

Three Colonial Lives

Compare work, school, and worship in three colonial regions.

SS3H3.b "Compare and contrast colonial life in the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern colonies (education, economy, and religion)."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline details about how people earned money, circle details about religion, and number education details 1, 2, or 3 for New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern colonies so you can compare the regions.

Life in Three Colonial Regions

- ① In the New England colonies, many towns were built near the rocky coast. Fishing, shipbuilding, and trade brought money because thin, rocky soil made large farms hard. Most people belonged to Puritan churches, and Puritan leaders wanted children to read the Bible. Towns often supported schools, especially for boys, though girls had fewer chances to attend.
- ② The Mid-Atlantic colonies had rich soil and busy ports. Farmers grew wheat and other grains, while merchants traded goods in cities such as Philadelphia and New York. People of many religions lived there, including Quakers, Catholics, Lutherans, Jews, and others. This variety meant that several churches and meetinghouses could be found. Schools existed, but they were not as commonly supported by towns as in New England.
- ③ In the Southern colonies, warm weather and rich soil helped plantations grow tobacco, rice, and indigo for sale. Enslaved Africans did much of the hard labor on many plantations. Large farms were spread far apart, so children often learned at home with tutors if their families could pay. Most colonists belonged to the Anglican Church, although other religions were present. Few towns had public schools.

2

ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1

How was the New England economy different from the Southern economy?

2

Compare religion in New England and the Mid-Atlantic colonies.

3

How was education in New England different from education in the Southern colonies?

4

Which region had a wider mix of religions, the Mid-Atlantic or the Southern colonies? Use one detail from the passage.

3

YOUR TURN

Your own words

Complete the table to compare all three colonial regions. Write one fact in each cell about economy, education, and religion.

REGION	ECONOMY	EDUCATION	RELIGION

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline details about how people earned money, circle details about religion, and number education details 1, 2, or 3 for New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern colonies so you can compare the regions. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How was the New England economy different from the Southern economy?	New England relied on fishing, shipbuilding, and trade. The Southern colonies relied on plantations growing tobacco, rice, and indigo.
2	Compare religion in New England and the Mid-Atlantic colonies.	Most people in New England belonged to Puritan churches. The Mid-Atlantic colonies had people from many religions.
3	How was education in New England different from education in the Southern colonies?	New England towns often supported schools. In the Southern colonies, few towns had public schools, and some children learned at home with tutors.
4	Which region had a wider mix of religions, the Mid-Atlantic or the Southern colonies? Use one detail from the passage.	The Mid-Atlantic colonies had a wider mix of religions, including Quakers, Catholics, Lutherans, Jews, and others. The Southern colonies were mostly Anglican.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

REGION	ECONOMY	EDUCATION	RELIGION
New England	Fishing, shipbuilding, and trade	Towns often supported schools	Most people belonged to Puritan churches
Mid-Atlantic	Wheat, other grains, and trade	Schools had less town support than in New England	People followed many religions
Southern	Plantations grew tobacco, rice, and indigo	Few public schools, and some children learned with tutors	Most colonists belonged to the Anglican Church