

# The Middle Colonies

# 6



► Pennsbury Manor in Morrisville, Pennsylvania



Start  
with a  
Story



# BEN FRANKLIN

of

## OLD PHILADELPHIA

WRITTEN BY MARGARET COUSINS  
ILLUSTRATED BY RAUL COLON





Before Benjamin Franklin was an inventor, a printer, and one of the nation's greatest leaders, he was a son of a Boston soap-maker. By the age of 10, he was working with his father. Ben had little interest in soapmaking, but he did enjoy books. His father noticed this and arranged for Ben to work with his half brother James, a printer. In the print shop, Ben helped write pamphlets, set type, and even sell newspapers on the street.

After three years working for James, Ben decided to leave Boston. He traveled through New York and New Jersey, looking for work, but he didn't have much luck. Nearly penniless and in need of a job, Ben arrived in one of the most exciting cities in all of the American colonies—Philadelphia. After his arrival, Ben found work with another printer. Read now about Ben's first days in Philadelphia.

**B**en Franklin worked at many things and he was a good businessman, but he always thought of himself as a printer. He had come to Philadelphia to be a printer and no other kind of work entered his head.

After giving away his two extra rolls to an old lady and a boy who looked hungrier than he was, he followed the well-dressed crowds in the Philadelphia streets. It turned out that the crowd was going to the Quaker Meeting House.

Ben went in and sat down to think, but he fell fast asleep. He didn't wake up until somebody tapped him on the shoulder and told him church was over. Deciding that he had better catch up with his sleep before looking for work, he rented a room and slept for a long time. Then he hunted up Andrew Bradford, who was William Bradford's son.



"I just hired a hand," Mr. Bradford said, and this made Ben very sad. It seemed to him he was always just missing the boat.

"Maybe Samuel Keimer could use you," Mr. Bradford said, looking Ben over and liking what he saw.

They went to see Mr. Keimer, another printer.

"Neighbor," said Mr. Bradford to Samuel Keimer, "I have brought to see you a young man of your business; perhaps you may want such a one."

Mr. Keimer fingered his long beard and looked at Ben, whose looks had now been considerably improved by washing and clean clothes. He finally decided to give the boy a job, and Ben at last began to earn real wages.

