

# Everyday Life in Colonial Virginia

People living in colonial Virginia depended on natural, human, and capital resources to produce goods and services needed. **Natural resources** are resources that exist in nature. **Human resources** are resources that are produced because of the work done by humans. **Capital resources** are resources that are produced by tools, machines, and factories. These various types of resources influenced the way colonial Virginians lived. Since food choices were limited, many meals were made of local produce and meats. For most colonial Virginians, their home consisted of living in a one-room home with a dirt floor; however, some farmers lived in large houses. Most colonial Virginian households made their own clothing from cotton, wool, and leather.

Life in colonial Virginia was different for whites, enslaved African Americans, and free African Americans. Most white Virginians made their living from the land as small farmers; however, a few owned large farms called **plantations**. Most enslaved African Americans worked tobacco, crops, and livestock on plantations and had no rights or freedom to do as they pleased. Many free African Americans owned their own business and property, but were also denied rights and freedom to do as they pleased.

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