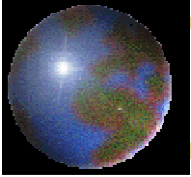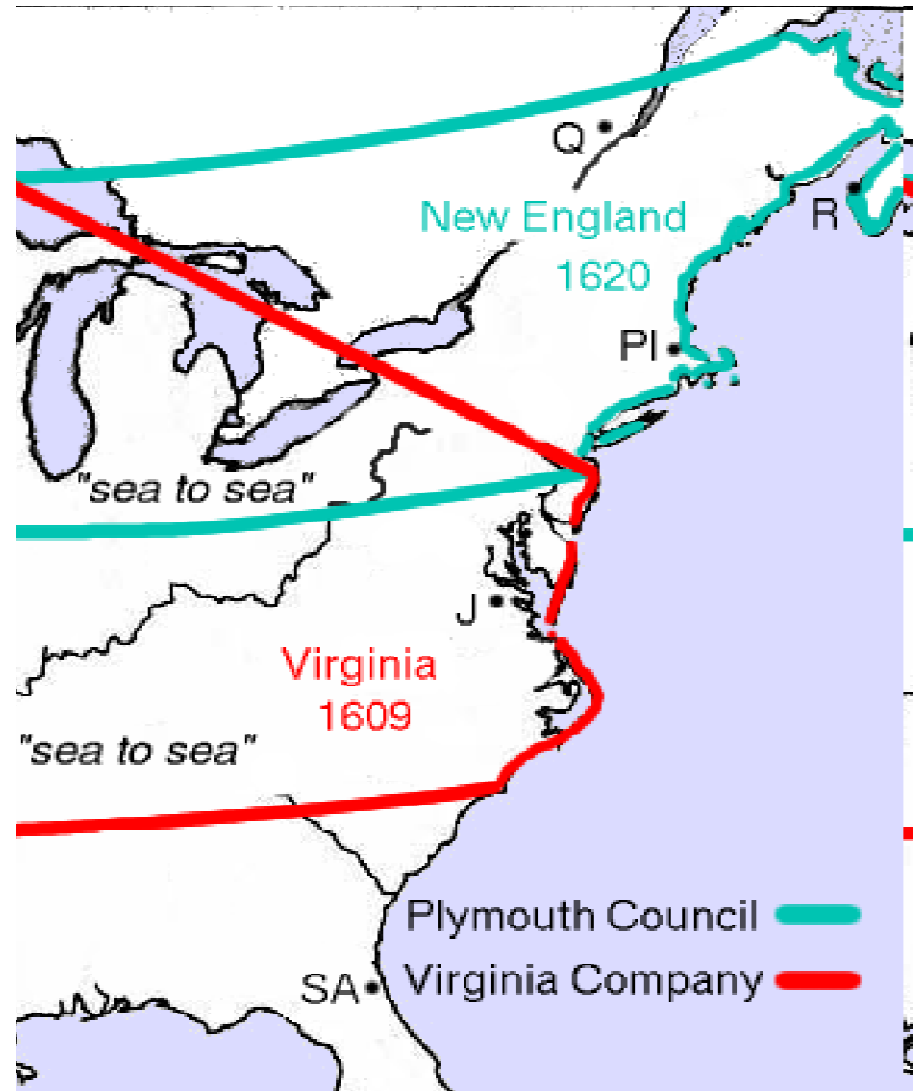# The Southern Colonies

- Virginia

- Maryland

- North Carolina

- South Carolina

- Georgia
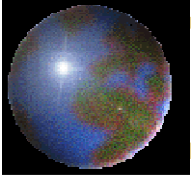
The Southern Colonies

Virginia

- Jamestown founded in 1607 by the London Company—joint stock company

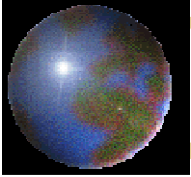- Huge original area cut down by land grants to Massachusetts, Maryland, and the Carolinas