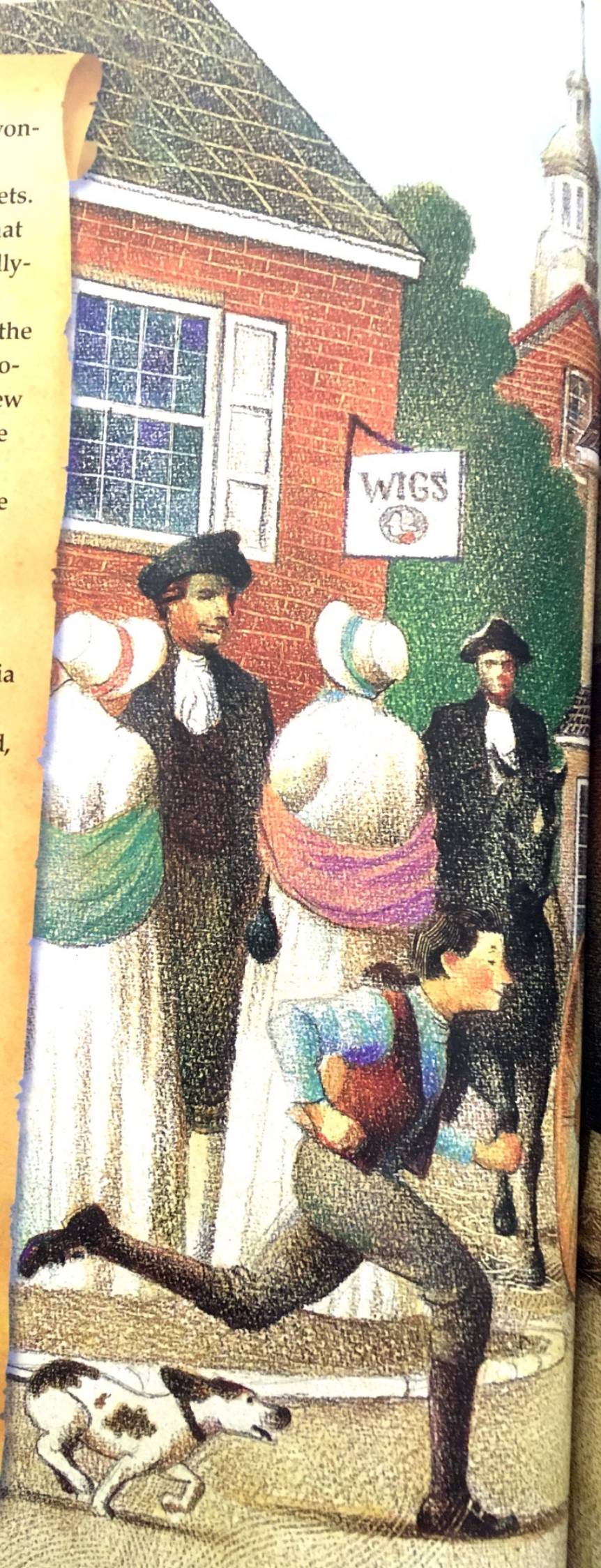


During that first winter in Philadelphia, Benjamin had a wonderful time. He was a free man, with money jingling in his pockets. His father wasn't telling him what to do, and his brother wasn't bullying him . . .

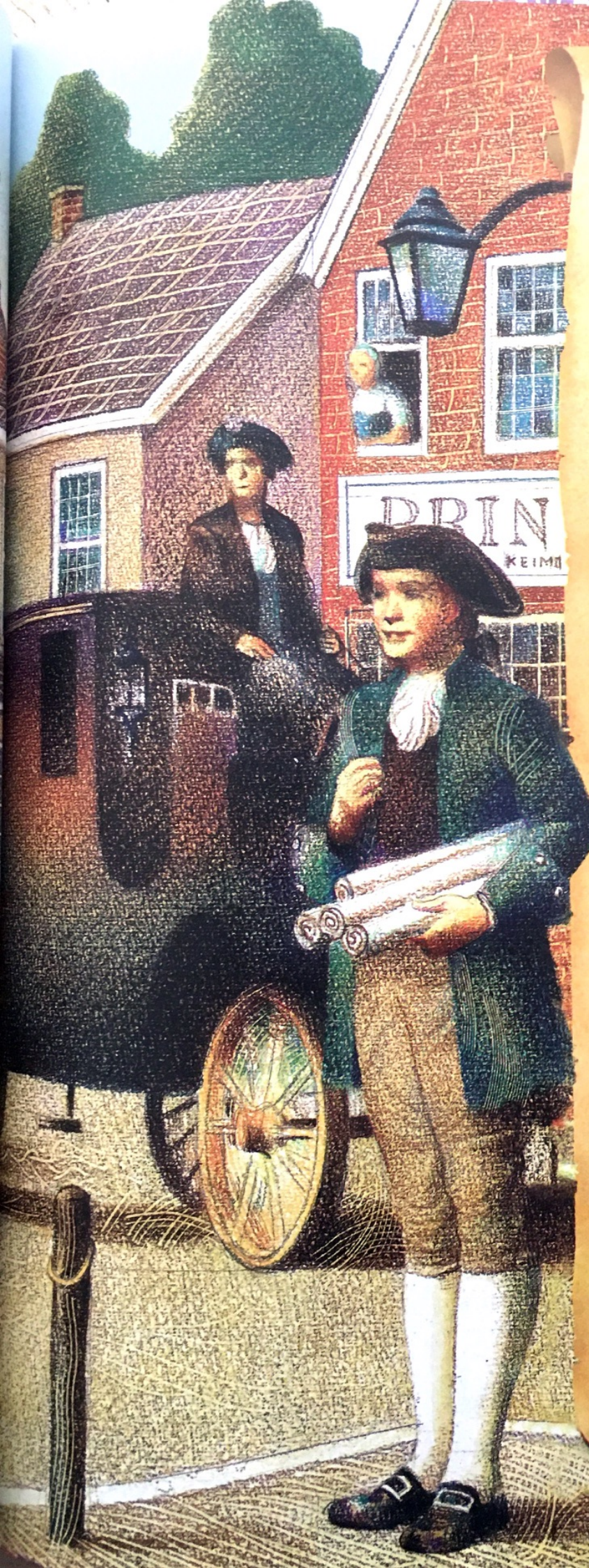
At that time Philadelphia was the largest town in the American colonies—bigger than Boston and New York put together—and its people were the best educated and the richest. While it was not much like a big city, as we think of big cities today, it was the “city” of the colonies. Though Boston was a huddle of weathered gray houses, rising above the blue harbor, Philadelphia was a town of bright colors. Most of the shop fronts were painted red, blue, green, or yellow, and the big swinging signs in front of them were brilliant with paint and gilt. The carriages that bounced over the muddy, rutted streets were also bright with paint.

