A Multifaceted American Heritage: Colonization, Conflict, and Compromise 1607–1781

Description:
What were the rights, roles, responsibilities, influence, and agency of the different populations living in colonial Virginia? How did social levels, gender, and ethnicity impact every aspect of society? Participants will explore daily life in the territories of the American colonies from the period of British colonization to the American Revolution. During this course, teachers will be immersed in hands-on activities, primary sources, and teaching strategies that highlight the stories of the diverse peoples living in Virginia during this period.

Objectives:
As a result of this session, teachers will:

- Describe how American Indians, Europeans, and Africans interacted with one another during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries in ways that continue to shape and define America’s economic, cultural, and political heritage.
- Examine the rights, roles, influence, and agency of different populations within eighteenth-century Virginia based on social level, gender, and ethnicity.
- Identify and analyze significant seventeenth- and eighteenth-century economic, political, and social events that led to American independence from Great Britain.
- Use techniques that develop students’ abilities to apply higher level critical thinking skills through use of primary and secondary sources, artifacts, and digital resources.

Compelling Question:
Why is it important that a variety of cultures have contributed to the developing American heritage?
Sunday: Arrival/Travel Day

4–6:30 p.m.  Teachers arrive and check in at the Williamsburg Woodlands Hotel  
Meet your Colonial Williamsburg Master Teacher for the seminar and settle into your room. If you arrive before 5:00 p.m., you may want to eat dinner before orientation. Huzzah! Eatery is next to the Woodlands Hotel and would be a good choice.

7:00 p.m.  Orientation
Day 1: Monday
Introduction to Seventeenth-Century Virginia: Jamestown

Supporting Questions:
- Why are colonies established? What is/was their purpose?
- As the Jamestown colony expanded, how did the diversity of the populace both contribute to success and lead to conflict?
- Why was Jamestown successful when other North American colonization attempts failed?

7:30 a.m.  Breakfast
8:15 a.m.  Bus to Historic Jamestown
8:25 a.m.  Overview of Seventeenth-Century Virginia
9:00 a.m.  The New World Map Activity
   Use one of the earliest English primary sources about Virginia to learn about English expectations of the New World, and their interpretation of the people and places they encountered.
9:30 a.m.  Break
9:45 a.m.  Guided Tour of Historic Jamestowne
   Historic Jamestowne is the site of the Jamestowne Fort. Extensive archaeological excavations at this National Park have unearthed thousands of artifacts and changed our understanding of the early years of the Virginia colony.
11:00 a.m.  Explore Historic Jamestowne and Visit the Archaearium
12:30 p.m.  Bus to Jamestown Settlement
12:45 p.m.  Lunch
1:30 p.m.  Guided Tour of Jamestown Settlement
   Jamestown Settlement is a reconstruction of Paspahegh Town, James Fort, and the three ships that brought English settlers to Jamestown.
3:00 p.m.  Explore Jamestown Settlement
4:00 p.m.  Teacher Collaboration
   You know your students best! Work with other teachers to identify ways to use the Institute materials, content, and strategies in your classroom.
4:45 p.m.  Evening Programs and Meals Planning
5:00 p.m.  Bus to Colonial Williamsburg / Dinner on Own
Day 2: Tuesday
Introduction to Eighteenth-Century Virginia

Supporting Questions:
- How do we know what we know about people who lived in the past?
- How was Williamsburg a center of government, commerce, and culture?
- How did the diversity of the Virginia populace both contribute to success and lead to conflict?

7:30 a.m.  Breakfast

8:15 a.m.  Travel to Bruton Heights

8:30 p.m.  How We Know What We Know (Concurrent Sessions)
- Studying Primary Documents
  Explore a variety of original eighteenth-century documents from Colonial Williamsburg’s Special Collections and learn how you can use them digitally in your classroom.
- Discovering the Past Through Archaeology
  Archaeology is the study of people and cultures of the past through the objects they left behind. Participate in a simulated dig of an eighteenth-century site to see what you and your students can learn through archaeology.

10:30 a.m.  Break and Travel to Historic Area

11:00 a.m.  American Indian Experience
During the eighteenth century, Cherokee delegations traveled to Williamsburg to negotiate trade agreements and alliances. Members of local tribes, such as the Nottoway and Pamunkey, also came to Williamsburg as students, peddlers of wares, and enlistees for Virginia forces in times of conflict. View colonial Virginia through American Indian eyes as you experience how their delegations represented an abundance of distinct cultures, languages, religions, and unique world views. Learn how American Indians’ world was impacted by the British Virginians and the impact they had on the lives of the colonists.

