

Why Colonies Began

Read for the reasons settlers began colonies in each region.

SS3H3.a "Identify key reasons why the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern colonies were founded (religious freedom and profit)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline words or sentences that tell why people founded colonies. In the margin, write **R** beside a reason about religious freedom and **P** beside a reason about profit.

Reasons to Begin Colonies

- ① In New England, many English settlers wanted to worship in ways that differed from the Church of England. The Pilgrims came to Plymouth in 1620, and the Puritans later settled Massachusetts Bay. They hoped to build communities shaped by their religious beliefs. Religious freedom was a key reason these people began colonies in New England there.
- ② The Mid-Atlantic colonies drew people for more than one reason. Quakers settled Pennsylvania because they wanted to practice their religion peacefully. Other settlers came to Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, and Delaware to farm, trade, or own land. They expected these jobs and businesses to earn money. Both religious freedom and profit helped attract settlers to this region.
- ③ In the Southern colonies, many English investors and settlers hoped to make a profit. Investors gave money to start colonies, expecting valuable crops or trade to bring back more money. In Virginia, tobacco became an important cash crop. Plantations in Maryland, the Carolinas, and Georgia also grew crops to sell. Profit was a major reason for founding Southern colonies, even though people had other reasons for moving.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What key reason did many settlers begin colonies in New England?

2 What two reasons helped attract settlers to the Mid-Atlantic colonies?

3 According to the passage, how could settlers in the Mid-Atlantic region try to earn money?

4 Give two details that show profit was a reason for founding Southern colonies.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine you are helping start a new colony. Write three sentences explaining whether it is founded for religious freedom, profit, or both. Include one thing settlers would do that matches the reason or reasons.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline words or sentences that tell why people founded colonies. In the margin, write **R** beside a reason about religious freedom and **P** beside a reason about profit. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What key reason did many settlers begin colonies in New England?	Many settlers wanted religious freedom, or the freedom to worship according to their beliefs.
2	What two reasons helped attract settlers to the Mid-Atlantic colonies?	Religious freedom and profit helped attract settlers.
3	According to the passage, how could settlers in the Mid-Atlantic region try to earn money?	They could farm, trade, own land, or run businesses.
4	Give two details that show profit was a reason for founding Southern colonies.	Investors gave money expecting crops or trade to bring back more money, and colonists grew crops such as tobacco to sell.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I would start Harbor Hope for religious freedom and profit. Families could worship in their own meetinghouse, and merchants could sell fish and lumber. These plans would let people follow their beliefs while earning money.

Accept answers that connect New England with religious freedom, the Mid-Atlantic with religious freedom and profit, and the Southern colonies with profit. For the open response, accept a clear reason or reasons and an action that logically matches them.