The people of Philadelphia wore bright colors and had a taste for fine clothes, although some of the Quakers still wore gray from head to foot. However, the rich Quakers followed the fashion and wore silks, satins, and velvets in all colors of the rainbow, along with wigs and jewelry. The ladies dressed in elaborate clothes, too, and with their high hairdos, they looked very pretty.

Philadelphians loved to have company and parties; they enjoyed getting together to talk and sing







and eat. People had fewer places of amusement to visit in those days, so they stayed at home and did a lot of talking. Conversation was important.

Ben Franklin loved to talk, too, and he read so many books that he had a good deal to talk about. In Philadelphia he met young people his own age who were interested in reading and in other things that he enjoyed. He began to make friends—something that was never very hard for Ben, and something that he continued to do until the end of his life.

His boss, Mr. Keimer, arranged for him to have room and board at the house of Mr. Read. This man was the father of Deborah Read, the girl who had laughed to see young Franklin carrying his puffy rolls down the street.

So began Ben's happy days in Philadelphia, the city that was to become his real hometown for the rest of his life, though he was to live all over the world.

## Response Corner

- 1 Why did Ben Franklin travel to Philadelphia?
- 2 What made Philadelphia different from other colonial cities?
- 3 Why do you think Philadelphia would be an exciting place for young Ben Franklin?



1647

Peter Stuyvesant  
arrives in New  
Netherland

1664

England takes over  
New Netherland and  
renames it New York

1681

William Penn  
founds the colony  
of Pennsylvania

# Settling the Middle Colonies

**YOU  
ARE  
THERE**

The year is 1660 and **King Charles II** has asked you to study a map of the English colonies with him. The king is pleased with the colonies' performance. In the north, New England is producing plenty of lumber, and in the south Virginia's tobacco plantations are bringing him great wealth.

"The problem lies here right in the middle," says the king, "with that Dutch colony in the way!"

► King Charles II



## WHAT TO KNOW

Why did people from different places and backgrounds settle in the Middle Colonies?

- ✓ Identify the location of the Middle Colonies and the people who founded them.
- ✓ Describe how religion affected the Middle Colonies.

## VOCABULARY

**refuge** p. 244

**proprietor** p. 245

**trial by jury** p. 245

**justice** p. 245

## PEOPLE

King Charles II  
Peter Stuyvesant  
William Penn  
Tamanend

## PLACES

New York  
New Jersey  
Pennsylvania  
Delaware



## SUMMARIZE



California  
Standards

HSS 5.3, 5.3.1, 5.4, 5.4.1, 5.4.2,  
5.4.3, 5.4.5, 5.4.6





► Fort Orange, built near where Albany, New York, now stands, began as a Dutch trading post.