11:45 a.m.  Lunch

1:30  Walking Tour – Overview of Eighteenth-Century Virginia Demographics and Government
Williamsburg was both a community and the eighteenth-century capitol of Virginia. How is the eighteenth-century government system reflected in the structure of the United States government?

2:00 p.m.  Indentured Servitude and the Shift to Slavery
Chart the development of the labor system in the Virginia colony, from a system primarily reliant on indentured servants, to one that depended on and codified race-based enslaved labor.
3:00 p.m.  Break

3:30 p.m.  Think Like a Historian
Eighteenth-century Williamsburg was a complex community of approximately two thousand people. We know a lot about some of these individuals and very little about others. In this lesson, practice how historians use primary sources to discover information about people of the past and draw conclusions about their lives.

4:30 p.m.  Meet a Person of the Past: Nanny Jones
Meet an enslaved Virginian who lived in eighteenth-century Williamsburg. Discuss what life and work was like in the capital city and how it compared to that of the enslaved living in rural areas.

5:15 p.m.  Break

5:30 p.m.  Teacher Collaboration
You know your students best! Work with other teachers to identify ways to use the Institute materials, content, and strategies in your classroom.

6:00 p.m.  End of Day
Day 3: Wednesday
Daily Life in the Capital City

Supporting Questions:
- How did daily life differ for the various social levels and groups?
- Where and how did people from different social levels interact?

7:30 a.m.  Breakfast

8:30 a.m.  Who Was the Powell Family?
Lean about the residents of the Benjamin Powell property, including the extended Powell family, the enslaved laborers on the property, and Mr. Powell’s apprentices.

9:00 a.m.  Domestic Life (Concurrent Sessions)
In the eighteenth century, many tradesmen and middling-sort families lived in Williamsburg. Explore domestic life for all the residents of the Powell property.
- **Inside the Powell House**
  Inside the main home, experience how Mrs. Powell directed all in the domestic sphere, from the children in their chores and social graces, to enslaved people responsible for serving meals, tending fires, and running errands. Also learn how Mr. Powell directed and employed his apprentices and enslaved carpenters on building projects.
- **Outside in the Yard/Garden**
  Outside the home in the yard, learn about the labor of the household undertaken by enslaved people in the kitchen, laundry, and garden. Explore how they maintained connections between their community and others on various Powell-owned properties in the county.

10:30 a.m.  Exploration Time and Lunch

1:00 p.m.  Resolved: An American Experiment
A thought-provoking and playful museum theater experience unfolds around you as our troupe of diverse actors explore the events of the 5th Virginia Convention. Become a part of the story as a Member of Parliament, a Burgess, or maybe even Patrick Henry. Relive and examine the moment Virginia said yes to American Independence.

1:40 a.m.  Resolved Debrief

2:00 pm  Break and Walk to Governor’s Palace

2:30 p.m.  Teacher Collaboration
You know your students best! Work with other teachers to identify ways to use the Institute materials, content, and strategies in your classroom.
3:00 p.m.  Meet a Person of the Past: Divided Loyalties
During the American Revolution, many Williamsburg residents chose to remain loyal to
their king or join the rebellion to create something new. But what about the people who
were caught in the middle and whose families were torn apart by divided loyalties? Tour
the Governor’s Palace with one such person and discover what it was like to have family
members on both sides of the conflict.

3:45 p.m.  Break

4:00 p.m.  People and Pockets of the Past
Examine the daily lives of eighteenth-century Virginians, from the gentry and middling
sort to servants and enslaved people, using a variety of primary sources and artifacts.

5:00 p.m.  End of Day
Day 4: Thursday
The Mercantile System

Supporting Questions:
- What role did Virginia and other North American colonies play in the global economy?
- What was the importance of agriculture in colonial Virginia and how did it influence the institution of slavery?
- How was the eighteenth-century economic system similar to and different from the present-day economy?

7:30 a.m.  Breakfast

8:15 a.m.  The Global Economy
In the eighteenth century, trade goods, including raw materials from the colonies and finished goods from Great Britain, moved around the world in an interconnected global economy. Explore how mercantilism contributed to the American Revolution.

9:00 a.m.  Break and Travel

9:30 a.m.  Eighteenth-Century Agriculture
Tobacco was the lifeblood of Virginia’s colonial economy. Investigate how this 13-month crop was grown, processed, and transported. Learn about the eighteenth-century Virginia agricultural economy and explore the differences between a farm and a plantation.

