

Colonial America Study Guide

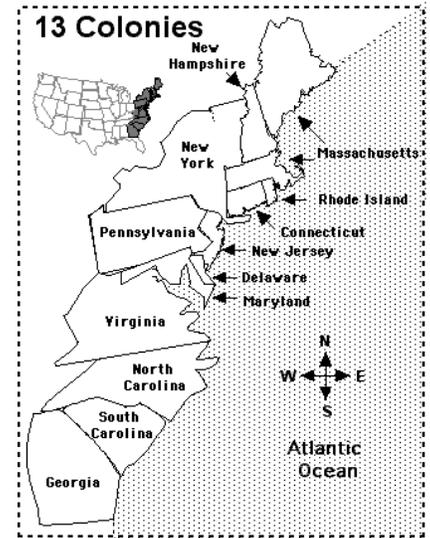
**Remember... you do NOT have to have each individual fact memorized! As long as you can identify the major ideas, or key features, you will do GREAT on the test!*

Mapping the Colonies

Label the **3 colonial regions** on a map:

- 1. New England, 2. Middle, & 3. Southern (pg. 22 in your atlas)
- **BONUS:** You will receive bonus points for being able to
 - **label each individual colony** on a map!

| <u>New England</u> | <u>Middle</u> | <u>Southern</u> |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------|
| Massachusetts | New York | Maryland |
| Bay | Pennsylvania | Virginia |
| New Hampshire | New Jersey | North Carolina |
| Rhode Island | Delaware | South Carolina |
| Connecticut | | Georgia |



The New England Colonies

Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut

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| Geography | <p>Key Features: mountainous; rugged coastline with bays; rocky soil; dense forests with large trees; cold, snowy winters; shorter summers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rocky soil made farming difficult. • Thick forests provided wood for ship building. • There was good fishing and whaling off the coast. • short growing season + farming difficult=only grew enough for their family |
| Economy | <p>Forests provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shipbuilding industry (forests) • Sawmills: cut logs and exported them • Fur trading <p>Coast and bays provided</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fishing for Cod • Harbors to provide trading ports • Whaling (blubber used for oil) <p>New England benefited most from the Triangular Trade</p> |
| Daily Life | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colonies mainly formed for RELIGIOUS FREEDOM (PURITANS) • Puritans signed a covenant (agreement) promising to follow the rules of the church (strict) • Most people lived in villages and cities (grassy area in center of village called a common) • Church was the center of social life – meeting house/church most important building • Education was VERY IMPORTANT (to be able to read the bible) • Met at Town Meetings to pass laws (only land owning white men could vote) |
| Key People | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John Winthrop: a Puritan who wanted religious freedom & led thousands of colonists to the New World during the “Great Migration.” • Anne Hutchinson: banished from Massachusetts Bay b/c she questioned the church leaders • Roger Williams: banished from Massachusetts Bay & founded Rhode Island because he believed in separation of church and state (government) • Thomas Hooker: minister who didn’t like the Puritan leaders’ rules so he left and founded the town of Hartford in Connecticut. Wrote the Fundamental Orders (1 of the 1st Constitutions). |

The Middle Colonies

New York (originally Dutch—New Netherlands), Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware

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| Geography | <p>Key Features: harbors, bays, and rivers; fertile (rich) soil; plains, mountains, hills, woods/forests; moderate climate</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mild winters and longer growing seasons; lots of sun and plenty of rain • Fertile soil made farming easy and allowed farmers to cash crops. • Wide rivers allowed farmers to transport their crops for sale and trade. |
| Economy | <p>Rural Areas (farming and lumber)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fertile soil provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Grain: Called the “Breadbasket Colonies” because they provided much of the food eaten in all thirteen colonies ○ Land to raise livestock and grow crops (vegetables, fruits, etc.) ○ Surplus of Food: colonists grew enough food to feed their families, & still had extra food left over to sell • Forests provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ fur & wood: sold in New York & Philadelphia ○ lumber milling • Wide rivers provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Transportation: riverboats to bring supplies/crops from farms to cities <p>City Areas (merchants, laborers, artisans, apprentices, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ocean bays provided: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Centers of shipping & trade to England & other countries |
| Daily Life | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People lived in villages & cities; as well as on farms • Very diverse(different religions, traditions, & cultures) – colonists from many countries settled there and each colony was different from each other • Education not very important (focus was on learning a trade or farming) • Representative Assemblies: Colonists could vote for white male property owners to represent them in an assembly to pass laws & vote on taxes • Important cities were Philadelphia, PA and New York City, NY b/c of great ports for trade |
| Key People | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proprietors: the people who owned a colony • William Penn: Quaker; Founder of Pennsylvania; believed in religious tolerance & freedom • Benjamin Franklin: Philadelphia’s famous citizen (printer, scientist, inventor, gov’t leader) • Jonathan Edwards and George Whitfield: ministers who led the “Great Awakening” |

The Southern Colonies

Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia

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| Geography | <p>Key Features: curving coastline, bays, harbors, coastal plains & piedmonts; hot humid summers; long growing season; high precipitation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Warm weather and very long growing seasons • The tidewater area near the coast was very good for growing and exporting crops • The backcountry (cheaper land) was more forests and steep. It was harder to farm, but many people had small family farms. • The Southern colonies had small farms and large plantations where crops like tobacco, Indigo, and rice. |
| Economy | <p>Fertile soil provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Huge plantations: grew cash crops such as corn, indigo, tobacco & rice that were exported • Indentured servants and slaves were crucial to harvesting cash crops |

