

Descriptions of Colonial Governance

Royal Governance Colonies

- Land owned by King, administered by Crown and its governors.
- In a Royal Colony, the King and Privy Council appointed the Governor. Property was first sold to individuals by the King's representative

Proprietary Colonies

- King sold or gave to people large areas administered by selected proprietors in England and America and their agents.
- The proprietors appointed the governor.
- On these large grants or "manors" people leased or rented the land from the major landowner.
- Some land companies decided how much land a person received based on his social status, size of family and occupation.
- Town leaders divided the land into lots, then designated who received each parcel.

Corporate Colonies

- Land ownership vested in merchants and individuals who formed corporations
- Governor elected by the voters (landowners)
- Many corporate investors never came to America