Maryland

- 1632 – Lord Baltimore received land grant to found a colony as a refuge for English Roman Catholics
- First settlers in 1634
- As more protestants moved to area, tensions grew, leading to the adoption of a law about religious freedom.
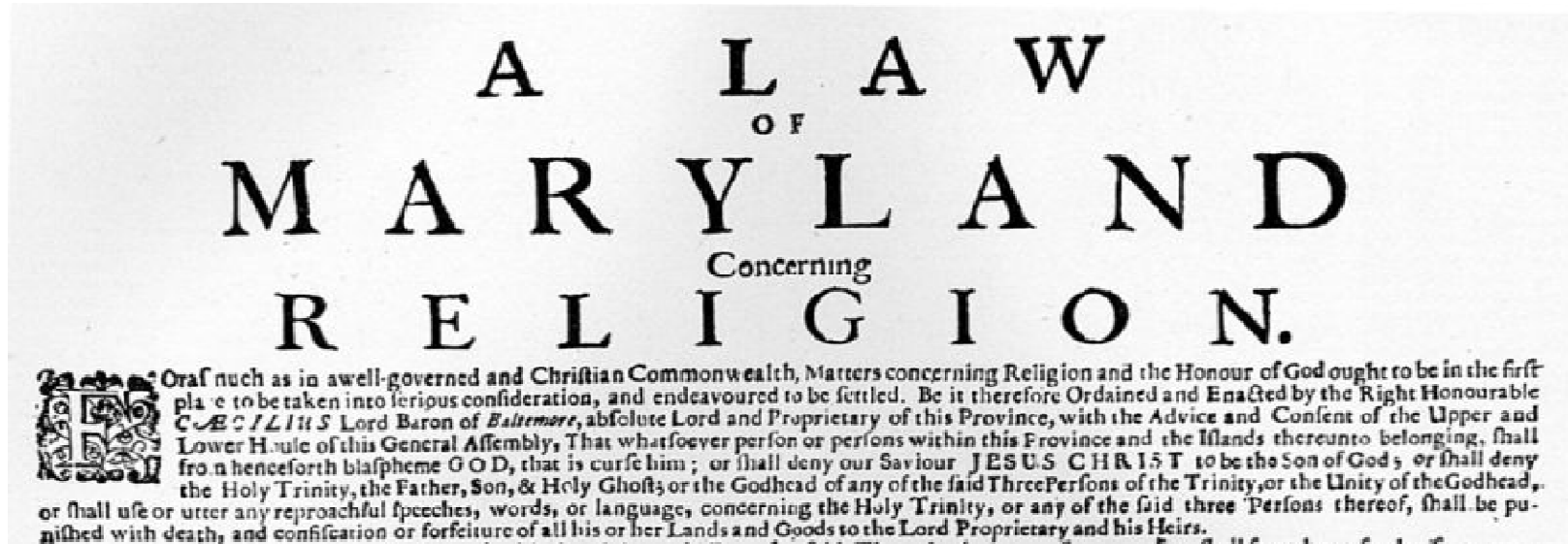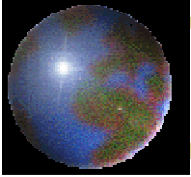
CECILIUS CALVERT, LORD BALTIMORE.
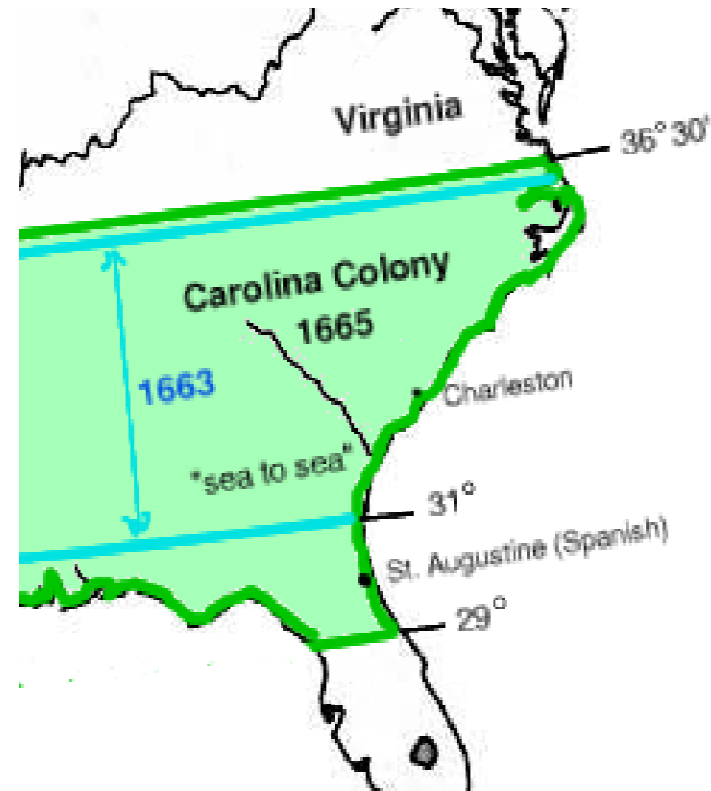
Toleration Act of 1649