## The Breadbasket Colonies

While the Puritans were settling New England, other groups were setting up colonies to the south. This region, which included what are today New York, New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania, came to be known as the Middle Colonies. The region was given this name because of its relative location between the New England Colonies and southern settlements in Virginia.

When Europeans arrived in the Middle Colonies, they saw flat plains, rolling hills, grassy meadows, and thick forests. They discovered that when this land was cleared of trees and rocks, it was much better for farming than the land in New England. They also found that the

climate was good for growing crops. The summers were long, and the amount of rain each year was just right for crops such as wheat, corn, and rye. The Middle Colonies produced so many crops used in making bread that they came to be called the “breadbasket” colonies.

In addition to fertile land, the region had several large harbors near the Atlantic Ocean. Settlers found that these harbors were connected to many of the region’s deep rivers, such as the Hudson and Delaware Rivers. These rivers stretched far inland. Settlers knew these deep waterways would allow large ships to travel to inland settlements, making trade with the colonists there easier. All of the special features of this region attracted many different settlers.

**READING CHECK** 🔥 **SUMMARIZE**

**What attracted settlers to the Middle Colonies?**



# New Netherland Grows

The Dutch continued to control New Netherland—which included the Hudson Valley and surrounding lands. However, few people came to the colony because their country, the Netherlands, was wealthy and offered its citizens many freedoms. As a result, by 1640, only about 2,000 people lived in the colony—most of them

► The first slave auction in New Amsterdam was held in 1655.



► This wooden box top has Dutch-style decorations.

in New Amsterdam. The colony was also troubled. Settlers had conflicts with American Indians and nearby English colonists over land.

The Dutch West India Company, which controlled the colony's trade, decided that a new leader was needed to raise

their profits and bring order. In 1647, it sent **Peter Stuyvesant** (STY•vuh•suhnt), a former soldier, to govern the colony.

In the 1650s, Stuyvesant expanded New Netherland into what is now New Jersey. Then he pushed south into what is now Delaware, taking over the small colony of New Sweden in 1655. New Netherland now controlled more land, but it still did not have enough people to be successful.

To increase New Netherland's population, the Dutch West India Company allowed people from Belgium, Denmark, France, Italy, Spain, and Brazil to settle in the colony. Among these newcomers was one of the first groups of Jews to settle in North America.

Africans also lived in New Netherland. Most were captured and brought to the colony as slaves, the first arriving in 1626. Not all Africans in New Netherland were slaves; some were able to buy their freedom. Yet former slaves were not completely free. Each year, they had to pay their employers in money or goods in order to remain free.

**READING CHECK** **SUMMARIZE**

**Why did few people from the Netherlands settle in New Netherland?**







► Peter Stuyvesant left New Netherland after the colony's surrender, but he later returned and lived in New York for the rest of his life.

## The English Take Over

King Charles II wanted England to control the entire Atlantic coast of North America. He wanted to build more settlements, control the fur trade, and acquire more lands rich in natural resources. There was one thing that prevented the King from achieving this goal—the colony of New Netherland.

Both the English and the Dutch claimed ownership of lands in the Connecticut Valley as well as on Long Island. Charles II told his brother James, the Duke of York, he could have all of New Netherland if he could take the colony from the Dutch.

In 1664 the Duke of York sent four warships to take New Netherland. When the ships arrived off the coast of New Netherland, the English ordered Stuyvesant to surrender. They said if he did not, they would attack.

Stuyvesant wanted to battle the English. He tried to get the colonists to fight, but they refused. They knew they were outnumbered. The entire colony had less than 150 soldiers. Stuyvesant was forced to surrender and the English took control of New Netherland without firing a shot.

### READING CHECK ✨SUMMARIZE

Why did England want to control New Netherland?



