

**Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s**  
**Topic 3 Content: The Dutch, New Netherland, and New Jersey Notes**

**Introduction**



*The Dutch, New Netherland,  
and New Jersey*

The Middle colonies consisted of mountains, fertile farming land, and coastal lowlands that contained harbors and wide, deep rivers. Natural resources in the Middle colonies were abundant, leading to the development of numerous small manufacturing industries. The Dutch were the first Europeans to colonize the Middle colonies. In this interactivity, click the arrow to learn more about the Dutch colonization of New Netherland and the colonization of New Jersey.




Carte vande  
SVYDT RIVIER  
in New yeda-land



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**Colonization**



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EDUCATION

Illustration of New Amsterdam in 1664

The Dutch were granted permission to colonize New Netherland in 1621 in order to expand an already popular fur trade. The grant was given to the Dutch West India Company. In 1625, the colony New Amsterdam became the capital of the colony.

Carte vande  
Nieuwe-Neder-  
landt

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**Diversity**



*Image depicting the slave trade in New Netherland*

At first, the Dutch West India Company had trouble recruiting colonists to come to New Netherland. This forced the Dutch West India Company to accept a variety of different colonists. New Netherland included Dutch, German, Scandinavian, French, French Huguenots, Jewish, and other European colonists. The colony also contained Africans who were either free or enslaved.


*Carte vande  
SUYDT RIVIER*

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**Diversity (continued)**



Since New Netherland was created to increase the fur trade, the relationship between the colonists and the Native Americans was friendlier when compared to the New England and Southern colonies. Colonists in New Netherland worked with the Native Americans to acquire and sell fur. Over time, fighting between colonists and Native Americans did exist over territorial disputes.

*Carte vande SVYDT RIVIER*

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**English Takeover**



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The location of New Netherland was very appealing to the English. Geographically, New Netherland was located between the New England and Southern colonies. In 1664, King Charles II granted his brother, James, also known as the Duke of York, permission to take over the colony from the Dutch.

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*English Takeover*

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**English Takeover (continued)**



As depicted in the painting shown on this page, the English arrived and greatly outnumbered the Dutch. Without firing a single shot, the English took over control of the colony and renamed it New York. The Duke of York eventually gave away a portion of New York to friends. This portion became the colony of New Jersey. New Jersey contained a high population of colonists who followed the Presbyterian religion.

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