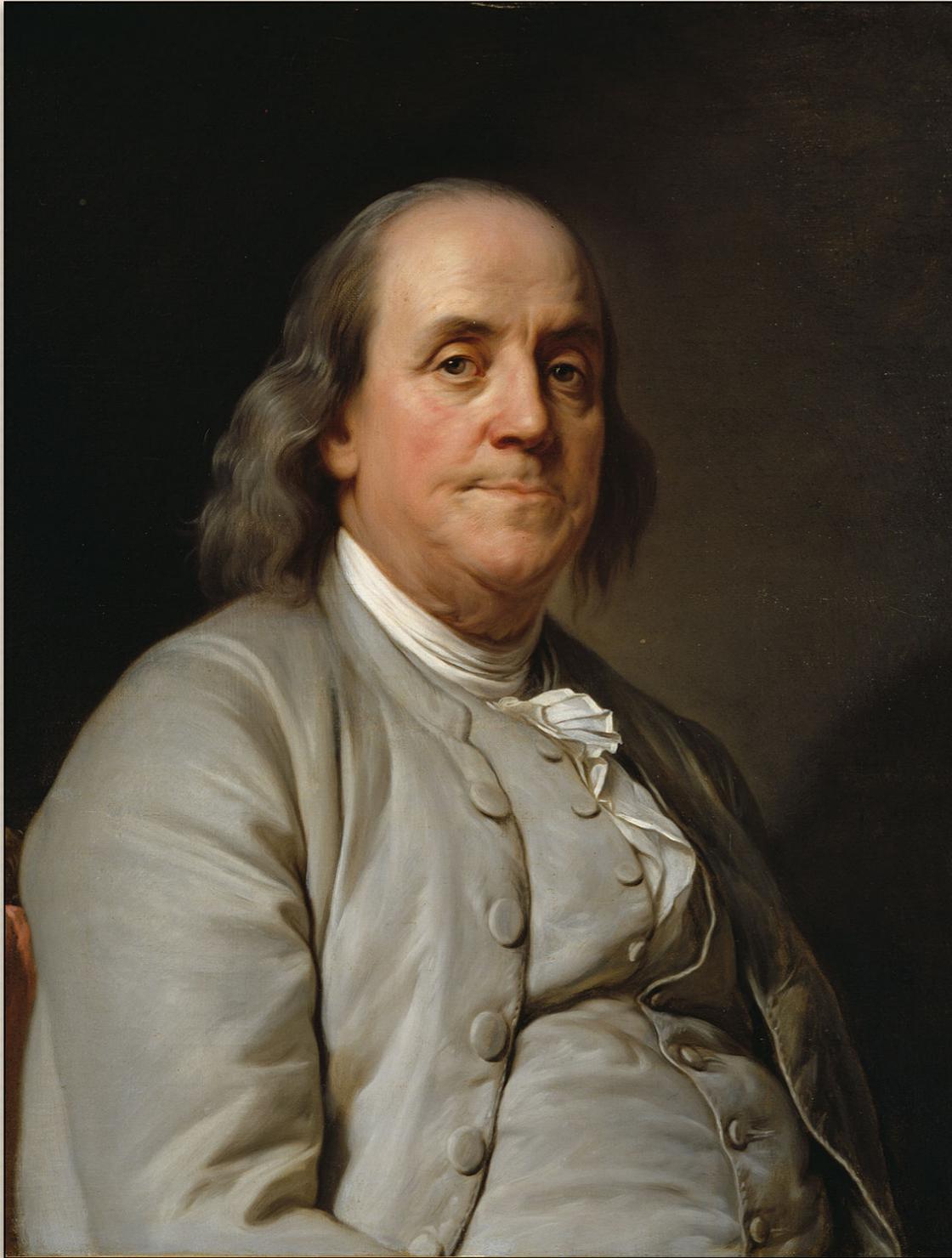
Colonial New Englanders turned to the sea for careers in fishing, whaling, shipbuilding, and commercial trade. By 1750, fishing and shipbuilding alone employed more than 10,000 people... a large percentage of the population. Harbors like Philadelphia's (above) were filled with ships, and the shady streets of seaports like Boston, Salem, and Providence were lined with stately mansions owned by merchants and ship captains.

