

Charters for Colonies



English colonists in North America required charters from the monarchy to legally exist. Charters could be taken away, as well as granted, and varied widely from colony to colony. Answer the following questions about colonies and their charters.

1. Jamestown and the Virginia colony, founded by the Virginia Company in 1607, reverted to the control of the English Crown in 1624. This followed which major event?

- A drought that led to famine and the death of most colonists.
- An outbreak of scarlet fever that wiped out the population of the main fort.
- A Native American attack that killed a third of the colony's population.
- A hurricane that drowned all crops for one summer.

2. English explorer Sir Walter Raleigh received a charter to found the first English settlement in North America from which monarch?

- Queen Elizabeth I
- King James I (also known as King James VI)
- King Charles I
- King Charles II

3. Plymouth, the famous Puritan colony, was founded in 1620. Nine years later, the Massachusetts Bay Company received a royal charter to colonize much of New England. The Company was headed by which Puritan leader?

- John Winthrop
- William Brewster
- John Carver
- Thomas Gouge

4. Banished from the Massachusetts colony in 1635, minister Roger Williams founded a town for those who wanted religious freedom. Williams received a charter for his own colony in 1644; the town he had established would become its capital, called:

- Boston
- Augusta
- Montpelier
- Providence



Sources:

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Zeikner, Oscar. "Massachusetts Bay Company." Scholastic, *Grolier Online*, <http://www2.scholastic.com/browse/article.jsp?id=5106> (accessed July 12, 2010).

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