

## Below are summaries of the THREE colonial regions...

### Read & Answer the Questions in your notes!

#### New England: A Summary



New England was a rough region to settle. Consisting of Massachusetts (1620), Connecticut (1636), Rhode Island (1636), and New Hampshire (1623) this region was the first "region" settled by the English. The first settlers arrived in the winter...which had to be tough. The land in New England was poor and difficult to farm. The farmers in New England had to first clear many different rocks and stones from dense forests to create fields before they could even begin to farm. Because of the short spring and summer seasons, the colonists did not have much time to clear the woods, build efficient housing, AND plant crops before the harsh winter, so they entered the winters very ill-prepared. The most important

crop, and the easiest for the colonists to harvest, was corn. Corn came in many different types and was practically idiot-proof. The problem was keeping the soil rich for the planting seasons. Most farmers could do no more than what is called subsistence farming. That meant that farmers could produce only enough for them to eat and live on. Initially, farmhouses were one large room in which the family would cook, live, and sleep. As time went on, slowly, these houses were slowly expanded.

Fishing, lumbering, rope making, trapping lobsters, searching for mussels & oysters, and whaling were very important to New England. Fishing fleets sailed regularly from New England coastal cities for the major fishing grounds off the coast. This is probably why it's called "Cape COD". Fishermen were able to catch enough fish to sell to other colonies and have plenty for themselves as well. Most colonists who lived on the coast were able to package enough dried or salted fish to export to Europe and the West Indies, where they would receive spices and other goods in return. Some New Englanders also became whalers, as they hunted for their valuable oil, fat, and skin that could be used as a sealant to their ramshackle homes.

New Englanders also benefited from a rich forest that covered much of the land. The forest provided a fertile source for hunting, as well as a source for wood. The wood was used to build the homes of New England, and at the time was considered the best wood in the world. The forests also became the source of one of the most important New England industries- shipbuilding. England practically destroyed the forests in their

home country and the long pine and timbers of New England provided the best source to maintain their substantial navy.

Life in New England was most importantly set around the church. Because these colonies were often founded for religious reasons - usually dissenting other town's beliefs, the Puritans were the most dominant religion in New England. These divisions of religions did not often lead to simple and easy divisions of the colonies for some who opposed the colonial churches were jailed, flogged, beaten, tortured, and even executed for their beliefs.

Family life was also very difficult. Those who could walk would work. That means y'all better get working! Males usually farmed, hunted, traded, traveled from town to town, and learned skilled labor. Shoemakers, blacksmiths, farmers, tenants, fisherman, whalers, woodsmen, glassmakers, wigmakers, and masons were the most important jobs. Those who lived in port cities often worked the docks loading and unloading ships taking load after load to and from merchants for sale. Women and young girls learned the domesticated lifestyle at an early age. Once girls reached puberty they would usually learn cooking, sewing, knitting, and child rearing skills that would eventually earn their status as a teenage wife, sometimes bearing as many as seven children. They were utterly devoted to their husbands, children, and household to ensure all family members would eat and survive.

### Middle Colonies: Another Summary

The Middle colonies were slightly better. Consisting of New York (1661), Pennsylvania (1682), New Jersey (1626), and Delaware (1638), the Middle Colonies were the most religiously diverse region. Jews, Protestants, Catholics, Protestants, Quakers, Dutchman and Swedes all occupied this region between 1620 -- 1700s. The Middle Colonies had richer soil and a better climate for growing crops than their neighbors in New England. As a result, they were able to produce more food than they could consume, which enabled them to export wheat and other grains to Europe. The Middle colonies became known as "the breadbasket colonies". Farmers would ship their

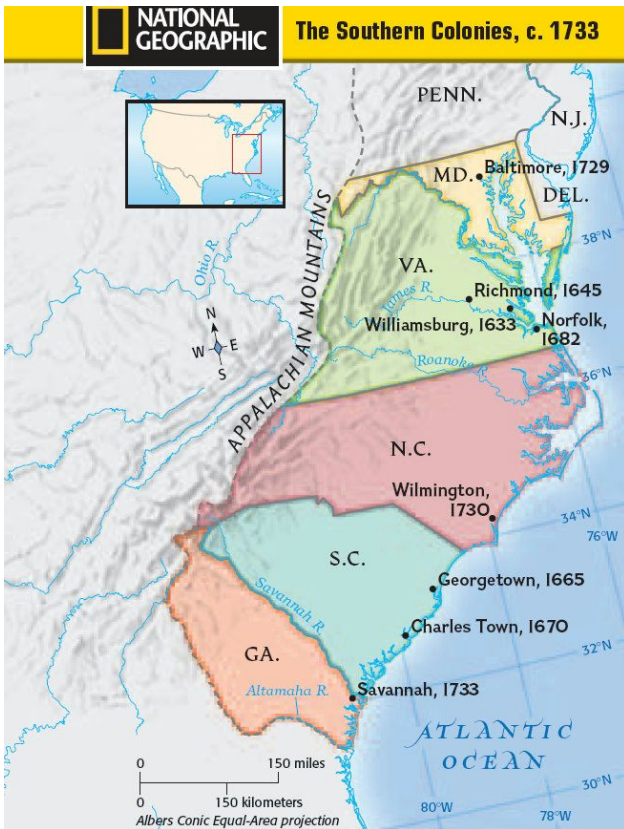
goods to the large port cities of New York and Philadelphia where the goods would be shipped across the vast Atlantic Ocean to Europe and the West Indies. Many farmers lived along the Hudson and Delaware Rivers, or other large waterways, which made shipments possible.



