

# Colonial Patterns

Trace how geography, labor, and power varied across the colonies.

**11.1b** "A number of factors influenced colonial economic development, social structures, and labor systems, causing variation by region."

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

DATE \_\_\_\_\_

## 1 READ AND MARK \_\_\_\_\_ Read it twice

**YOUR JOB** Underline a geographic factor in each of the first two paragraphs. Circle an economic effect, then mark a law shaping labor with L.

### Why the Colonies Developed Differently

- ① Geography and markets shaped colonial economies. New England's rocky soils and short growing season limited staple farming. Families farmed small plots; coastal fishing, shipbuilding, and trade employed merchants, artisans, sailors, and laborers. Fertile land and navigable rivers helped the Middle colonies export grain through Philadelphia and New York. Diverse settlers brought different languages and religions. Regional patterns varied, with farms, towns, and different labor arrangements throughout the colonies.
- ② In the Chesapeake, tobacco became a major export; in the lower South, rice and later indigo were important. Growing conditions and overseas demand favored these labor-intensive crops. Many seventeenth-century migrants worked as indentured servants for fixed terms in exchange for passage. Planters increasingly purchased enslaved Africans, seeking control over lifelong labor and its profits. Plantation wealth concentrated land and political influence. Geography did not make slavery inevitable: purchasing decisions, Atlantic trafficking, racial ideology, and colonial laws built and sustained it.
- ③ Indentured servants faced coercion but could complete their contracts. Enslaved people were treated as property, and slavery became hereditary. Virginia's 1662 law made children inherit their mother's enslaved or free status. Laws tied bondage and unequal rights to African ancestry, privileging white colonists. Slavery existed in northern colonies too, though enslaved people formed a larger population share in the South. Enslaved people maintained communities, resisted bondage, and sought freedom.

**2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE** \_\_\_\_\_ Use the passage

**1** How did New England's geography influence both its economy and the kinds of workers found in coastal towns?

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**2** Connect southern export crops, labor demand, and planter influence.

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**3** What was one major difference between indentured servitude and enslavement, and how did colonial law shape the status of enslaved people?

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**4** How did slavery become a racial institution, according to the passage? Identify the group that the system placed above people of African descent.

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**3 YOUR TURN** \_\_\_\_\_ Your own words

In three sentences, compare New England and southern colonial economies. Connect geography or markets to work, and explain why geography alone did not determine slavery.

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**PART 1 • READ AND MARK**

Underline a geographic factor in each of the first two paragraphs. Circle an economic effect, then mark a law shaping labor with L. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

**PART 2 • ANSWERS**

| # | QUESTION                                                                                                                                          | ANSWER                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|---|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | How did New England's geography influence both its economy and the kinds of workers found in coastal towns?                                       | <b>Rocky soil and a short growing season limited large-scale staple farming. Coastal towns relied on fishing, shipbuilding, lumber, and trade, creating work for merchants, artisans, sailors, and wage laborers.</b> |
| 2 | Connect southern export crops, labor demand, and planter influence.                                                                               | <b>Growing conditions and markets favored labor-intensive exports. Planters sought controlled labor, increasingly through slavery; plantation wealth concentrated land and political influence.</b>                   |
| 3 | What was one major difference between indentured servitude and enslavement, and how did colonial law shape the status of enslaved people?         | <b>Indentured contracts had fixed terms. Slavery was lifelong and hereditary under laws such as Virginia's 1662 rule tying children's status to their mother's.</b>                                                   |
| 4 | How did slavery become a racial institution, according to the passage? Identify the group that the system placed above people of African descent. | <b>Colonies increasingly tied slavery to African ancestry. This racial system placed white colonists above people of African descent.</b>                                                                             |

**PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)**

New England's rocky soils and short growing season limited staple farming, while coastal trade created varied jobs. Southern growing conditions and overseas demand favored labor-intensive tobacco, rice, and indigo production. Planters' choices, trafficking, racial ideology, and laws created slavery; climate alone did not require it.

Accept comparisons grounded in the passage that connect regional conditions to economic activity while distinguishing those conditions from human decisions establishing slavery.