

L. Visualizing our Evolving Understanding of the *Whole* of American History

1. The latest section of our story allows us to see how American history came to pass at all. The story that precedes both *Early* and *Modern* American history—and without which neither would ever have happened—is the story of *Colonial America*.
2. Traditional history teaches us to view this colonial story as **trivia**. (Recall the example from page 1 of the notes about the landing of the pilgrims in 1620, about whom most Americans are taught to memorize many facts that are not really important.)
3. The *anchor facts* of colonial history are:
  - a) **1584** - publication of the “*Discourse on Western Planting*” by Richard Hakluyt, which helped changed the European point of view about America
  - b) **1607/8** - the combined anchor fact of how competing English and French colonization were begun
  - c) **1756-63** - the anchor fact that allows us to understand why we speak English! Literally. England won the colonial wars. Therefore, American culture after 1763 is fundamentally rooted in English culture, not French or any other. There could be no truth of greater significance, as we shall see in the next section about America’s inheritance of the English theory of rights.
3. The anchor facts of 1584, 1607/8, and 1756-63 must now be added to our summary/practice timeline:

