

Colonies Take Shape

Read how goals and geography shaped three colonial regions.

SS.5.A.4 "Colonization of North America"

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each reason a group founded or chose a colony, and circle each detail that shows how land, water, or crops shaped colonists' work.

Why Colonies Differed

- ① English colonists did not all settle for the same reasons. In New England, the Separatists who founded Plymouth in 1620 and the Puritans who founded Massachusetts Bay wanted communities shaped by their religious beliefs. Rocky soil made large farms difficult. Many people earned money through fishing, shipbuilding, and trade. Town meetings gave local male property owners a voice in some decisions.
- ② Colonies in the middle region grew from trade and farming. The Dutch created New Netherland in 1624 to profit from the fur trade along the Hudson River. England took control in 1664 and renamed it New York. Fertile soil supported wheat farms, while busy ports moved goods. In 1681, William Penn founded Pennsylvania as a home for Quakers and other people seeking religious tolerance.
- ③ In the southern colonies, investors and planters sought profit from crops. Jamestown, founded in Virginia in 1607, began as an English business venture. Tobacco became a valuable cash crop, so plantation owners needed large amounts of labor. Enslaved Africans were forced to provide much of that labor. Maryland was founded partly as a refuge for English Catholics, and southern colonists also grew rice and indigo in suitable areas.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How were the main settlement goals in New England and at Jamestown different?

2 How did rocky soil shape the work many people did in New England?

3 Give two details that show why the middle colonies attracted settlers or businesses.

4 Explain how tobacco led to the forced labor of enslaved Africans in the southern colonies.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine you are advising settlers who will build a colony in a fertile river valley. Write four sentences that explain why people would come, name two kinds of work they could do, and describe one decision the community would need to make.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each reason a group founded or chose a colony, and circle each detail that shows how land, water, or crops shaped colonists' work. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How were the main settlement goals in New England and at Jamestown different?	New England settlers wanted communities based on their religious beliefs. Jamestown began as an English business venture meant to make a profit.
2	How did rocky soil shape the work many people did in New England?	Rocky soil made large farms difficult, so many people worked in fishing, shipbuilding, and trade.
3	Give two details that show why the middle colonies attracted settlers or businesses.	Answers may include the fur trade along the Hudson River, fertile soil for wheat farms, busy ports for moving goods, or Pennsylvania's religious tolerance.
4	Explain how tobacco led to the forced labor of enslaved Africans in the southern colonies.	Tobacco was a valuable cash crop. Plantation owners needed much labor to grow it, and enslaved Africans were forced to provide much of that labor.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would advise settlers to choose a fertile river valley. Families could grow wheat and sell extra grain at a river port. Some workers could load boats and trade goods. The settlers might hold meetings to decide how to share land and protect the river.

Accept accurate explanations that connect a colony's purpose or geography to its economy or community. For the open response, accept reasonable ideas that include all three requested parts and use four sentences.