

The 13 Colonies

During the 1500s and 1600s, Spain, France, and England set up colonies in North America. The Spanish settled mainly in Florida, in the Southwest. The French settled in what is now Canada and Louisiana. The 13 English colonies, founded between 1607 and 1733, were along the eastern coast.

Settlers in the **New England region** were not able to make a living easily from farming. The soil was not fertile. Colonists in this area made a living through fur trade, shipbuilding, fishing, and whaling. This region was religiously strict. Colonies- Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Rhode Island

Climate/Geography –bitterly cold winters and mild summers. Land was flat close to the coastline but became hilly and mountainous farther inland. Soil was generally rocky, making farming difficult.

Religion –dominated by the Puritans, reformers seeking to “purify” Christianity, who came over from England to practice religion without persecution. Puritans followed strict rules and were intolerant of other religions. Life in New England was dominated by church, and there were severe consequences for those who failed to attend, or, those who spoke out against the Puritan ways.

Economy –was largely dependent on the ocean. Fishing was most important to the New England economy, though whaling, trapping, shipbuilding, and logging were important also. Eventually, many New England shippers grew wealthy buying slaves from West Africa in return for rum, and selling the slaves to the West Indies in return for molasses. This process was called the “triangular trade.”

In the **Middle (Mid-Atlantic) region**, settlers owned or worked on farms. Other people were artisans, or craftspeople. They made products such as bricks, sails, and furniture. This region was extremely diverse.

Colonies- New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware

Climate/Geography – The Middle colonies spanned the Mid-Atlantic region of America and were temperate in climate with warm summers and cold winters. Geography ranged from coastal plains along the coastline, piedmont (rolling hills) in the middle, and mountains farther inland. This area had good coastal harbors for shipping. Climate and land were ideal for agriculture. These colonies were known as the “breadbasket” because of the large amounts of barley, wheat, oats, and rye that were grown here.

Religion –varied as no single religion seemed to dominate the entire region. attracted immigrants from a wide-range of foreign countries who practiced many different religions. Quakers, Catholics, Jews, Lutherans and Presbyterians were among those religious groups that had significant numbers in the middle colonies.

Economy –successful and diverse economy. Largely agricultural, farms in this region grew numerous kinds of crops, most notably grains and oats. Logging, shipbuilding, textiles production, and papermaking were also important in the Middle Colonies. Big cities such as Philadelphia and New York were major shipping hubs, and craftsmen such as blacksmiths, silversmiths, cobblers, wheelwrights, wigmakers, milliners, and others contributed to the economies of such cities.

The **Southern region** depended on many small farms and large plantations. People on plantations grew cash crops so they could send crops/products to Europe for a profit. These crops included tobacco, rice, cotton, sugarcane, and indigo. The plantations depended heavily on slaves and indentured servants.

Colonies- Maryland, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia

Climate/Geography –warm climate with hot summers and mild winters. Geography ranged from coastal plains in the east to piedmont farther inland. The westernmost regions were mountainous. The soil was perfect for farming and the growing season was longer than in any other region.

Religion – Most people in the Southern Colonies were Anglican (Baptist or Presbyterian), though most of the original settlers from the Maryland colony were Catholic.

Economy – The Southern economy was almost entirely based on farming. Rice, indigo, tobacco, sugarcane, and cotton were cash crops. Crops were grown on large plantations where slaves and indentured servants worked the land.

The English colonists made most of their own decisions about laws and taxes. Free, white men elected government representatives to colonial assemblies (Just like we vote now). The English government made the laws that controlled the trade between the colonies and Europe. By the mid 1700s, the English government tried to control the colonies more.

New England Colonies

Massachusetts
Connecticut
New Hampshire
Rhode Island

(MR. CaN)

Middle (Mid-Atlantic) Colonies

New York
Pennsylvania
New Jersey
Delaware

(2 New Different Preachers)

Southern Colonies

Maryland
Virginia
North Carolina
South Carolina
Georgia

(Mary Goes 2 C Virginia)

Climate/Geography :

- cold winters & mild summers
- Land was flat along the coastline
- Soil was generally rocky, making farming difficult.

Climate/Geography :

- temperate climate: warm summers and cold winters
- coastal plains along coastline
- piedmont (rolling hills) in the middle
- good harbors for shipping
- great farming conditions
- “breadbasket” : barley, wheat, oats, & rye

Climate/Geography :

- warm climate :hot summers & mild winters
- coastal plains in the east to piedmont farther
- fertile soil & long growing season

Economy:

- dependent on the ocean
- Fishing, whaling, trapping, shipbuilding, and logging

Economy:

- mostly farming (grains & oats)
- logging, shipbuilding, textiles & papermaking
- Philadelphia & New York= major shipping cities
- Jobs: blacksmiths, cobblers, wigmakers, etc.

Economy:

- based on farming
- Rice, indigo, tobacco, sugarcane, and cotton were cash crops
- plantations (slaves & indentured servants)

Culture/Population:

- dominated by the Puritans that followed strict rules
- Life was dominated by church
- severe consequences for those that didn't go to church or who spoke out against the Puritan ways

Population/Cultures:

- many immigrants
- many religions (Quakers, Catholics, Jews, Lutherans)
- William Penn

Culture/Population:

- Most were Baptist, Presbyterian & Catholic
- James Olgethorpe
- Georgia= for debtors
- Plantation owners, slaves & indentured servants