Directions:
Individually: Read and annotate
Partner: Pros and Cons of each government...as a colonist, which do you feel would be the best? Worst? Remember the reasons people immigrated to the colonies.

Colonial Government - Three Types of Government

There were three types or systems of government used within Colonial Government of the 13 Colonies. The names of these different types of government were Royal, Charter and Proprietary. These three types of government were implemented in the colonies and a colony would be referred to as either a Royal Colony, a Charter Colony or a Proprietary Colony.

- Royal Government definition: Royal Colonies were ruled directly by the English monarchy
- Proprietary Government definition: Proprietary Colonies were established in territories which had been granted by the English Crown to one, or more, proprietors who had full governing rights
- Charter Government definition: Charter Colonies were generally self-governed, and their charters were granted to the colonists as opposed to proprietors

Royal Colony
Royal colonies were owned by the king.

- These governments were appointed by the Crown, and carried out the orders and wishes of the Crown as opposed to private or local interests
- By 1775 the Royal Colony system of government was in the Carolina's, Virginia, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New Hampshire and New York. See the Lords Proprietors and the Charter of Carolina

New Hampshire
King James II ascended the throne in 1685 and believed that the New England colonies, including New Hampshire, were far too independent. The King wanted to take greater control and in 1686 sent Sir Edmund Andros to establish one new government called the "Dominion of New England." In order to achieve this aim Andros existing charters had to be cancelled. The charter of New Hampshire was revoked and it became a Royal Colony.
**Virginia**  
Virginia started as a Charter Colony. Its borders were initially defined in the first Charter of Virginia issued by King James I as grants of land to private investors. King James I granted a proprietary charter to the two competing companies that were supported by investors. The companies were the Plymouth Company and the London Company. In 1624 King James made Virginia a Royal Colony.

**Proprietary Colony**  
In a Proprietary Colony, an individual, or small elite group, essentially owned the colony, controlling all of the actions and institutions of government, for which they would receive political or financial favors. The governors of the proprietary colonies reported directly to the king.

**The Power of the Lords Proprietors**  
Proprietary colonies in North America were owned by an individual proprietor or by a group of proprietors under a charter from the English monarch. The men who received these grants were called Proprietary Governors or *Lords Proprietors*. The vast powers of the Lords Proprietors governed the Proprietary Colonies as landlords or overseers. The following facts detail their powers and political privileges:

- Proprietary Colonies: The land was titled in the name of the proprietor - not the king
- Proprietary Colonies: The proprietors established land grants and purchases
- Proprietary Colonies: The Lords proprietors recouped their investments in the colonies by collecting yearly land fees from the settlers who had purchased land within the colony. These farm-fees were called quitrents
- Proprietary Colonies: Lords Proprietors could create courts and make laws and issue decrees. They could also hear appeals and pardon offenders
- Proprietary Colonies: Lords Proprietors could establish churches
- Proprietary Colonies: Lords Proprietors could establish towns and ports and ordered the construction of public buildings
- By 1775 the Proprietary system of government was in Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania
The Demise of Proprietary Colonies
By 1690 there was considerable British concern about the growing independence of the colonists in the Proprietary colonies and complaints about mismanagement. These concerns led to the end of proprietary grants and an attempt to change all Proprietary Colonies into Royal Colonies. Just before the Revolutionary War, there were three proprietary colonies: Delaware, Maryland, and Pennsylvania. After the American Revolutionary War these three former proprietary colonies paid the heirs to the Calvert (Maryland), Penn (Pennsylvania), and Grandville (Carolina) minimal amounts for confiscated lands.

Charter Colony
The Charter Colonies were generally self-governed, and their charters were granted to the colonists via a joint-stock company.

- When created, the British King granted these colonies a charter establishing the rules of government, but he allowed the colonists a great amount of freedom within those rules
- The Charter system of government was in Rhode Island and Connecticut. The Massachusetts Bay Colony was a royal province under a charter

Charter Colonies changed to Royal or Proprietary Colonies
By 1763 most colonies surrendered their charters to the Crown and became Royal Colonies. Maryland, Delaware, and Pennsylvania remained proprietary colonies under a charter. Connecticut and Rhode Island managed to retain their charters and Massachusetts was governed as a royal province while operating under a charter.