

**Cathy Matson  
History Department  
University of Delaware**

**North American Migration and Immigration before the American Revolution:  
A Few General Questions**

1. What peoples comprise the major groups of migrants in, and to, the Americas from roughly 1580 to 1760? Are there *patterns* of migration that help us make sense of the great diversity of voyages? Or, are there too many different streams of people to talk about patterns?
2. Why did people leave Europe in this era? How were their voyages organized? What did it take to be successful as a migrant? Think about not only the different points of origin for migrants, but also their points of entry and new settlements in the western hemisphere.
3. What role did Native American migration play in this era?
4. How can we compare the early ventures before roughly the 1660s, and the later streams of migration?
5. What is the role of servitude, or bound labor, in migration to the New World? Who became indentured? Why? With what consequences? How can we compare servants to free white migrants?
6. How did slavery become an integral part of migration in this era? What are its origins and what is the nature of the slave trade in migration history?
7. How and why were streams of migration into southern, mid-Atlantic, and northern areas of the North America so different? What matters more: who you are and what social relations you bring into North America, or the conditions you encounter once you arrive and then establish a new life?

Prof. Cathy Matson  
History Dept., Univ. of Delaware

## **A Few Useful Websites for Teaching Immigration and Migration**

### 1. Ships of exploration:

Google "Encarta," and search for "Spanish ships" or "Ships of exploration."

### 2. Map of European areas of immigration

3. Numbers of immigrants through 1790, European and African, with links to information about places of origin. Also google, "Immigration."

**[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigrants to the United States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Immigrants_to_the_United_States)**

### 4. For Indentured Servitude:

**Google: "Indentured Servants and Transported Convicts"**

**<http://www.stratfordhall.org/ed-servants.html>**

**Google: "The Life and Trials of Indentured Servants"**

**[http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/curry/dept/cise/soc/resources/jvc/unit/econ/servants trials.html](http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/curry/dept/cise/soc/resources/jvc/unit/econ/servants_trials.html)**

**<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/socialstudies/projects/jvc/unit/econ/outline.html>**

**Google: “The Life of the Indentured Servant”**

<http://curry.edschool.virginia.edu/socialstudies/projects/jvc/unit/econ/servantlife.html>

**Google: “Virtual Jamestown”**

<http://www.virtualjamestown.org/>

**Google: “Richard Frethorne”**

<http://www.learner.org/channel/workshops/primarysources/virginia/docs/plight.html>

**Google: “Redemptioners”**

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/d/5712>

5. For Irish and Scots Irish, google “Irish Ancesters,”

For Dutch, google “A Virtual Tour of New Netherland”

<http://www.nnp.org/newvtour/>

6. For Slavery:

**Google: “Mapping Virginia’s Slave Migration, 1790-1863”**

<http://fisher.lib.virginia.edu/collections/stats/slavetrade/migrmaps.html>

## **“Africans in America”**

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/aia/home.html>

## **“Slave Movement During the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries” – on-line data archive**

<http://dpls.dacc.wisc.edu/slavedata/>

## **“Virginia Slave Trade in the Eighteenth Century, 1727-1769”**

<http://www.mariner.org/captivepassage/>

7. For particular migration regions and peoples, see additional list of internet links.