

New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies

Big Question: What does it take to build a new society?

New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies

- The 13 English colonies were shaped by geography.
- In New England, the ocean and forests provided key resources.
- In the Middle Colonies, farming was a major economic activity.
- In the Southern Colonies, conditions were ideal for rice and tobacco.

Vocabulary-define the following words

- region:
- climate:
- dissent
- proprietor:
- diverse :

Geography of the English Colonies

The early colonists in North America were influenced by their environment. Settlers of Jamestown had swarms of mosquitos and the Pilgrims at Plymouth suffered through freezing winter weather.

By the 1730s, colonies stretched from present-day Maine to what is now Georgia. These colonies can be grouped into three **regions**.

- New England
 - people farmed the thin, rocky soil
 - local merchants traded good with England and other colonies
- Mid-Atlantic/Middle Colony
 - had rich soil and warmer **climates**
 - raised wheat to sell
 - dug iron from the ground as a resource
- South
 - warmer climates than the Middle
 - land was flat and soil was rich
 - farmers cash crop tobacco and rice
 - large farms were plantations

Water was a key means of transportation and trade. Many of the settlements were near rivers and the coast. The settlers began changing the land. They cleared trees for farming and harvested timber. Growing crops year after year changed the soil. They also built roads and bridges.

The English Colonies



By the 1730s, there were 13 English colonies covering a narrow strip between the coast and the mountains.

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The New England Colonies

The Puritans established towns throughout the region. Settlers built homes and farms on land that they thought were vacant. The Native Americans did not have fences or use the land the way the English people did. This caused conflict between the groups.

Male settlers had a say in government, but Puritan leaders did not put up with **dissent**, or disagreement. Roger Williams found this when he came to Massachusetts Bay Colony in 1631 because his views on religion were unpopular with many people of England.

Williams had some views that were different from most for his day. He believes that individuals should have total freedom of religion. Williams also felt that the government should be separate from religion.

Williams, along with some of his followers established the city of Providence, which became the colony of Rhode Island. The rules and laws only applied to "civil" issues and not to religion. People were allowed freedom of worship and religion. Providence became a popular place for people seeking religious freedom from Massachusetts.

The Middle Colonies

After its founding by the Dutch in the 1620s, New Netherland became a thriving trade center. The colony soon included a settlement made by Swedes in the New Jersey area in the 1630s. Then in 1664, England sent a fleet to capture New Netherland. The colonists refused to fight, so the governor surrendered to the English without firing a shot. The Dutch did try to recapture the colony, but the England was in control.

England's king gave the colony to his brother, the Duke of York.

- colony was renamed New York
- New York also given to city that was New Amsterdam
- Duke of York gave land to friends George Carteret and John Berkeley
 - this became New Jersey
 - the three men became known as **proprietors**

People of different religions were accepted in the colony of Pennsylvania as well.

- colony began in 1681
- England's King gave the land for the colony to William Penn
 - Penn was a Quaker, who was opposed to war and felt people could pray in their own way
 - believed in protecting each person's right or freedom to practice his her religion
 - believed in rights of Native Americans living on the land

Southern Colonies



Enslaved people did much of the work on the plantations. Write a task that a worker might have done in the kitchen, the house, or a barn.

**kitchen-
house-
barn-**

In the South, the Virginia Company controlled Virginia at first. Then, in 1624, King James I decided to take over the colony. He appointed a governor under his control to run Virginia. Becoming a royal colony under the king's rule did not really change Virginia much. Self-rule continued. The governing body, the House of Burgesses, continued to meet.

Change in 1632

- Charles I, England's new king, gave part to Lord Baltimore, his follower
 - this colony became Maryland
 - Lord Baltimore belonged to the Catholic Church, therefore Maryland welcomed Catholics
 - Catholics were not always welcomed in other colonies

Carolina also began as a proprietary colony.

- King Charles II granted this land to eight supporters
- 1729 the land was split into North and South Carolina

- Carolinas were good for farming, especially rice.
- enslaved workers worked the farms
- Charleston, which is an important Carolina city with a harbor, became a key trading center

1732 Georgia was founded.

- King George II let James Oglethorpe start a colony there for English people jailed for debt
- Oglethorpe became friends with Chief Tomochichi of the Yamacraws
 - this began a good relationship with the Native Americans

Understanding It!

Match the detail in the right column with the colony it describes on the left.

Virginia_____	a. It was a proprietary colony that welcomed.
Maryland_____	b. Colonists there had good relationships with Native Americans.
North and South Carolina_____	c. It became a royal colony when King James took it over.
Georgia_____	d. Many rice plantations were located there.

Resources to use:

Social Studies Textbook p.176-182

Social Studies Newspaper

Link:

[13 Colonies](#)

[Stamp Act](#)