Three Colonial Paths

Trace how settlement choices shaped colonial life and Native relationships.

6-12.US1.3 "Analyze the development of the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern Colonies, including the reasons for the establishment, the economic, political, and social development, and the relationships with American Indians."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB In each paragraph, underline a reason for settlement, circle an economic activity, write 1 beside a political or social detail, and write 2 beside a detail about relationships with Native peoples.

How Three Regions Took Shape

1. In the 1630s, many English Puritans crossed the Atlantic to build communities where they could practice their faith. In Massachusetts, town meetings let some men help make local decisions, while church membership shaped political power. Families often lived near one another in towns, and farms supplied food. Short growing seasons and rocky soil encouraged fishing, shipbuilding, and trade along the coast. Colonists occupied land used by Native peoples, including the Massachusett and Wampanoag. Some Native groups traded with newcomers, but land pressures and disease strained relations. The 1675 to 1676 conflict called King Philip's War devastated Native communities and colonial towns.

2. In the Mid-Atlantic colonies, founders had different aims. The Dutch established New Netherland to control the fur trade, and the English took it in 1664, renaming its main colony New York. In 1681, William Penn founded Pennsylvania as a place where Quakers could worship freely. Fertile soil supported wheat farms, while ports moved grain and other goods to market. Pennsylvania had an elected assembly, and its towns included people of several faiths and languages. Penn sought land agreements with the Lenape, but later settlers' land demands and disputed deals weakened relations. Trade and negotiation did not prevent conflict over Native land.

3. Southern colonies also grew for more than one reason. English investors founded Virginia in 1607, hoping to make a profit. Maryland began in 1634 as a refuge for English Catholics and as a business venture. Warm weather and long growing seasons favored tobacco in the Chesapeake, and rice grew on plantations farther south. Large farms relied first on indentured servants and increasingly on enslaved Africans. Virginia's House of Burgesses gave some property-owning men a voice, but enslaved people had no political rights. Colonists traded with the Powhatan and other Native peoples, yet expansion onto Native land fueled repeated warfare.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did differences in land and climate help shape the economies of New England and the Southern colonies?

2. Compare how a founding goal shaped religious life in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.

3. Compare who had a political voice in Massachusetts and Virginia. What limit on political voice does the passage describe?

4. How did relationships with Native peoples in the Mid-Atlantic and Southern colonies show both cooperation and conflict?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a five-sentence museum label explaining how founding purpose and land use shaped life in one region. Include an economic activity, a political or social feature, a relationship with Native peoples, and one meaningful comparison with another region.

ANSWER KEY

Three Colonial Paths

GRADES 6-12 · 6-12.US1.3

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

In each paragraph, underline a reason for settlement, circle an economic activity, write 1 beside a political or social detail, and write 2 beside a detail about relationships with Native peoples. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did differences in land and climate help shape the economies of New England and the Southern colonies?	**New England's rocky soil and short growing seasons encouraged fishing, shipbuilding, and coastal trade. The South's warm weather and long growing seasons supported tobacco and rice plantations.**
2	Compare how a founding goal shaped religious life in Massachusetts and Pennsylvania.	**Puritans settled Massachusetts to practice their faith, and church membership shaped political power there. Penn founded Pennsylvania so Quakers could worship freely, and its towns included several faiths.**
3	Compare who had a political voice in Massachusetts and Virginia. What limit on political voice does the passage describe?	**Town meetings let some men make local decisions in Massachusetts, while Virginia's House of Burgesses gave some property-owning men a voice. Enslaved people in Virginia had no political rights.**
4	How did relationships with Native peoples in the Mid-Atlantic and Southern colonies show both cooperation and conflict?	**Penn sought agreements with the Lenape, but later land demands and disputed deals weakened relations. Southern colonists traded with Native peoples, but expansion onto Native land fueled warfare.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Pennsylvania began as a place where Quakers could worship freely. Its fertile soil supported wheat farms, and ports helped farmers sell grain. An elected assembly and towns with many faiths shaped public life. Penn sought agreements with the Lenape, but later settlers' demands for land damaged relations. Compared with New England's rocky soil and fishing economy, Pennsylvania's farmland made grain trade more important.

Accept other passage-supported comparisons that explain a relationship, not just list facts. Students may describe either cooperation or conflict first when discussing relationships with Native peoples.