Standard 8.5 Lesson

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8.5 Describe the settlement of New Netherlands and the subsequent possession of the colony by the English, including: Dutch influences, Peter Stuyvesant, patroon system, renaming to New York, diverse population.

To begin our study on the history of New Netherlands and New York, as well as the other Middle Colonies, we will watch a podcast by Mr. Zoller.
New Netherlands to New York - watch the documentary about "Uncovering America's Forgotten Colony"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3t_eMJM2v4

England was not the first European power to settle the land known now as New York. That distinction belongs to the Dutch.
Governor Stuyvesant, appointed by the Dutch West India Company, told the colonists of New Netherland, "I shall govern you as a father his children." From www.biography.com, read a short introduction to Peter Stuyvesant. http://www.biography.com/people/peter-stuyvesant-9498392

Peter Stuyvesant https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CjbnIX5Mej8 and "How Did Peg Leg Peter Stuyvesant Lose His Right Leg?" https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7v1CNJlfNc
Statue of Peter Stuyvesant

Ironically, the English explorer Henry Hudson brought the region to the attention of the Netherlands in 1609 by sailing into New York Bay and up the river that would eventually bear his name.

New Netherland became a reality fourteen years later. The Dutch West India Company hoped to reap the profits of the area’s fur trade.

Wait Just a Minuit

Shortly after setting up camp, Peter Minuit made one of the greatest real estate purchases in history. He traded trinkets (small ornaments, jewelry, etc.) with local Native Americans for Manhattan Island. The town that was established there was named New Amsterdam.

The Dutch had no patience for democratic institutions. The point of the colony was to enrich its stockholders.

The most famous governor of the colony, Peter Stuyvesant, ruled New Amsterdam with an iron fist. Slavery was common during the Dutch era, as the Dutch West India Company was one of the most prominent in the world’s trade of slaves.

Languages that could be heard in the streets of New Amsterdam include Dutch, French, Flemish, Swedish, Danish, Finnish, and several other European and African tongues.

Northwest of New Amsterdam, New Netherland approached feudal conditions with the awarding of large tracts of land to wealthy investors. This would create eventual instability as the gap between the landed and the landless grew more obvious.
Patroon System

From www.u-s-history.com, click in on the following to learn about the Patroon System in New Netherlands. http://www.u-s-history.com/pages/h3966.html

The British Are Coming and the Renaming of of New Netherlands to New York


After Charles II came to the throne, the English became very interested in the Dutch holdings. In 1664, he granted the land to his brother, the Duke of York, before officially owning it.

When a powerful English military unit appeared in New Amsterdam, Governor Stuyvesant was forced to surrender and New Netherland became New York.

Santa Claus and Easter Eggs

Cultural contributions left by the Dutch include the pastimes of bowling and skating. Christmas and Easter were transformed by the introduction of Santa Claus and Easter eggs.

Any resident or visitor to Harlem or Brooklyn should recognize the Dutch influence in the names of locales. Although majority Dutch presence was short-lived, the legacy remains.

The original Half Moon (Halve Maen) was commissioned on March 25, 1609, for the Dutch East India Company. She was a ship of exploration and the spaceship of her age, designed to take a crew of twenty into unknown and uncharted waters. John Anderson and Alexander Flick in A Short History of the State of New York in 1902 reckoned that if the $24 (the value of the beads in the legendary story of the purchase of Manhattan) had been put aside at 6% interest it would have grown to $122,500,000. They must have made the calculation in 1891; by 1902 it would have been worth $231,000,000. An incredible website devoted to beads awaits you!
Read a review of Mr. Nussbaum’s history of New Netherlands and New York
http://mrnussbaum.com/history-2-2/nycolony/

History Alive - New York Colony  Watch this lesson on line! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=khhSwajo
rgg  A Brief Description of New York, 1670  Daniel Denton, planter and government official in Queens County, New York, was inundated with questions about his adopted home when he visited London in 1670. So he decided to write and publish a "Description," reproduced here in its entirety. The webpage also includes a forward from a 1973 edition which provides more background Clawrmation.  Beads and Manhattan  Do you really think that Peter Minuit bought Manhattan Island for $24 in beads? The author of this webpage doesn’t and wants to tell you why in no uncertain terms. Learn about the settlement of Manhattan, beads and 17th-century customs on this cool page.  New Castle, Delaware  The first permanent settlement on Delaware soil was Fort Christina, resulting from Peter Minuit’s 1638 expedition in the Kalmar Nyckel. The town was laid out where Wilmington presently exists. Subsequently the Swedes captured the Dutch Fort Casimir. In 1655, Peter Stuyvesant sent a military expedition to the area to retake it for the Dutch. Read about the outcome of Dutch and Swedish fighting in this stub of a page.  New York Timeline  This is a timeline broken up by periods. It’s inelegantly presented, but rich in information. You’ll have to constantly return to the index which is a bother but the info is worth it. Click on!  The New Netherlands Museum  A tidy page which covers many of the aspects of the settlement of New Amsterdam: Henry Hudson’s 1609 Voyage, The Quest of the Half Moon, Hudson in North America, America’s Dutch Heritage, New Netherlands’s Influence, The Legacy of Peter Stuyvesant, Blueprint for the Bill of Rights, and Articles of Capitulation. Nice page which should yield lots of useful info including a couple of graphic images.
The Middle Colonies and the Diverse Population of the Middle Colonies
William Penn paid 1200 pounds for the land he purchased from the Delaware Indians.

Americans have often prided themselves on their rich diversity. Nowhere was that diversity more evident in pre-Revolutionary America than in the MIDDLE COLONIES of Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware. European ethnic groups as manifold as English, Swedes, Dutch, Germans, Scots-Irish and French lived in closer proximity than in any location on continental Europe. The middle colonies contained Native American tribes of Algonkian and Iroquois language groups as well as a sizable percentage of African slaves during the early years. Unlike solidly Puritan New England, the middle colonies presented an assortment of religions. The presence of Quakers, MENNONITES, LUTHERANS, DUTCH CALVINISTS, and PRESBYTERIANS made the dominance of one faith next to impossible.
The middle colonies included Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware.

Advantaged by their central location, the middle colonies served as important distribution centers in the English mercantile system. New York and Philadelphia grew at a fantastic rate. These cities gave rise to brilliant thinkers such as Benjamin Franklin, who earned respect on both sides of the Atlantic. In many ways, the middle colonies served as the crossroads of ideas during the colonial period.

In contrast to the South where the cash crop plantation system dominated, and New England whose rocky soil made large-scale agriculture difficult, the middle colonies were FERTILE. Land was generally acquired more easily than in New England or in the plantation South. Wheat and corn from local farms would feed the American colonies through their colonial infancy and revolutionary adolescence.

The middle colonies represented exactly that — a middle ground between its neighbors to the North and South. Elements of both New England towns and sprawling country estates could be found. Religious dissidents from all regions could settle in the relatively tolerant middle zone. Aspects of New England SHIPBUILDING and LUMBERING and the large farms of the South could be found. Aptly named, they provided a perfect nucleus for English America.

( Pictured Above: William Penn paid 1200 pounds for the land he purchased from the Delaware Indians.)

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