- **Toleration Act of 1649** – mandating religious toleration of all Christian denominations
  - Outlawed restricting rights of Christian groups
  - First law of its kind in America
  - Precursor to the First Amendment

A LAW OF MARYLAND Concerning RELIGION.

Oraſ much as in a well-governed and Chriſtian Commonwealth, Matters concerning Religion and the Honour of God ought to be in the firſt place to be taken into ſerious conſideration, and endeavoured to be ſettled. Be it therefore Ordained and Enacted by the Right Honourable CÆCILIUS Lord Baron of *Baltemore*, abſolute Lord and Proprietary of this Province, with the Advice and Conſent of the Upper and Lower Houſe of this General Aſſembly, That whatſoever perſon or perſons within this Province and the Iſlands thereunto belonging, ſhall from henceforth blaſpheme GOD, that is curſe him; or ſhall deny our Saviour JESUS CHRIST to be the Son of God; or ſhall deny the Holy Trinity, the Father, Son, & Holy Ghoſt, or the Godhead of any of the ſaid Three Perſons of the Trinity, or the Unity of the Godhead, or ſhall uſe or utter any reproachful ſpeeches, words, or language, concerning the Holy Trinity, or any of the ſaid three Perſons thereof, ſhall be puniſhed with death, and confiſcation or forfeiture of all his or her Lands and Goods to the Lord Proprietary and his Heirs.
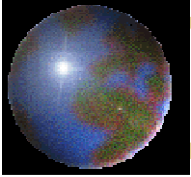
Carolina—1663

- 1663 ~ Land given to 8 Lords by Charles II

- Settlement took place in two distinct areas

- Eventually in 1712, the decision was made to divide the colony.
  - Settlements were far apart making it difficult to govern
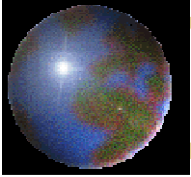 - Climate and geography supported different crops

