New Amsterdam

Settling a Dutch Colony
The Dutch West India Company started the colony of New Netherland in 1624. The colony was a trading center for furs and other goods. To help the colony grow, its founders gave land to anyone who brought 50 settlers to the colony.

New Netherland
Settlers who received land in New Netherland soon became wealthy. People from other European countries settled in and around New Netherland as well.

Slavery
The Dutch West India Company controlled the slave trade between the Americas and Africa. Many Africans were captured and forced into slavery.

Life in New Amsterdam
New Amsterdam was located on Manhattan Island, which was bought by the Dutch. The island’s many natural resources helped the settlement grow.

A Dutch-Style City
Settlers in New Amsterdam spoke Dutch and followed Dutch laws. In addition, the Dutch brought technology such as windmills from the Netherlands.

Diversity and Tolerance
People from many places lived in New Amsterdam, making it a place of diversity and tolerance. Dutch leaders offered land and free supplies to attract settlers to New Amsterdam.