

Life in Colonial New England
Pre-Visit Worksheet
Understanding Past, Present and Future
Timeline

- 1607** – First British colony established in the New World in Jamestown, Virginia
- 1620** – Voyage of the *Mayflower* to the New World
- 1640** – Founding of the town of Greenwich, Connecticut
- 1752** – Benjamin Franklin uses a kite to understand properties of electricity
- 1775** – Beginning of the American Revolution
- 1783** – End of the American Revolution
- 1879** – Thomas Edison filed for a patent and publicly demonstrated his light bulb
- 1882** – Thomas Edison opened the first power station in New York City that was used to power homes and businesses

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Vocabulary List**

Chamber Pot – A bowl kept in a bedroom and used as a toilet.

Colonial Era – Relating to a colony or colonies, particularly the British colonies.

Colony – A country or area under the full or partial political control of another country, typically a distant one, and occupied by settlers from that country.

Embroidery – The art or pastime of decorating cloth by sewing colored thread onto it in a pattern, in a design or with words.

Export – To send goods or services to another country for sale.

Herbs – Plants used for flavoring food or making medicine or perfume.

Import – To bring goods or services into a country from abroad for sale.

Livestock – Animals used for food or sold for goods or money; not pets.

Luxury – A state of comfort, ease and wealth.

Merchant – A person who buys, sells and trades goods.

Musket – A gun used during the American Revolution that has a long barrel that is loaded through the front and sometimes has a knife attached, called a bayonet.

Necessity – A thing required for everyday life.

Parlor Room – A room used for entertainment.

Portrait – An image of a person or group of people.

Quill Pen – A pen made from the feather of a large bird.

Revolution – A violent attempt by a group of people to end the rule of one government and start a new one.

Saltbox House – A house that has up to three stories in the front and one less in the back with a slanted roof. The style of the house resembles a box used to contain salt during the Colonial period.

Sampler – A piece of embroidery that uses different stitches for practicing sewing skills and may contain the alphabet or a saying.

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Draw a picture of your favorite activity from school last year:

Fill in the sentence below:

Last year at school, I _____

Draw a picture of your favorite activity to do at school this year:

Fill in the sentence below:

This year at school, I _____

Draw a picture of an activity that you can't wait to do next year:

Fill in the sentence below:

Next year at school, I can't wait to _____

Life in Colonial New England Post-Visit Activities Understanding Past, Present and Future

1. Familial Roles and Chores

In the classroom, have students discuss which chores they are responsible for in their own home or around the classroom. Ask the students which chores they remember that the Bush children were responsible for. How do their chores and the Bush children's chores differ?

Example: What chores are you responsible for in your house? In the classroom?

What chores were the Bush children responsible for in their house? How are your chores different from the chores the Bush children had to do?

2. Life on the Farm

By encouraging your students to grow plants from seeds, they can better understand the process of planting and growing food. Using bush bean seeds, germinate plants in damp paper towels, or simply plant them in damp (not wet) soil in individual pots and visibly notice the growth process over the span of one to two weeks. (Note: Seedlings do not transplant well to garden beds. If planning a garden, plant seeds directly to the garden bed after the last spring frost, and be sure to create a support for the plants once they start to grow.)