How Colonial Cities Grew

The booming sea trade helped Northern Harbor Cities grow at a faster pace than southern cities like Charleston, where trading ships used rivers to sail directly to plantation docks.

Population	1690	1710	1730	1760
Boston	7,000	9,000	13,000	15,600
New York	3,900	5,700	8,600	18,000
Philadelphia	4,000	6,500	11,500	23,750
Charleston	1,100	3,000	4,500	8,000

Benjamin (Ben) Franklin



An American Original...

No achievement seemed out of reach for versatile Boston-born Benjamin Franklin. As a printer and writer, he gained fame and enough fortune to “retire” at age 40.

The innovations he helped bring to his home city, Philadelphia, included streetlights, a hospital, paid police and fire departments, and a lending library.

He founded a school in Philadelphia which became the University of Pennsylvania. Franklin also served the colonies as postmaster and foreign ambassador, and he helped draft the Declaration of Independence.

Plus, he was world-famous as a scientist and inventor, making key discoveries about electricity and inventing both the Franklin Stove and Bifocal Glasses.

The Middle Colonies



The Middle Colonies

- ❖ The Mild Climate and good soil of the Middle Colonies...
- ❖ ...New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware...
- ❖ ...were ideal for large...
- ❖ ...efficient farms...
- ❖ ...many owned by by German immigrants.

The Middle Colonies

- ❖ These “Bread Colonies” produced enough grain to feed the growing colonial towns...
- ❖ ...and to be sold in other countries.
- ❖ As in New England...
- ❖ ...the Middle Colonies had bustling port cities...
- ❖ ...such as Philadelphia and New York...
- ❖ ...where growing wealth could be seen in the elegant homes, churches, and public buildings.



The “Common Room” was the most important room in a middle colonial home. As the replica shows, it was part kitchen and part workroom, so that busy homemakers could do several jobs.

The Southern Colonies



Southern Colonies

- ❖ Although 80% of the people in the five Southern colonies lived on small family farms...
- ❖ ...the region's economic...
- ❖ ...political...
- ❖ ...and social life dominated by the plantations.
- ❖ Each of these enormous land holdings...
- ❖ often covering several thousand acres...
- ❖ ...was like a self-sufficient village with its own...

Southern Colonies

- ❖ ...blacksmith's shop...
- ❖ ...pottery kiln...
- ❖ ...chapel or small church...
- ❖ ...and a tutor for the owner's children.
- ❖ The plantations relied on cash crops...
- ❖ ...tobacco in Maryland and Virginia...
- ❖ ...rice and indigo in the Carolinas and Georgia.

Southern Colonies

- ❖ For cheap workers...
- ❖ ...they depended on slave labor.
- ❖ The plantation owners...
- ❖ ...much like the nobility in Europe...
- ❖ ...held important government positions and served as officers in the militia.