## Founding the Middle Colonies

1650

1675

1700

• 1664 The New York Colony is established

• 1664 The New Jersey Colony is established

• 1681 The Pennsylvania Colony is founded by William Penn



**ANALYZE SKILL** **Analyze Time Lines** All of the Middle Colonies were founded in the 1600s.

❖ In what century was Pennsylvania founded?

## New York and New Jersey

The Duke of York split the Dutch colony into two parts and named them **New York** and **New Jersey**. James kept New York for himself. The city of New Amsterdam became New York City. He gave New Jersey to two friends of his, John Berkeley and George Carteret.

The English treated the Dutch settlers fairly. They promised to protect their rights and property and allowed the colonists to elect some of their own leaders. Most Dutch settlers chose to stay.

At first, nearly all of the colonists lived in New York. To attract more settlers to New Jersey, Berkeley and Carteret offered to sell land at low prices. English people soon began arriving in New Jersey. Many

of them were members of the Society of Friends, a religious group also known as the Quakers.

The Quakers believe that all people are equal. They refuse to fight in wars or to swear loyalty to any king or country. Others who did not share these beliefs often mistreated the Quakers. Thousands of Quakers were arrested in England and thrown into prison, and most were forced to leave the other English colonies.

In New Jersey, the Quakers hoped to find a **refuge**, or safe place, where they could live and worship as they pleased. In 1674, a group of Quakers bought Berkeley's share of New Jersey and founded the first Quaker settlement in North America.

**READING CHECK** **SUMMARIZE**

Why were the Quakers often mistreated by those who did not share their beliefs?



# Pennsylvania and Delaware

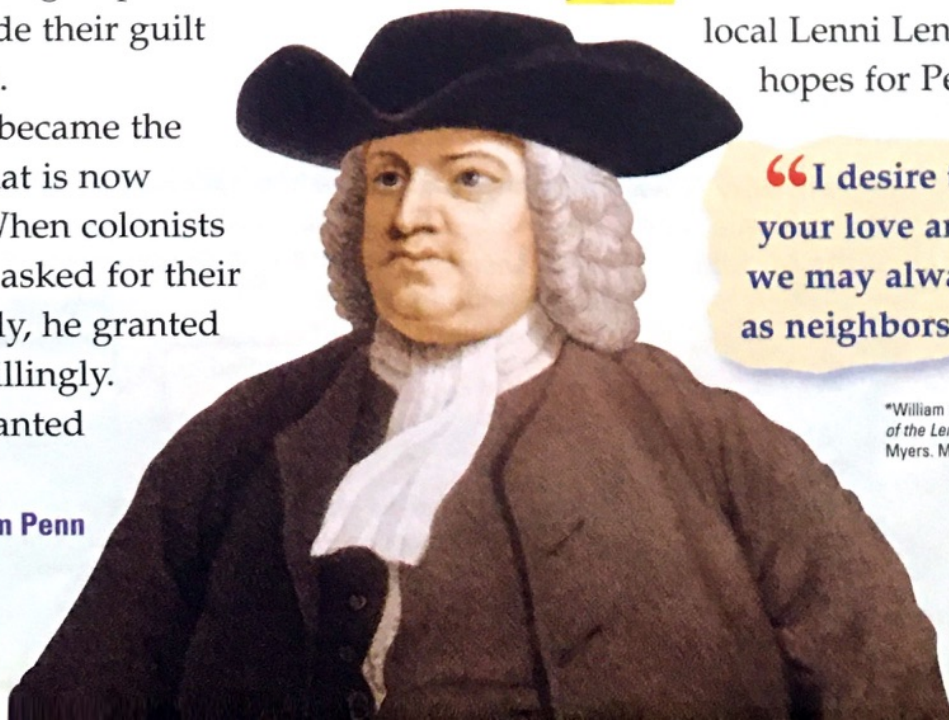
Starting in the 1680s, the Middle Colonies expanded. In 1681, King Charles II gave a charter to **William Penn**, an English Quaker. The charter made Penn the **proprietor**, or owner, of what is now **Pennsylvania**.