The Middle colonies can best be summed up as a region that relied heavily on **trade**. People generally lived by the coast or in towns that located on rivers that connected to the Atlantic. These rivers provided a network that connected each colony to a vast world of trade.

Like the New England colonies, the Middle region was also religious. By the beginning of the 1700s, the Middle Colonies prospered tremendously as a religiously tolerant region. Catholics, Jews, Baptists, Quakers, Puritans, and others practiced their religions **freely for the first time**, and colonial governments in this region were the most religiously tolerant who welcomed immigrants from all over the world. They also hosted the two largest cities in the colonies: **Philadelphia** and **New York**. The streets of the towns and cities in the Middle Colonies were extremely busy with commerce and traffic. Horse drawn carriages (and their crap), slave markets, merchants, shops, tradesmen and taverns <3 flourished in the cities, especially those on the riverbanks and coast. The Middle colonies began to flourish economically during the mid 18<sup>th</sup> century, closer to the Revolution, and would prove to be a crucial voice in the fight for independence, especially for the Pennsylvania and New York colonies.

Though not a large part of the population in early colonial history, Judaism flourished within the small neighborhoods to where its inhabitants lived. In 1730, the first synagogue in Manhattan (New York) was built and it was here in the Lower East Side of New York City where the Sephardic Jewish neighborhoods were born.



### Southern Colonies...Duh, a summary.

We live in the Southern Colonies...Well, sorta. We live in Georgia, a southern colony. The Southern colonies, Virginia (1607), Maryland (1632), Carolina (1664), and Georgia (1732...way later), can best be summed up as the **agricultural center** of colonial world. Because of the long summers and hot/humid conditions that lasted well into the months of September and October, the Southern colonies became a haven for livestock and crops.

The farmers in the south were divided into two groups: **large plantation owners** and **small farmers**. Some small farmers did not even own the land they farmed, they simply sold the crop and kept pocket money. Tobacco, rice and indigo were the main crops grown in the southern colonies. All of these were cash crops, sold for money. The crops were

usually exported from the colony. The production of these crops required large numbers of workers. As a result, the plantations in the south relied on slaves to do much of the work on their farms and large slave owners became some of the wealthiest colonists.

When James Oglethorpe received a charter in 1732, he brought with him 41 Jewish immigrants from Europe to the new city of Savannah. Like the Middle colonies, the Southern colonies were tolerant of religious immigrants, however in Georgia's original charter they banned Catholics from settling in or near the colony. Talk about religious freedom, huh?

Horticulture and farming were the main sources of income to those who lived in the Southern colonies, for they grew many different crops and raised many animals. Pigs and chickens were the most common animals with corn, indigo, rice, sugar, and tobacco dominating the fields. The rich soils, warm climate, and vast areas for cultivation allowed the plantation to flourish and with that came the demand for labor. Slavery was most dominant in the Southern colonies because they lacked the manufacturing and merchant centers for trade and for they were the last of the colonies to be established. Slavery also flourished because of the high demand for labor. African slaves were considered subhuman to Europeans, which was one of the main reasons for their enslavement. Though many plantation owners were extremely wealthy, the average slave owner only had one slave. Most whites who lived in the Southern Colonies were neither rich nor powerful. They were poor farmers who barely provided enough for themselves and/or their family and made very little money trading their extra crops.

Similar to the ways of those who lived in the New England and Middle Colonies, family life was vital to the average person. Children began to work shortly after their fifth birthday either in the house, the farm, or elsewhere on a plantation. Around the age of ten, girls began learning the household chores and were domesticated servants to their husbands, while the boys learned at an early age how to plant crops and herd animals. If the father had a special skill, he often trained his sons to do the same and take over the family business once the father was unable to do so.

**After reading the "stuff" above, answer the Questions Below  
IN YOUR NOTES!!!!**

1. List the New England Colonies.
2. List the Middle Colonies.
3. List the Southern Colonies.
4. What was the main reason for settling the New England colonies?
5. What was the main reason for settling the Middle Colonies?
6. What was the main reason for settling the Southern Colonies?
7. How did the three regions make money? (Economy) -- Also Check out the Map on page 3

**These questions are based on what you've learned through the reading and are not necessarily IN the reading...You gotta think!!!**

8. Which region do you think would be the best for farming? Why is this? :)
9. Which region do you think would be the **hardest** place to live?
10. Do you think more people lived in cities or on farms?
11. How do you think knowledge & news spread throughout the colonies?
12. What do you think was the most important part of colonial life? (aside from surviving)
13. Do you think most colonists were formally educated? Why/Why not?
14. The colonies grew tremendously from 1607—1750s from 50,000 to just over one million. What impact do you think this had on the colonies/colonists? Provide two examples.