**Chapter 4: English Colonies Thrive in North America**

Why people came to live in the English Colonies:

1. Many people in England did NOT own land – Most property in England belonged to Nobles. Ordinary farmers rented their homes and fields from Noble landowners. Also, the demand for wool cloth rose sharply in the late 1500’s. As a result, the Nobles began the **Enclosure Movement**. The **Enclosure Movement** was when Nobles fenced off much of their farmland and turned it into pastures for herds of sheep. This was more profitable for the Nobles. As a result of the **Enclosure Movement**, thousands of farmers lost their homes and jobs. *They looked to America as a place they could own land.*
2. City life was unpleasant – The cities were crowded, dirty, and unhealthy. People died at an early age due to disease and hunger. Jobs and houses were scarce. The cities were also overpopulated. London grew from a population of 150,000 in 1595 to a population of 330,000 forty years later in 1635. *People, who lived in the cities, looked toward America as a place rich in forests and food.*
3. The desire for religious freedom – According to English law, all people living in England had to belong to the **Anglican Church** (also known as the Church of England). However, some people **dissented** (disagreed with) with the Anglican Church. Among these groups were the Puritans and Separatists. Catholics also lived in England. All of the people who refused to belong to the Anglican Church were **persecuted** (mistreated) by the English rulers. Some were jailed, some had their belongings **confiscated** (taken away) and some were even put to death. *Dissenters look to America as a place where they could worship freely.*
4. The desire for a greater voice in government – English monarchs shared their power with Parliament. However, in 1603, King James I claimed he ruled by **divine right** or authority given to monarchs by God. He ignored the Parliament, collected high taxes, and limited religious freedom. Many people were unhappy with their government and felt their rights were being threatened. *They looked to America as a place to live without interference from the monarch.*