

Colonial Lives Up Close

Read how politics, work, and social roles shaped daily life.

SS.5.A.4.4 "Demonstrate an understanding of political, economic, and social aspects of daily colonial life in the thirteen colonies."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one political detail, circle one economic detail, and number two social details in the passage. These details show how colonial life was shaped by more than where people lived.

Life in the Colonies

- ① Colonial life differed by region, yet neighbors often depended on one another. In a New England town, some white men who owned property could vote at a town meeting. They discussed local taxes, roads, and schools. Women, children, enslaved people, and most men without property could not vote. Political power was not shared equally, even though meetings let some residents help make local decisions.
- ② Work brought people to farms, workshops, docks, and markets. In New England, families raised crops, caught fish, and made items such as shoes, barrels, or cloth. Merchants bought fish, lumber, and handmade goods to sell in other places. At a market, a shoemaker could bring shoes to sell or trade for needed supplies. Coastal ports connected colonial workers to trade across the Atlantic.
- ③ In the Southern colonies, tobacco and rice plantations used land and labor to produce crops for sale. Many enslaved Africans were forced to work there under cruel conditions, while wealthy planters held much power. Families' daily lives also included cooking, childcare, worship, and learning skills at home or through apprenticeships. Social class, race, gender, and legal status affected where people lived, worked, and participated in community life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What rule limited who could vote at a New England town meeting? Name one issue that voters discussed.

2 What goods did New England merchants buy to sell in other places?

3 How did plantations in the Southern colonies produce crops for sale?

4 Name two social factors that affected a person's place in colonial community life.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Write exactly three sentences about a day for a colonial person in either a New England town or a Southern colony. Include one political detail, one economic detail, and one social detail from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one political detail, circle one economic detail, and number two social details in the passage. These details show how colonial life was shaped by more than where people lived. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What rule limited who could vote at a New England town meeting? Name one issue that voters discussed.	Some white men who owned property could vote. They discussed taxes, roads, or schools.
2	What goods did New England merchants buy to sell in other places?	They bought fish, lumber, and handmade goods.
3	How did plantations in the Southern colonies produce crops for sale?	They used land and labor to grow tobacco and rice. Many enslaved Africans were forced to work there.
4	Name two social factors that affected a person's place in colonial community life.	Any two: social class, race, gender, or legal status.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In a New England town, a property-owning white man attended a meeting about road taxes. Later, he bought shoes from a shoemaker at the market, where goods could be traded for supplies. His wife and children could not vote, showing that political power was not shared equally.

Accept passage-based responses that correctly identify political participation or power, work or trade, and a social role or condition. For the open task, check for exactly three sentences and all three types of details.