Cargo and Colonies

How land and labor shaped colonial trade

5.C.2.2 "Compare the economic development of the three colonial regions including agricultural exports as affected by climate, physical features..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one land or climate feature for each region, circle one export from each region, and write 1 beside a detail about indentured labor and 2 beside a detail about enslaved labor. Use your marks to compare how the regions produced goods.

What Filled the Ships?

1. Picture a ship leaving a New England harbor with barrels of salted fish and boards. Rocky soil and cold winters limited large farms, but forests supplied timber, and the sea supplied fish. Families raised food on small farms, while workers built ships and traded goods. Some indentured servants worked on farms, at docks, or in workshops for a set number of years in exchange for passage across the Atlantic.

2. Farther south, the Middle Colonies had milder weather, fertile soil, and rivers that carried goods to ports. Farmers grew wheat and other grains, then sold grain or flour beyond the colonies. Farms were often smaller than southern plantations. Indentured servants could work in fields, homes, and workshops. Like New England, this region also traded through busy ports, but grain was a major farm export.

3. In the Southern Colonies, long growing seasons and wide coastal plains helped farmers grow crops for sale. Large plantations shipped tobacco from the Chesapeake area and rice and indigo from areas farther south. Rivers helped move these crops to ports. Some plantations first used indentured servants, but plantation owners increasingly relied on enslaved Africans and their descendants, who were forced to work without freedom. Their labor supported the plantation system.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did New England's soil and winters shape its exports compared with the Middle Colonies' soil?

2. How did rivers help the Middle and Southern Colonies sell different crops?

3. How did the work and freedom of indentured servants differ from those of enslaved people on southern plantations?

4. How did the Southern Colonies' growing conditions and labor system work together to produce exports?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write four sentences to a merchant recommending food exports from two regions and building materials from the third. Name one product from each region, compare how land or climate shaped two choices, and explain how one labor system helped produce one product.

ANSWER KEY

Cargo and Colonies

GRADE 5 · 5.C.2.2

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one land or climate feature for each region, circle one export from each region, and write 1 beside a detail about indentured labor and 2 beside a detail about enslaved labor. Use your marks to compare how the regions produced goods. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did New England's soil and winters shape its exports compared with the Middle Colonies' soil?	**Rocky soil and cold winters limited large farms in New England, which exported goods such as salted fish and boards. The Middle Colonies' fertile soil helped farmers grow grain for export.**
2	How did rivers help the Middle and Southern Colonies sell different crops?	**Rivers carried Middle Colonies grain or flour to ports and helped move southern crops such as tobacco and rice to ports.**
3	How did the work and freedom of indentured servants differ from those of enslaved people on southern plantations?	**Indentured servants worked in jobs such as farming or workshop trades for a set number of years in exchange for passage. Enslaved people were forced to work without freedom, and plantation owners increasingly relied on their labor.**
4	How did the Southern Colonies' growing conditions and labor system work together to produce exports?	**Long growing seasons and coastal plains supported crops such as tobacco and rice. Plantations produced those exports by increasingly relying on the forced labor of enslaved people.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Load wheat from the Middle Colonies and rice from the Southern Colonies for food. Add boards from New England for building. The Middle Colonies' fertile soil supported wheat, while the South's long growing season and coastal plains supported rice. Enslaved Africans and their descendants were forced to work on southern plantations that produced rice.

Accept any products and comparisons supported by the passage. Responses should distinguish a servant's set term of work from the lack of freedom imposed on enslaved people.