Penn was given the land because the king owed a large amount of money to Penn's father. The new colony was named Pennsylvania, which means "Penn's woods." Penn described the colony as a "Holy Experiment." He wanted all the people living in Pennsylvania—Quakers and non-Quakers—to live together peacefully.

In 1682, Penn wrote *The Frame of Government of Pennsylvania*. This plan of government set up a legislature called the General Assembly, which would make the laws for the colony. Penn's frame of government gave citizens of Pennsylvania freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and the right to a fair trial by jury. **Trial by jury** means that people accused of breaking laws have the right to have a group of fellow citizens decide their guilt or innocence.

Penn also became the owner of what is now **Delaware**. When colonists in Delaware asked for their own assembly, he granted it to them willingly. Penn also wanted

► **William Penn**



## ANALYZE SKILL Analyze Maps

📍 **Location** What Pennsylvania city was on the Delaware River?

American Indians to be treated with **justice**, or fairness. In a letter, he told local Lenni Lenape Indians his hopes for Pennsylvania:

“I desire to enjoy it with your love and consent, that we may always live together as neighbors and friends.”\*

\*William Penn. *William Penn's Own Account of the Lenni Lenape*, edited by Albert Cook Myers. Middle Atlantic Press, 1970.





► William Penn learned to speak the language of the Lenni Lenape Indians and tried to treat them fairly.

When Penn arrived in Philadelphia in 1682, he met with **Tamanend** (TAM•uh•nend) and other Lenni Lenape Indians. He paid the Indians for most of the land King Charles II had given him, and built a long-lasting peace with the Lenni Lenape.

**READING CHECK DRAW CONCLUSIONS**  
How was Penn's treatment of the Indians related to Quaker beliefs?

## Summary

The Middle Colonies were made up of the colonies of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. People from many different places and backgrounds settled in the Middle Colonies. Some settlers came because of the rich land and others came to freely practice their own religion.

## REVIEW

1. Why did people from different places and backgrounds settle in the Middle Colonies?
2. Use the term **trial by jury** in a sentence about the Pennsylvania Colony.
3. How does location explain why New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware were called the Middle Colonies?

### CRITICAL THINKING

4. Why do you think William Penn wanted religious freedom in Pennsylvania?

5. **Make a Portrait** Draw a picture that shows a meeting between William Penn and American Indian leaders in Pennsylvania.

6. **FOCUS SKILL SUMMARIZE**  
On a separate sheet of paper, copy and complete this graphic organizer.

#### Key Fact

The Dutch controlled New Netherland.

#### Key Fact

England wanted to expand.

#### Summary



# Tamanend

*“We will live in love with William Penn and his children as long as the creeks and rivers run.”\**

No one was surprised to hear Tamanend speak these kind words. He was a kind leader and was respected by all who knew him. Tamanend grew up along the Neshaminy Creek in the forests of what is now southeastern Pennsylvania. He belonged to



Tamanend's wampum belt was meant to show cooperation between the Lenni Lenape and the English.

the Lenni Lenape (LEH•nee LEH•nuh•pee) tribe, which the English called the Delaware. In his language, *Tamanend* means “affable,” or friendly and easy to talk to. The name fit him well. One minister

described Tamanend as having “every good and noble qualification that a human being can possess.”\*\*

Tamanend met with Pennsylvania's colonial leaders five times over the years. In each meeting, he agreed to sell land. The colonists paid for the land with guns, clothing, tools, blankets, and other items. Tamanend divided these items equally among his tribe members. Not all colonial leaders were as fair as William Penn. Yet Tamanend always worked to honor the peace made between the Lenni Lenape and the people of Pennsylvania.

\*Tamanend. *The Encyclopedia of Pennsylvania* by Frank H. Gille. Somerset Publishing, 1983.  
\*\* John Heckewelder. *History, Manners, and Customs of the Indian Nations*. Heritage Books, 1991.