10:30 a.m.  Break and Travel

11:00 a.m.  History Mystery
Use objects and other primary sources to determine how this mystery site was originally used, who may have been here, how it connected to the larger Williamsburg and Virginia communities, and how its economy could be impacted by the American Revolution.

12:00 p.m.  Lunch and Exploration Time

2:00 p.m.  Trades Tour Experience
Explore the global mercantile economy with the help of tradespeople who are well-acquainted with its intricacies. Discover how connections in the community and across the globe impacted the supply and demand of goods and services. How was business transacted in the eighteenth century? How did the events of the American Revolution influence these practices?
3:30 p.m.  Teacher Collaboration  
You know your students best! Work with other teachers to identify ways to use the Institute materials, content, and strategies in your classroom.

4:15 p.m.  Introduction to Rights and Controversies  
One the eve of American Revolution, John Adams estimated that one third of people were patriots, one third were loyalists, and one third were undecided. As war broke out in the North, Virginians had to decide whether to declare their independence from Great Britain or remain colonial subjects of the British Empire. Take on the role of an eighteenth-century Virginian, discuss your stance on independence with like-minded individuals, and prepare for open debate in the House of Burgesses.

5:00 p.m.  Watch the Fife and Drum Corps

5:15 p.m.  Dinner on Own
Day 5: Friday
The World Turned Upside Down

Supporting Questions:
- What were the catalysts that led American patriots to seek independence from Great Britain?
- How do the complexities in using the labels Patriot and Loyalist for America’s founding generation impact our understanding of the past?
- What paradoxes are at the heart of the American Revolution?
- What is the significance of the outcome at Yorktown for people living in the newly defined United States?

7:30 a.m. Breakfast

8:30 a.m. Prelude to the Revolution
Explore primary source objects and images to learn about significant events in the colonies that led to the Revolutionary War.

9:15 a.m. Meet a Person of the Past
The seeds of the American Revolution can be found in British colonial government. From 1699 to 1776, the seat of British power in the colony of Virginia was the Capitol building at the end of Duke of Gloucester Street. Examine how the colonial government functioned and what rights and privileges the people had as subjects of a king. Meet a person of the past and discuss the issues that led to war, the prospects for winning, and their hopes for the nation after the conflict is over.

10:15 a.m. Break

10:30 a.m. Walking Tour – Resilience, Agency, and Resistance
During the colonial period, Williamsburg was a town not only of statesmen, tavern keepers, and tradesmen, but also of enslaved individuals. How did these men, women, and children live? What were their roles here? Hear their stories and explore their lives and choices on the eve of the American Revolution.

11:30 a.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. Bus to Yorktown

1:30 p.m. The American Revolution Museum at Yorktown
The indoor galleries at the American Revolution Museum feature period artifacts, and immersive environments and films, including “The Siege of Yorktown” with a 180-degree surround screen and dramatic special effects. The outdoor areas include a re-created Continental Army encampment where you can investigate the life of a soldier and see demonstrations on medical treatment, camp life, cooking, and flintlock muskets. Explore a Revolution-era farm, based on a real-life eighteenth-century family, and help with chores in the house, kitchen, tobacco barn, gardens, and crops.
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<td>3:30 p.m.</td>
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| 3:45 p.m. | **Yorktown Battlefield National Park Visitor Center and Museum**  
            Tour the museum exhibits focusing on the 1781 Siege of Yorktown, the Battle of the Capes, and the campaign table used by British General Cornwallis during the siege. General Washington’s Campaign Tents are also on display in the museum. |
| 4:30 p.m. | Bus Tour of Yorktown Battlefield National Park  
            Visit Redoubts 9 & 10 and Surrender Field. |
| 5:30 p.m. | Bus to Williamsburg |
| 7:00 p.m. | Dinner |
Day 6: Saturday
A New Nation

Supporting Questions:
- What does it mean to be an American?
- As Americans, what role do we have in carrying forward or changing the founding ideals?

7:30 a.m.  Breakfast and Check Out

8:30 a.m.  Rights and Controversies Debate
On May 15, 1776, a group of men met in the former Hall of the House of Burgesses to determine the future of Virginia. Should Virginians remain subjects of the British crown or become citizens of a new nation? Recreate the debate over independence and see if your decision matches theirs.

9:15 a.m.  Break and Travel

9:30 a.m.  Meet a Person of the Past
Character interpreters portray real historic figures associated with eighteenth-century Williamsburg who made significant contributions to the American story. Meet an interpreter who helped shape their time, and whose legacy continues to influence and inspire American ideals.

10:15 a.m.  Break

10:30 a.m.  Graduation

12:00 p.m.  Departure