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Abstract: Virginia was the first of the thirteen English colonies and the first southern colony. The other southern colonies were North Carolina, South Carolina and Georgia. In 1663, King Charles II granted land in North America to eight English lords. The land was originally called Carolina in honor of King Charles I. Soon, Carolina was divided into North Carolina and South Carolina. The two states soon became famous for rice and indigo--a plant that produces a blue dye. In 1732, James Oglethorpe founded the last of the thirteen original colonies. He named it Georgia, in honor of King George II.

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THE SOUTHERN COLONIES

Virginia was the first of the thirteen English colonies — and the first southern colony. The other southern colonies were North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia.

In 1663, King Charles II granted land in North America to eight English lords. The land was originally called Carolina in honor of King Charles I (Carolus is the Latin word for "Charles"). Soon, Carolina was divided into North Carolina and South Carolina. Between 1650 and 1653, people from Virginia and other colonies began to settle in North Carolina. In 1670, the busy seaport of Charles Town, South Carolina, was founded. Its name was changed to Charleston in 1718.

The Carolinas soon became famous for rice and indigo — a plant that produces a blue dye. North Carolina was also famous for something much more frightening — pirates! The fierce British pirate known as Blackbeard, whose real name was Edward Teach, hid out in the colony after robbing ships of their treasure. Blackbeard was killed by a lieutenant from Virginia in 1718.

In 1732, James Oglethorpe founded the last of the thirteen original colonies. He named it Georgia, in honor of King George II. Oglethorpe founded the colony for people who were going to prison. In Britain at that time, people who could not pay their debts were sent to jail. The jails were called debtors' prisons, and the prisoners were treated badly. Oglethorpe thought the debtors should work on their own farms in Georgia. This way, they could make the money they needed to pay their debts — which they could never do if they were in prison.

Oglethorpe's idea was a good one, but it didn't work. Many debtors thought that life in prison would be better than life in the wilderness of Georgia, and they refused to leave England. Many of those who did settle in Georgia did not want to work on the farms — they wanted slaves to do the work for them. Georgia also had trouble with Indians, pirates, and other colonists. The region bordered the British colony of South Carolina and the Spanish colony of Florida. Many battles between the British and the Spanish were fought on Georgia's soil.

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PHOTO (COLOR): Blackbeard, a fierce pirate, lived in North Carolina.

PHOTO (COLOR): James Oglethorpe founded Georgia in 1732.

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By Marc Tyler Nobleman

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