## Biography

Trustworthiness

Respect

Responsibility

Fairness

Caring

Patriotism

## Why Character Counts

❖ In what ways did Tamanend earn the respect of his people and of William Penn?

### Bio Brief

1628

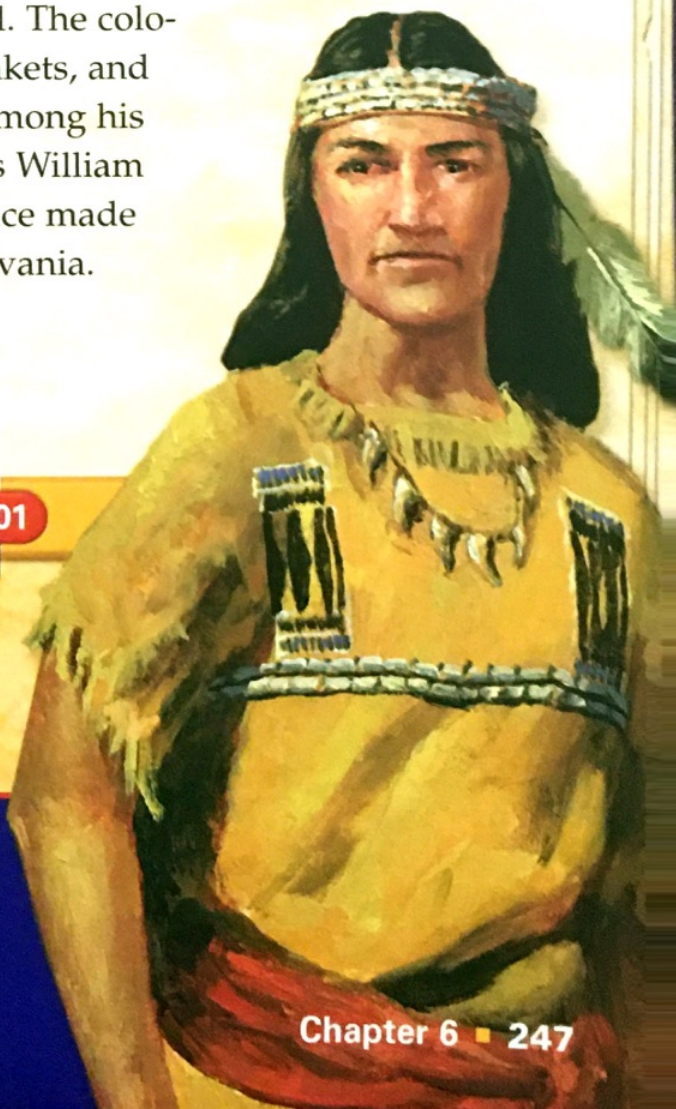
Born 1628?

1683 Tamanend first meets with William Penn

1701

Died 1701?

1697 Tamanend attends his last meeting with Pennsylvania leaders



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# Citizenship

# JUSTICE

**"Any government is free to the people under it where the laws rule, and the people are a party to [can help make] those laws."\***