Indentured Servants

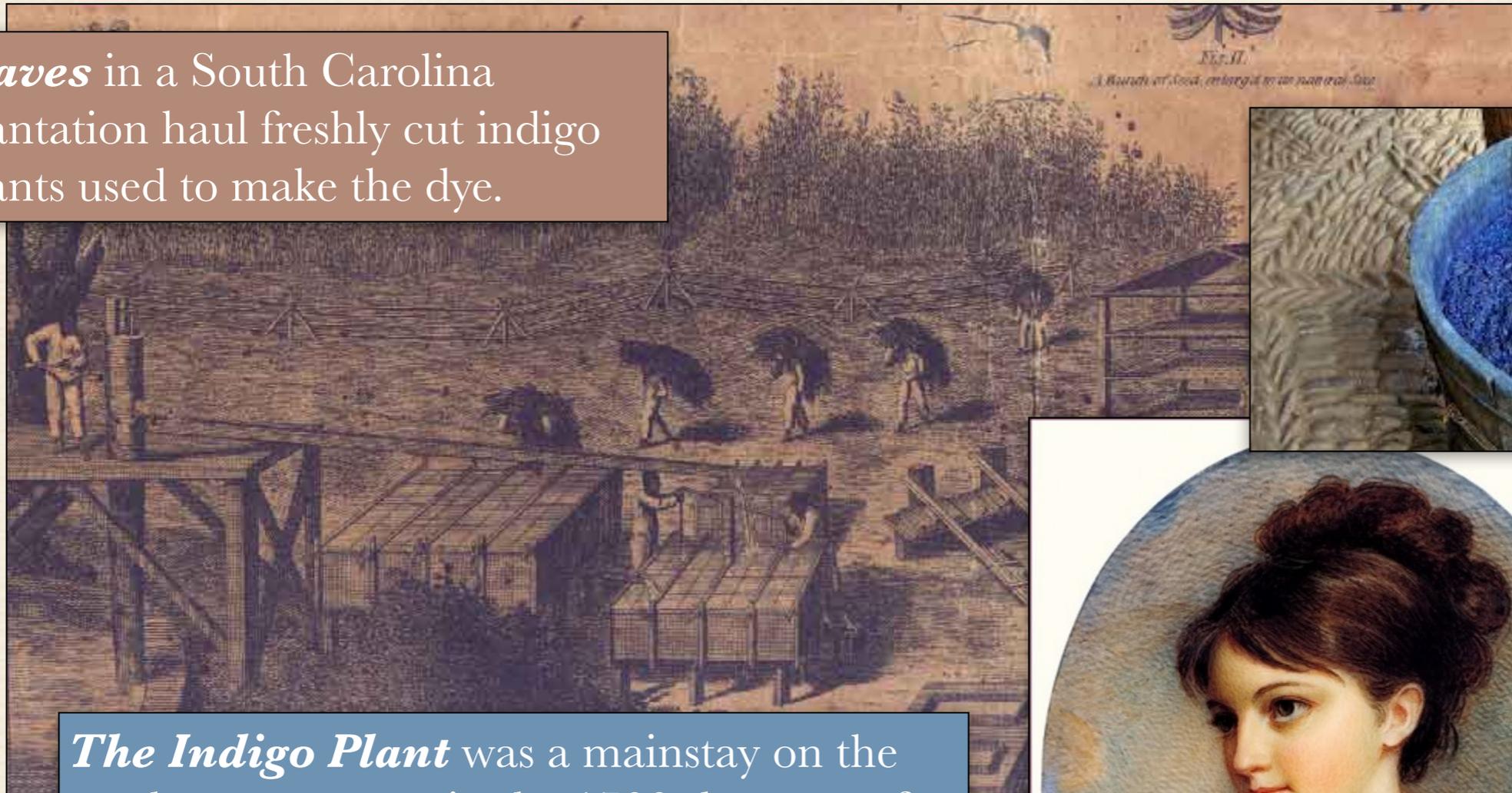


Many poor Europeans paid for their passage to America by becoming indentured servants. They signed a document called the indenture, which committed them to work for the person who paid their passage for a certain period of time - usually seven years.

Indentured servants could be severely punished for breaking their contracts. At the end of the agreed-upon time period, they received land or money to help them start their lives in freedom.

The Indigo Plant

Slaves in a South Carolina plantation haul freshly cut indigo plants used to make the dye.



The Indigo Plant was a mainstay on the southern economy in the 1700s because of a dye made from its leaves. Indigo became valuable due to the innovations of 17-year-old *Eliza Lucas* (right) of South Carolina who developed a deep blue dye that became wildly popular.



