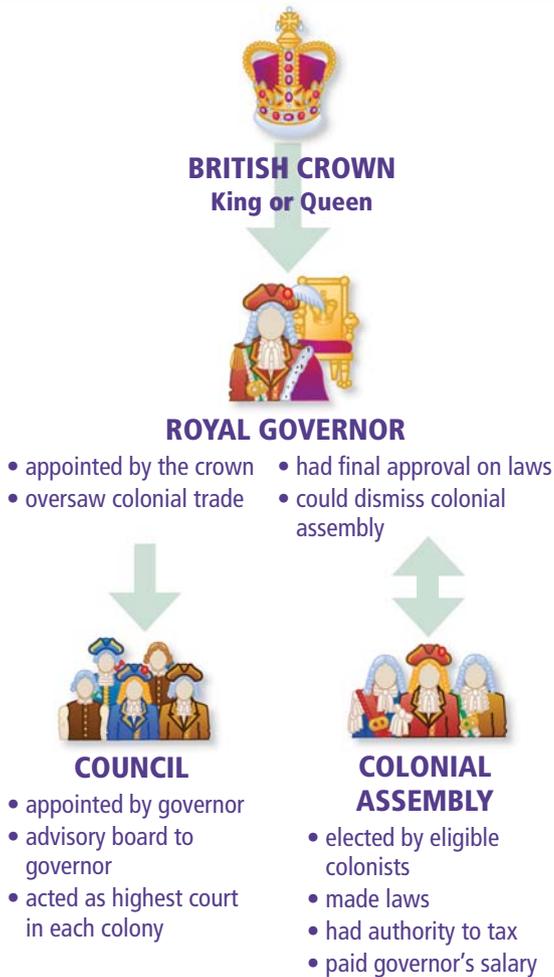


## Colonial Governments



**CRITICAL THINKING** How were lawmaking powers shared?

**William and Mary Restore English Rights** James II restricted English rights not only in the colonies but in England itself. He severely punished a Protestant rebellion and dismissed Parliament in 1687. Enraged by James's actions, Parliament secretly offered the throne to James's daughter, Mary, and her husband, William of Orange. William was the governor of the Netherlands. With little support in England, James fled the country at the end of 1688. Parliament named William and Mary the new monarchs of England. This change in leadership is called England's **Glorious Revolution**.

William and Mary agreed in 1689 to uphold the **English Bill of Rights**. This was a list of specific rights of English people and of Parliament. The monarch could not cancel laws or impose taxes unless Parliament agreed. Free elections and frequent meetings of Parliament were to be held. Excessive fines and cruel punishments were forbidden. People had the right to complain to the king or queen in Parliament without being arrested.

The English Bill of Rights established an important principle: the government was to be based on laws made by Parliament, not on the desires of a ruler. The rights of English people were strengthened.

**Colonists Claim English Rights** The colonists were quick to claim these rights. When the people of Boston heard of King James's fall, they jailed Governor Andros and asked Parliament to restore their rights. The Massachusetts colonists regained the right to elect representatives to an assembly. However, they had to

accept a governor appointed by the crown. This kind of compromise between royal power and colonial self-government took place in other colonies as well.

The diagram on the upper left shows how most colonial governments were organized by 1700. The royal governor, his council, and the assembly shared power. The governor could strike down laws passed by the assembly, but the assembly was responsible for the governor's salary. If he blocked the assembly, the assembly might refuse to pay him.

After the disagreements between the colonists and the king during the late 1600s, the tension between America and the English government eased. During the early 1700s, England interfered very little in colonial affairs. This hands-off policy was called salutary neglect (*salutary* means "helpful" or "beneficial"). Parliament passed many laws regulating trade, the use of money, and even apprenticeships, but governors rarely enforced these laws. The colonists got used to acting independently.