North Carolina—1712

- Settlers mostly poor tobacco farmers who moved south from Virginia
- Tended to have small farms
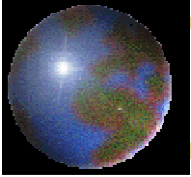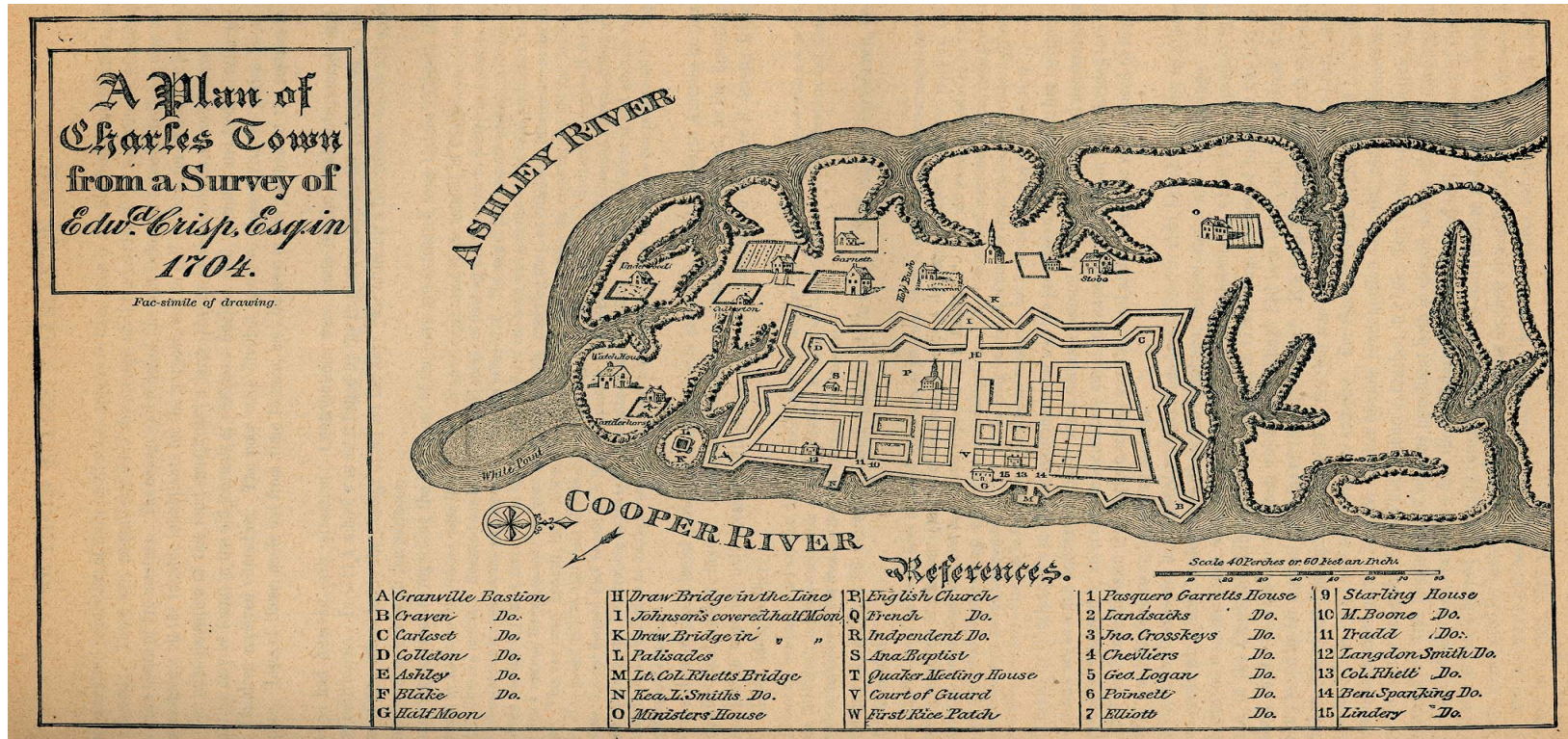- Colony became known as North Carolina in 1712

South Carolina—1719

- Early settlers were English people from Barbados, an English colony in the Caribbean.

- Later immigrants included Germans, Swiss, French Protestants and Spanish Jews.

- African laborers taught colonists to raise rice in the 1690s—perfect crop for swampy lowlands.

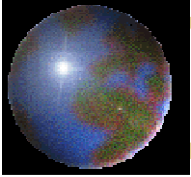- Inland **indigo** was raised—plant used to make valuable blue dye

Charlestown

- 1670 ~ Charles Town, founded in 1670, became the commercial, social and political center of South Carolina.
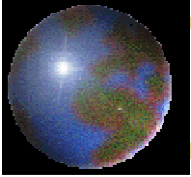
Georgia

