

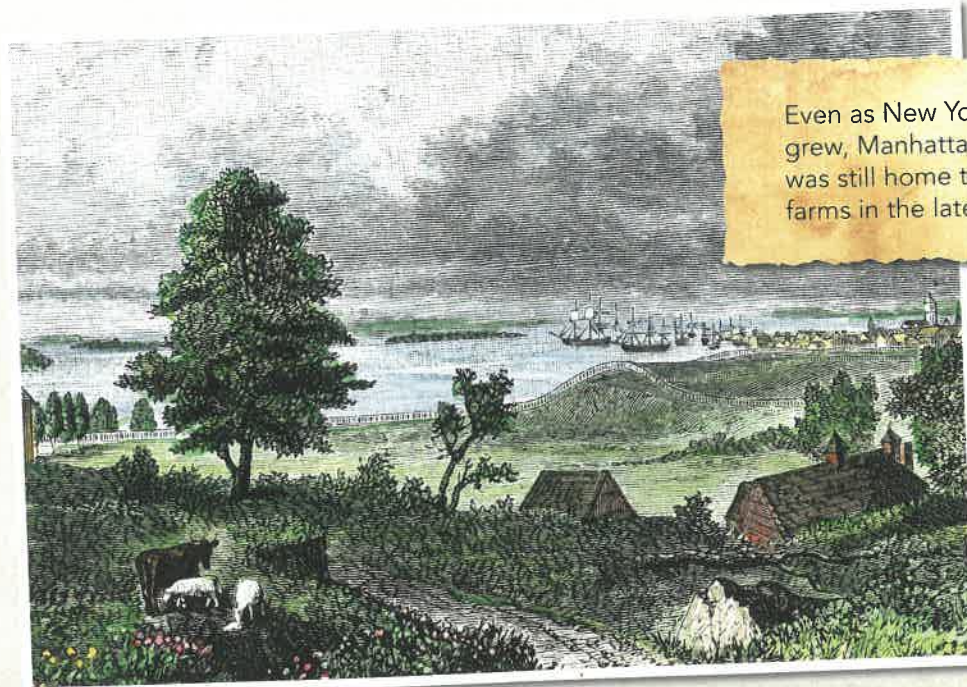
New York City thrived under British rule. When the city came under British control, there were about 1,500 people living there. By 1790 the city was home to 33,000 residents.

New York City soon became a major shipping port and a center of trade. As the city grew, it attracted merchants and a variety of business professionals, including bankers and lawyers. At the same time, the city was still home to many farms. It was not uncommon for livestock to be seen roaming the city streets.

Adopting British Customs

The Dutch were allowed to keep many of their customs and traditions when the British took control. But as more people moved to New York from England, the colony adopted many British customs, although this didn't happen overnight. As one colonist complained in a letter from May 1692, "Our chiefest unhappyness here is too great a mixture of nations and English [the] least part."

Over time, as Dutch-style buildings became rundown, new ones were built in the English style. Wealthy New Yorkers also started dressing like their rich counterparts in London. Powdered wigs were popular with both men and women of the upper class.



Even as New York City grew, Manhattan Island was still home to many farms in the late 1600s.



By the late 1700s, most of the farms were gone and New York City was a thriving center of business and trade.



"In size it comes next to Boston and Philadelphia, but with regard to fine buildings, opulence, and extensive commerce, it vies with them for supremacy ... I found it extremely pleasant to walk in the town, for it seemed like a garden."

—Swedish-Finnish explorer Peter Kalm's description of New York City in 1750