

B A Trading Colony

The money for the Dutch West India Company came from **investors**, people who give money to a business. When a business sells its products, it charges more than the products cost to make. This price difference is called a **profit**. A profit is the money a business earns after it pays for tools, salaries, and other costs. Investors get a share of the profit.

To encourage settlement in New Netherland, the company gave large areas of land to **patroons**. A patroon was a landowner who brought 50 settlers to the colony to live on his land.

PRIMARY SOURCES

A section of a letter from the
**Dutch West
India Company**
to the governor of New Netherland,
1663

"Allow everyone to have his own belief, as long as he behaves quietly and legally, gives no offense to his neighbors and does not oppose the government."

offense a cause of anger
oppose be against

Write About It! Why do you think the Dutch West India Company was in favor of tolerance?

Many people who moved to New Netherland became **tenant farmers**. These people farmed land owned by a patroon and paid rent in cash or crops. Few tenant farmers were able to save money to buy their own land.

The largest city in New Netherland was New Amsterdam. Most leaders in New Amsterdam followed the Dutch tradition, or custom, of **tolerance**. Tolerance is being accepting of differences. You can read about the Company's tolerance in the Primary Source. The Dutch treated most people fairly even if they had different beliefs. Anne Hutchinson, for example, came to New Netherland when her religious beliefs forced her to leave New England.

However, not all people in New Amsterdam were treated fairly. Some people were brought from Africa to work on the land. These Africans were forced into **slavery**. Slavery is making a person work for no money and without the freedom to leave. Some enslaved people were able to earn their freedom. However, many did not. The colony of New Netherland, which later became New York, was a colony with many enslaved workers.

New Netherland Gets a New Governor

Peter Stuyvesant (STY vuh suhnt) became the governor, or leader, of the New Netherland colony in 1647. He was a forceful leader who tried to strengthen New Netherland.

Stuyvesant did improve the colony. He made fire safety laws and created a police force called "Rattle Watch."

Stuyvesant was a strong governor and made most of the decisions. However, towns in New Netherlands had much authority to rule themselves. As time passed, citizens asked for more say in the governing of the colony. Stuyvesant finally agreed to call an assembly, but still ruled the colony firmly.

Dutch settlers in New Amsterdam protect their land. ①



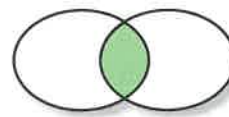
Stuyvesant biggest problems came from the English colonies located north and south of New Netherland. Settlers from these colonies were taking land that Stuyvesant believed belonged to his colony. Soon, New Netherland was drawn into war over this land.

QUICK CHECK Why did many different people choose to settle in New Amsterdam? *Main Idea and Details*

What You Learned

- A Wealthy Dutch investors formed the Dutch West India Company and established the colony of New Netherland.
- B Dutch and people from other countries were encouraged to settle in New Netherland.

Focus Lesson Review

1. **Focus Question** How did the colony of New Netherland begin to grow?
2. **Vocabulary** Write about life in New Netherland using the following vocabulary terms.
investor **tenant farmer**
patroon **tolerance**
slavery
3. **Economics** Why did the Dutch West India Company establish New Netherland?
4. **Critical Thinking Problem Solving** How did the Dutch West India Company hope to get settlers for its colony?
5. **Reading Strategy Compare and Contrast** Use the graphic organizer to compare and contrast patroons and tenant farmers in New Netherland. 
6. **Write About THE BIG IDEA** Write a paragraph describing what the colonies and the Native Americans thought they were getting when Peter Minuit purchased Manhattan Island.
7. **Reading Primary Sources** "Whatever we desire . . . is here to be found. If you will come here with your family you will not regret it." Do you think the writer of this letter liked New Netherland? Why do you think so?