Chapter 4 Reading Guide

American Life in the 17th century, 1607-1692

* Background

-Describe how the people in the Americas were becoming more settled

* The Unhealthy Chesapeake

-Describe the conditions of the Chesapeake Bay Area

-What was life like for the inhabitants of the Chesapeake Area?

-Explain how the conditions and population of the area improved.

* The Tobacco Economy

-Explain the tobacco farmers’ need for more land.

-Describe the system of the indentured servants.

* Frustrated Freeman and Bacon’s Rebellion

-Who were the freemen and why were they angry?

-Nathaniel Bacon

-Describe the people, motivations, actions, and outcomes of Bacon’s Rebellion

* Colonial Slavery

-Explain the increased influx and population of African slaves in the Colonies

* Africans in America

-Describe the lives of Africans in the different colonial regions.

-South

-Chesapeake Region

-Explain, and give examples of, the mix of cultures in the Americas

-Describe the contributions African slaves made to the colonies

-Slave revolts

* Southern Society

-Slavery

-Describe the South’s transition from poverty and disease stricken area to the area of wealthy planters.

-Describe the population of the South

-Cities vs. Plantations

-Waterways

* The New England Family

-Compare the colonies of New England to the Southern colonies.

-Family and Marriage

-Women’s Rights

* Life in the New England Towns

-Geography’s influence

-Influence of surrounding people

-Describe the chartering of land

-Religion in society

* The Half-Way Covenant and the Salem Witch Trials

-“God fearing” Puritan Population

-Describe the Half-Way Covenant and effects

-Salem Witch Trials (1692)

-What sparked the initial fear?

-Explain the spread of the hysteria.

-What eventually ended the trials and what did they truly show about society at the time?

* The New England Way of Life

-Explain the life and character of the people of New England.

-Climate

-Claiming, and use of, land

-Harbors

* The Early Settlers’ Days and Ways

-How did the cycles of the Sun and seasons affect life?

-What was the principal occupation of most settlers?

-Role of women

-Role of men

-Role of children

-Humble lives

-How did the harshness of life affect the settlers’ views on class distinctions?

-Equality and democracy