

Three Colonial Regions

Read closely to compare colonial land, work, and settlement patterns.

SS.5.A.4.2 "Compare characteristics of New England, Middle, and Southern colonies."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details that tell about land, work, or daily life in each region, then write NE, M, or S in the margin beside each set of details.

Life in Three Colonial Regions

- ① English settlers built New England colonies in the rocky, forested lands north of the Middle Colonies. Winters were cold, and thin soil made large farms difficult. Many people lived in towns near the coast. They used forests, fishing, and shipbuilding to earn money. Trade through busy ports connected New England towns to other places across the Atlantic.
- ② Middle Colonies included New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Fertile soil and a milder climate supported grain farms. Farmers grew wheat and other crops, so the region was called the breadbasket. Rivers and ports helped farmers send goods to market. People from many European countries lived there, and religious groups had more choices than in New England.
- ③ Southern Colonies had warm weather, a long growing season, and wide areas of fertile land. Planters raised cash crops, including tobacco, rice, and indigo, to sell for profit. Large plantations depended on the forced labor of enslaved Africans. Compared with New England's small farms and town work, Southern life was often spread across large rural farms.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did land and climate lead people in New England and the Middle Colonies to earn money in different ways?

2 Compare where many people lived in New England with where Southern life was often spread out.

3 What was one way New England and the Middle Colonies were alike in getting goods to other places?

4 How did labor on large Southern plantations differ from the work described in New England?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

A family wants to grow wheat and sell it through a port. Write three sentences recommending a colonial region for the family. Compare your choice with one different region using an accurate detail from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details that tell about land, work, or daily life in each region, then write NE, M, or S in the margin beside each set of details. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did land and climate lead people in New England and the Middle Colonies to earn money in different ways?	New England's rocky land and thin soil led many people to fish, use forests, build ships, and trade. The Middle Colonies' fertile soil and milder climate supported grain farming.
2	Compare where many people lived in New England with where Southern life was often spread out.	Many people in New England lived in coastal towns. Southern life was often spread across large rural farms and plantations.
3	What was one way New England and the Middle Colonies were alike in getting goods to other places?	Both regions used ports for trade. New England had busy ports, and Middle Colony farmers used rivers and ports to send goods to market.
4	How did labor on large Southern plantations differ from the work described in New England?	Large Southern plantations depended on the forced labor of enslaved Africans. In New England, people earned money through fishing, forest work, shipbuilding, and trade.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I recommend the Middle Colonies. Fertile soil and a milder climate supported wheat farms, and rivers and ports helped farmers get goods to market. Unlike New England, where rocky soil made large farms difficult, the Middle Colonies fit this family's plan.

Accept accurate comparisons supported by the passage, even when students choose different details. For the open response, the student should recommend the Middle Colonies and include a correct contrast with another region.