- James Oglethorpe and other trustees were given a grant by George II to start a colony as a refuge for **debtors** from England
  - Land formerly part of South Carolina
  - Hoped to form a border between Spanish Florida and other English Colonies
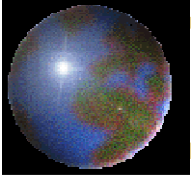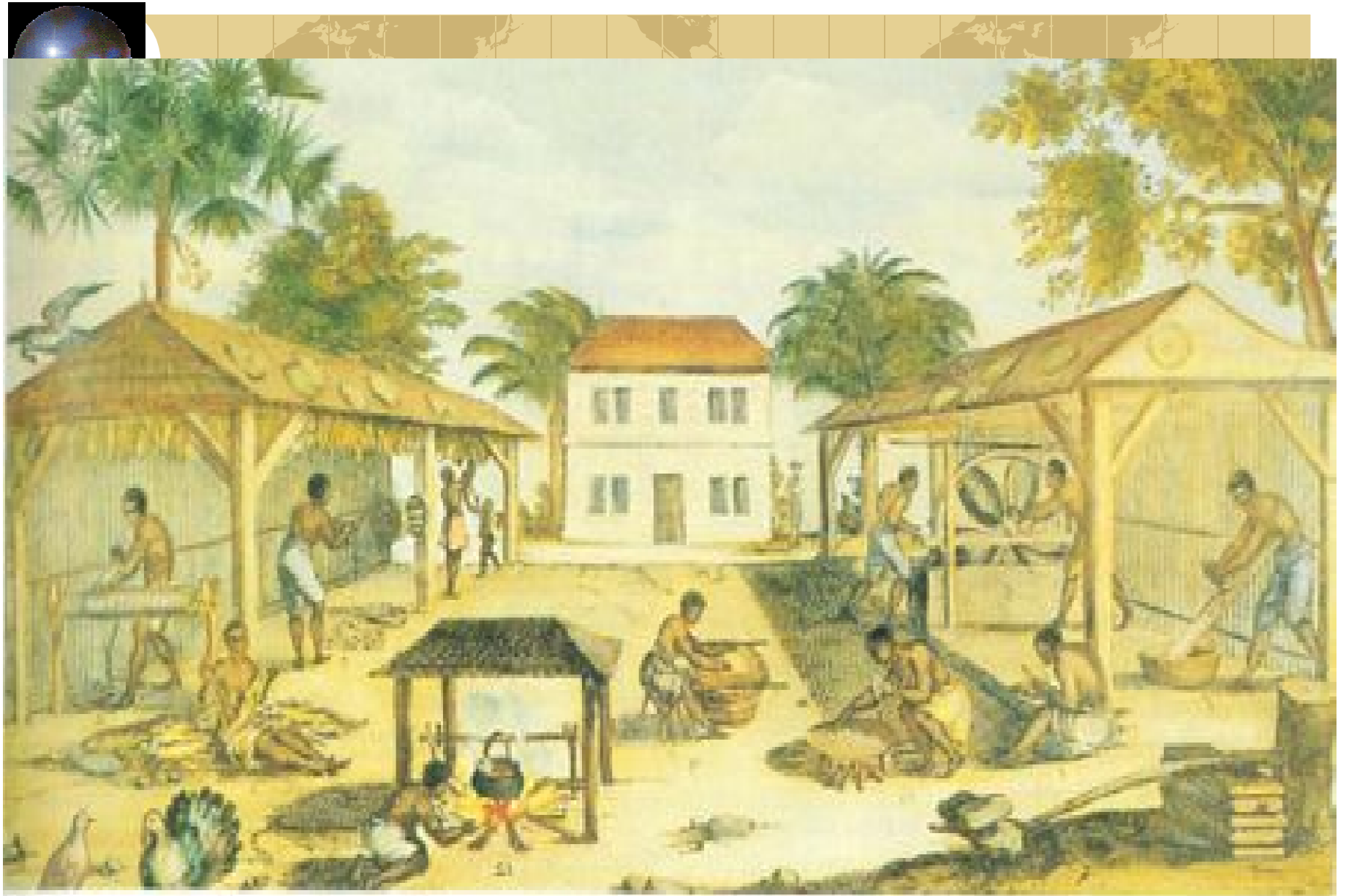- Founded city of Savannah in 1733, where they built the first settlement.

Georgia

- Free passage to Georgia where people worked to build the colony until they could support themselves
- Oglethorpe wanted to avoid the rise of plantations to assure small farm success
  - Prohibited slavery
  - Limited land grants – no larger than 500 acres
- Once successful, colonists wanted to expand
- 1752 ~ trustees gave up the charter
  - Became a Royal Colony
  - Resulted in large rice plantations
  - worked by thousands of slaves

UNITED STATES POSTAGE

1733 1933

3 GENERAL OGLETHORPE CENTS 3

Economy of the Southern Colonies

- <u>Agriculture</u>
  - Tobacco, Rice, Indigo ~ cash crops
  - <u>Plantations</u> – large farms usually specializing in one crop, mostly worked by slaves or indentured servants
    - <u>Indentured Servants</u> – to earn passage to America, workers agree to work for a fixed number of years
    - <u>Slaves</u> – more than 20,000 in Southern Colonies by 1700
    - <u>Slave Codes</u>– laws designed to control slave population
      - Laws became more strict as the slave population grew

This 1670 painting shows enslaved Africans working in the tobacco sheds on a colonial tobacco plantation.