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| Economy (cont.) | <p><u>Wetlands & tidewaters provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rice plantations • Shipping & Trading <p><u>Good harbors & ports provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • importing and exporting goods between the colonies, England, & other countries • Charleston, SC (major port city of the south) <p><u>Pine forests in backcountry provided:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pitch (tree sap used to seal ship boards to prevent leaks) • Timber (build homes, ships, barrels, etc.) • Tar (used to make paved streets & roads) |
| Daily Life | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Very RURAL: FEW villages & big cities (Charleston was major city) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Wealthy lived on plantations, but most people lived on small farms • Many religions, but the Church of England was the main church • Education not valued • Colonies were divided into <u>counties</u>, which was the center of political decisions • king-appointed governors • Virginia had 1st elected legislature in the colonies – <u>House of Burgesses</u> • <u>Plantation Life:</u> Owners were very wealthy with huge mansions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Plantation sons: learned how to run the plantation when older ○ Plantation daughters – learned how to manage plantation with many servants ○ Education provided by private tutors ○ Slaves & indentured servants worked in the fields • <u>Backcountry Life:</u> Most colonists lived on small farms in wooden cabins (land was cheaper) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ children taught to read & write by parents if their parents knew how to • <u>Slave Life:</u> Most slaves worked on plantations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ children FORBIDDEN to learn |
| Key People | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lord Baltimore: Wealthy Catholic who wanted the colony of Maryland to be a place where Catholics could worship freely • James Oglethorpe: Proprietor and founder of Georgia as a colony for debtors & poor people could start new lives <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ debtor: an English citizen who was thrown in jail for not being able to pay their bills |

Wrap Up of the 3 Regions

Answer the 3 questions below!

- Explain why people in the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies made their livings in different ways.
- Explain the triangular trade and what made the Middle Passage so horrible.
- Why did England make it illegal for the colonists to make certain goods, like hats, nails, & horseshoes?

Colonial Groups

The colonies were made up of groups of people whose lives were different based upon **how much money** they had (wealthy people had more opportunities to become educated & enjoy social activities) & **gender** (men had more privileges & opportunities than women).

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| Women | <p>served in domestic roles such as caretakers, house workers, & homemakers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No political rights; not allowed to vote • Little to no chance of education |
| Land Owners | <p>Southern Plantation owners</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The wealthiest people in Colonial America because they owned large amounts of land that produced crops such as tobacco, indigo, & rice • did NOT work; slaves & indentured servants farmed • Very educated • Lived in mansions with nice furniture & décor • Rich social life: dances, music, & parties |
| Farmers | <p>Owned small farms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Farmers & their families did most of the work themselves (farmers in the south might have had 1 or 2 slaves to help) • Usually not very educated • Lived in small cabins or homes |
| Artisans | <p>People who were skilled at making things by hand; craftspeople (weavers, glassblowers, carpenters, etc.)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lived & worked in small villages or cities • Could be found in all colonial regions; but mostly in New England & Middle colonies |
| Apprentices | <p>Someone who <i>studies</i> with a <i>master</i> to learn a <i>skill or business</i> that they will do as an adult</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a child, an apprentice would live in their master's house for 4-7 years <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <u>Boy Apprentices</u>: learned skills such as shoemaking, printing, & bookmaking ○ <u>Girl Apprentices</u>: learned skills such as how to spin thread & weave cloth |
| Laborers | <p>People who did hard physical work & works in <i>laundries, as house servants, or on docks loading & unloading ships</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Could be found in all colonial regions |
| Indentured Servants | <p>People (mostly white Europeans) who agreed to work in the colonies for a number of years (usually 5-7) to pay for the cost of their trip to North America</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once they were finished with their work contract, they were given a small piece of land to farm & freedom to live their lives • Poor & treated poorly • Most worked on plantations in the southern colonies |
| Slaves | <p>People who were captured, bought & sold (usually from Africa) & were forced to work without pay</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Slaves had to work on the plantations for their entire lives & were NEVER allowed to be free • Most worked on plantations in the southern colonies • 1st Colony to make slavery legal: Massachusetts Bay |
| Native Americans | <p>Original settlers of the North American continent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the early years, the Native Americans helped the colonists & traded with them. • As colonists continued to take over land, problems developed leading to bloodshed & eventually to the colonists completely taking over the Native American's land & the end of Native American culture. |

Key Events and Vocabulary

*Be **familiar** with the meaning of the vocabulary words below. You do **NOT** have to have them memorized:

- **Pequot War (1637) & King Philip's War (1675)**: Both arguments over land between the colonists and Native Americans.
- **The Great Awakening**: A religious movement that began in the Middle Colonies that changed the way many people practiced their religion. It brought people together & more religious tolerance.
- **Triangular Trade Routes**: These routes connected England, the English colonies, and Africa. On a map, the routes formed large triangles across the Atlantic Ocean.
- **Middle Passage**: The journey millions of enslaved Africans were forced to travel across the Atlantic Ocean from Africa to the West Indies.
- **proprietor**: a person who owned & controlled all the land in a colony
- **governor**: ran the colonies (proprietor's hired them)
- **representative assembly**: assembly of representatives elected by colonists to make laws
- **industry** = all the businesses that make one kind of product or provide one kind of service
- **export** = a product sent to another country to be sold (think – "exit" or sent away)
- **import** = a product brought into one country from another
- **cash crop** = cash grown for profit
- **free market economy** = the people instead of the government decide what goods will be produced
 - The Middle Colonies had a free market because the colonies' proprietors did not tell colonists what to do. They were free to do what they believed made them the most money
- **free enterprise** = the economic system in which people may start any business they think will succeed