—from the Frame of Government of Pennsylvania

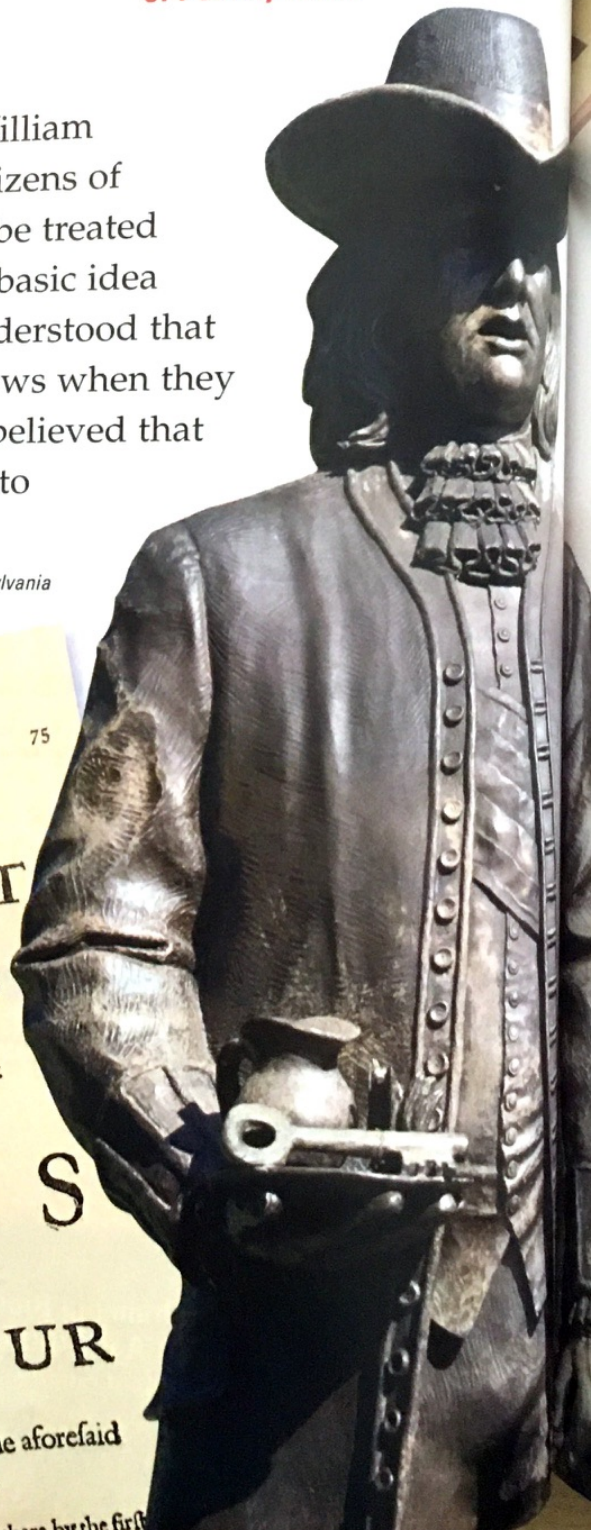
In his Frame of Government, William Penn included the idea that all citizens of the Pennsylvania Colony were to be treated equally under the law. This is the basic idea of justice in government. Penn understood that people are more likely to follow laws when they have a voice in making them. He believed that treating people justly was the key to good government.

\*William Penn. *Frame of the Government of the Province of Pennsylvania in America*. Kessinger Publishing, 2003.

In some colonies, people accused of a crime could not receive a trial by jury.

PENNSYLVANIA: A PRIMER. 75

The FRAME of the  
**GOVERNMENT**  
OF THE  
Province of Pennsylvania  
IN  
**AMERICA:**  
Together with certain  
**L A W S**  
Agreed upon in England  
BY THE  
**GOVERNOUR**  
AND  
Divers FREE-MEN of the aforefaid  
PROVINCE.







Lawyers, judges, and juries work to make sure that people receive fair trials.

One of the most important ways in which Penn guaranteed a fair government was to give citizens the right to a trial by jury. At that time, very few governments gave people this right. In a trial by jury, a group of citizens—rather than a single person, the judge—decides whether someone has broken the law. A trial by jury puts the power to make decisions in the hands of the people.

Today, equal justice is an important idea in American government. The Bill of Rights says that no citizen can “be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law.” This means that all people in the United States have the right to equal treatment under the law.

The figure of Justice wears a blindfold because the law is supposed to treat all people equally.



**Think About It!**

**Make It Relevant** The Bill of Rights guarantees United States citizens the right to a fair and public trial by jury. Why do you think it is important for trials to be public?