

THE NATION'S BEGINNINGS

Reading Strategy

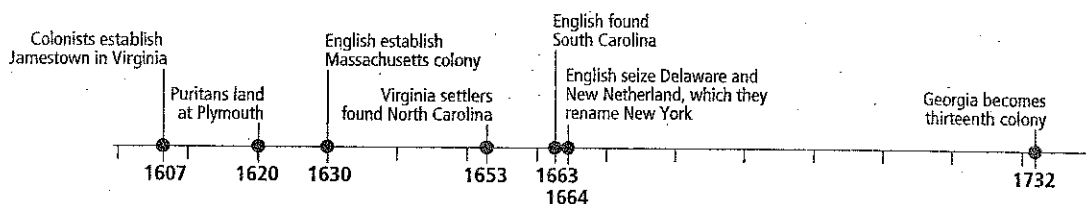
Recognize Sequence

As you read about history, you should learn to recognize the sequence, or order, in which events took place. History textbooks often present information in sequence, but sometimes the text may jump around. Dates and signal words, such as *during*, *then*, *between*, *before*, *following*, and *after*, indicate when events occurred. You can use these clues to put events in their correct sequence by making a list or a timeline.

Read the following paragraph:

In 1607 the English established their first enduring colony at Jamestown, Virginia. From there, the English spread throughout the Chesapeake Bay area, eventually establishing a colony in Maryland. To the north, another group of English colonists known as the Puritans landed at Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620. Others followed them and, in 1630, the colony of Massachusetts began. Within the decade, the English established three more New England colonies: Rhode Island, Connecticut, and New Hampshire. At the same time, the English were colonizing other areas along the Atlantic Ocean. In 1664, the English took over Delaware, followed by New Netherland, which they renamed New York. Then, they added New Jersey and Pennsylvania. In the South, English colonists from Virginia founded North Carolina in 1653. Ten years later, another group founded South Carolina. Georgia became the thirteenth colony of Britain in 1732.

A timeline showing the sequence of events might look like this:



However, you could also order the events described above by making a list. The circled words and phrases provide clues to the sequence in which you would list information.

Directions: Read "The War for Independence" in Section 2 of your textbook. Then, on a separate sheet of paper, make a list or timeline of events and answer the questions below.

Hint: Remember to look for dates and signal words to help you put events in sequence.

1. How long did the American Revolution last?
2. Did the war begin before or after the colonies declared independence?
3. What did the colonists do before they went to war?