

or cheese making. Orphaned girls and boys worked as apprentices for families who housed and fed them until adulthood.

Education and Literacy The colonies differed from European societies in level of education. Colonial America had a high rate of literacy, or the ability to read and write. In New England, 85 percent of white men were literate, compared with 60 percent of men in England. In the Middle Colonies, 65 percent of white men were literate, and in the South, about 50 percent were.

Most colonists thought that it was more important for males to be educated. In each region, roughly half as many white women as men were literate. Educated African Americans were rare. If they were enslaved, teaching them to read was illegal. If they were free, they were

kept out of schools. Some colonists defied these rules. Eliza Lucas educated enslaved children on her plantation.

the blue were taught to read so that they could understand the Bible.

Supply a supp

the Literacy also helped unite the colonies. In the early months had only one local newspaper, the Boston News Letter.

You years, dozens more newspapers appeared.

tal almanac included a calendar, weather predictions, dirice, home remedies, recipes, jokes, and proverbs. In began to publish *Poor Richard's Almanac*. It contained ted today, such as "Haste makes waste."

poetry, regional histories, and autobiographies.
The Americas was the captivity narrative. In it, mericans described living among them. Mary rative, The Sovereignty and Goodness of God, allers. It described how Native Americans during King Philip's War in 1676.

nto contact with people of different come colonies, there was religious adapt to this new situation. In the sadopted Quaker principles

Religious Revival

WEY QUESTION How did the Great Awakening change American society?

As colonists developed a new society in America, they drew inspiration from two cultural movements:

- the **Great Awakening**, a Christian religious revival
- the Enlightenment, a movement stressing human reason

While the Great Awakening appealed to faith and emotions, the Enlightenment was based on reason and scientific observation. However, both movements offered people ways of changing themselves and their world—which is exactly what the colonists needed as they created a new society.

The Great Awakening In the 1730s and 1740s, a religious movement called the Great Awakening swept through the colonies. Traveling ministers preached that inner religious emotion was more important than outward religious behavior. Huge crowds gathered outdoors to hear famous preachers like **Jonathan Edwards** promise that all could be saved.

PRIMARY SOURCE

And now you have an extraordinary opportunity, a day wherein Christ has thrown the door of mercy wide open, and stands in calling and crying with a loud voice to poor sinners. . . . How awful is it to be left behind at such a day! ""

—Jonathan Edwards, "Sinners in the Hands of an Angry God"

The Great Awakening offered hope that each person could break from the past and begin a spiritual relationship with God. This would happen during a sudden conversion, or rebirth. This is the doctrine, or belief, of Evangelicalism. The evangelical idea of spiritual renewal or rebirth would be very influential in American culture.

The movement led congregations to argue over religious practices. Some left their churches and joined other Protestant groups such as Baptists. As religious diversity increased, it became more difficult

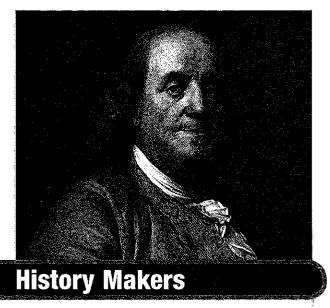
ny's religious life. In colonies like Virginia, the established Anglican church was weakened.

for one "established" church to control a colo-

Religion and Social Change In the South, the Great Awakening's focus on spiritual equality threatened the social system. Against the wishes of many plantation owners, the Presbyterian minister Samuel Davies baptized African Americans. Meanwhile Baptist congregations welcomed African Americans and Native Americans. They allowed slaves to preach and women to speak in church.

Reenactors portray African-American worship in the South.





Ben Franklin 1706-1790

As an Enlightenment thinker, Benjamin Franklin used reason and scientific methods to improve society. At 42, he retired from business to devote his life to science and public service. He proved that lightning was a form of electricity. Then he invented the lightning rod to protect buildings. The Franklin stove and bifocal eyeglasses were also his inventions. He organized a fire department, a lending library, and a society to discuss philosophy. Later he helped draft the Declaration of Independence.

CRITICAL THINKING

Connect Today Consider how Franklin's abilities could be useful today. For example, how might Franklin solve environmental problems?



For more on Ben Franklin, go to the Research & Writing Center @ ClassZone.com

The Great Awakening inspired colonists to help others. **George Whitefield** (HWIT•feeld) drew thousands of people with his sermons and raised funds to start a home for orphans. Other ministers taught Christianity and reading to Native Americans and African Americans.

The Great Awakening helped develop American identity by encouraging a belief in spiritual equality. It also inspired religious debate, which increased religious diversity.

The movement encouraged colonists to challenge authority and question traditional religious practices. Once this had happened, it was easier to challenge other social and political traditions. In this way, the movement laid the groundwork for revolt against British authority.

EVALUATE Describe how religion changed society.

The Enlightenment

KEY QUESTION How did the Enlightenment influence the colonists?

Unlike the Great Awakening, which explored religious emotion, the Enlightenment emphasized human reason and science as the paths to knowledge. It encouraged the belief that human beings could use rational thought to improve themselves and their society. Benjamin Franklin was a famous American Enlightenment figure. He conducted scientific experiments to discover the laws of nature.

Belief in Progress Writers of the Enlightenment condemned tyranny and superstition and challenged traditional social practices. They valued justice and equality and called for social and political change. Like the Great Awakening, the Enlightenment had far-reaching effects on the colonies.

The Enlightenment began in Europe, as scientists discovered natural laws governing the universe. In

the colonies, at first only educated, wealthy people who could afford new books were familiar with Enlightenment ideas. But soon the values of the Enlightenment influenced the wider population.

Other Enlightenment thinkers applied the idea of natural law to human societies. The English philosopher **John Locke** challenged the belief that kings had a God-given right to rule. For many centuries, European kings had claimed that they were divinely appointed by God to rule their kingdoms. Locke challenged this idea. He also claimed that because govern-