

Three Colonial Worlds

Compare how geography, work, and settlement shaped colonial regions.

SS.8.A.2.2 "Compare the characteristics of the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each region's major economic activities, circle details about how people lived or worked, and write NE, M, or S in the margin beside each set of details.

Patterns Across the Colonies

- ① During the 1600s and 1700s, English colonies developed three regional patterns. In New England, rocky soil and a short growing season limited large farms. Many settlers lived in compact towns, attended town meetings, and built economies around fishing, shipbuilding, trade, and small farms. Puritan religious ideas strongly shaped several New England colonies. Boston became a busy port, but many people still worked close to home in family businesses or on modest farms during warmer months.
- ② The Middle colonies, including New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware, had fertile soil and a moderate climate. Farmers raised grain, earning the region the nickname "breadbasket colonies." Cities such as Philadelphia and New York City connected farms to Atlantic trade. The population was especially diverse, including people from many European backgrounds and several religious groups. Quakers influenced Pennsylvania, while no single religious group dominated the whole region. Farms ranged from small family farms to larger operations.
- ③ Southern colonies had warm climates and long growing seasons. Their economies relied heavily on cash crops, especially tobacco in Maryland and Virginia, rice in South Carolina and Georgia, and indigo in South Carolina. Large plantations grew these crops for export to Britain and other markets. Enslaved Africans and their descendants supplied much of the labor on plantations, while some colonists owned smaller farms. Because plantations were spread across wide areas, settlers often lived farther apart than people in New England towns.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the land and climate of New England differ from those of the Middle colonies?

2 Compare where many New England settlers lived with where many Southern settlers lived.

3 How did the main economy of the Middle colonies differ from the main economy of the Southern colonies?

4 Compare the role of religion in New England and the Middle colonies.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a farming family moves from New England to the Southern colonies. Write exactly three sentences explaining two ways their daily life or work might change. Use at least two accurate details from the passage.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each region's major economic activities, circle details about how people lived or worked, and 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 the land and climate of New England differ from those of the Middle colonies?	New England had rocky soil and a short growing season, while the Middle colonies had fertile soil and a moderate climate.
2	Compare where many New England settlers lived with where many Southern settlers lived.	Many New England settlers lived in compact towns, while Southern settlers often lived farther apart because plantations covered wide areas.
3	How did the main economy of the Middle colonies differ from the main economy of the Southern colonies?	The Middle colonies raised grain and used cities to connect farms to trade. The Southern colonies relied heavily on cash crops grown on plantations for export.
4	Compare the role of religion in New England and the Middle colonies.	Puritan ideas strongly shaped several New England colonies. The Middle colonies included several religious groups, and no single group dominated the entire region.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A family leaving a compact New England town might live farther from its neighbors in the Southern colonies. Instead of depending mainly on small farms, fishing, or shipbuilding, they could encounter an economy centered on cash crops grown for export. They might also see large plantations where enslaved Africans and their descendants supplied much of the labor.

Accept equivalent comparisons that accurately connect regional geography, economy, settlement, labor, or religion to the correct region. For Part 3, accept any exactly three-sentence response that explains two accurate changes and uses at least two passage details.