

Land Shapes Work

How geography guided colonial jobs and trade

SS3G3.c "Explain how the physical geography of the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern colonies helped determine economic activities."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each detail about land, water, weather, or natural resources. Circle the job or product it helped create, then draw a line between each matching pair.

Geography and Colonial Work

- ① In the New England colonies, much of the land had thin, rocky soil. Farmers could grow some food, but large farms were hard to make. Thick forests gave workers trees for lumber. Many towns stood near the Atlantic coast. Colonists used wood to build ships, caught fish in the ocean, and traded goods from busy ports.
- ② The Mid-Atlantic colonies had wide rivers, rich soil, and a climate that was not as cold as New England's. Farmers grew large amounts of wheat and other grains. Mills used river water to grind grain into flour. Rivers also carried flour and grain to ports, where ships took these goods to other places for sale.
- ③ In the Southern colonies, warm weather and a long growing season helped farmers raise crops for sale. Fertile coastal plains supported tobacco in places such as Virginia and Maryland. In the low, wet areas of South Carolina and Georgia, farmers grew rice. Some farmers also grew indigo, a plant used to make blue dye. These crops were shipped from ports.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 How did the rocky soil in New England affect farming?

2 What two physical features helped New England colonists build ships and trade goods?

3 How did wide rivers help the Mid-Atlantic colonies make and sell flour?

4 How did the Southern colonies' warm weather and long growing season affect their economy?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Choose two colonial regions. Write three sentences that compare how a physical feature in each region led to an economic activity. Name both physical features and both activities.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each detail about land, water, weather, or natural resources. Circle the job or product it helped create, then draw a line between each matching pair. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the rocky soil in New England affect farming?	The thin, rocky soil made it hard to create large farms.
2	What two physical features helped New England colonists build ships and trade goods?	Thick forests provided wood for ships, and the Atlantic coast gave towns access to ports for trade.
3	How did wide rivers help the Mid-Atlantic colonies make and sell flour?	River water powered mills that ground grain into flour. Rivers also carried flour and grain to ports for sale.
4	How did the Southern colonies' warm weather and long growing season affect their economy?	They helped farmers grow crops for sale, such as tobacco, rice, and indigo.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In New England, forests gave people wood to build ships, and the coast helped them fish. In the Southern colonies, warm weather and a long growing season helped farmers grow crops for sale. Both regions used physical geography to choose work.

Accept answers that correctly connect a regional physical feature or resource to an economic activity from the passage. For Your Turn, accept any accurate comparison of two regions that names both geography features and resulting activities.