

Colonies Take Shape

Find the causes that shaped life in British Colonial America.

SS3H3 "Explain the factors that shaped British Colonial America."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one factor in each paragraph that shaped colonial life, then circle the result it caused.

Why Colonies Were Different

- ① In New England, many colonists lived near a cold coast. Rocky soil and a short growing season made large farms hard to build. Forests supplied wood, and the sea supplied fish. These resources led many people to fish, build ships, and trade. Some settlers also came because they wanted to practice their religion with their own community.
- ② The Middle Colonies had fertile soil, longer growing seasons, and rivers that carried goods. Farmers grew wheat and other grains, then sent them to busy port towns. People from several European countries settled there, bringing different languages and customs. This mix helped create diverse communities, while trade connected farms, towns, and places across the Atlantic Ocean.
- ③ In the Southern Colonies, warm weather and rich coastal soil supported tobacco, rice, and indigo crops. Plantation owners needed many workers to grow these cash crops. At first, some used indentured servants. Later, plantation owners forced many enslaved Africans to work, creating a cruel system of slavery. English rules, local assemblies, and these labor choices shaped colonial life.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

1 How did New England's rocky soil and short growing season shape the work many colonists did?

2 Which features of the Middle Colonies helped farmers send grain to port towns?

3 How did religion shape some New England settlements?

4 How did cash crops affect labor in the Southern Colonies?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Imagine a British colony on a windy island with a safe harbor and few trees. Write three sentences that name two likely jobs or trades and explain how the harbor and few trees would shape life there.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one factor in each paragraph that shaped colonial life, then circle the result it caused. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did New England's rocky soil and short growing season shape the work many colonists did?	Large farms were difficult, so many colonists fished, built ships, and traded.
2	Which features of the Middle Colonies helped farmers send grain to port towns?	Fertile soil, longer growing seasons, and rivers that carried goods helped them.
3	How did religion shape some New England settlements?	Some settlers came to practice their religion with their own community.
4	How did cash crops affect labor in the Southern Colonies?	Cash crops required many workers. Plantation owners later forced many enslaved Africans to work, creating slavery.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

In this colony, many people might fish and repair boats. The safe harbor would help ships stop to trade. Because there are few trees, people might bring wood from other places.

Accept logical cause-and-effect answers supported by the passage. For Your Turn, accept any two plausible jobs or trades and clear explanations of how both geographic features shape colonial life.