

Colonial Work and Trade

How resources shaped jobs and products in the colonies

5.9.B “identify major industries of colonial America such as shipbuilding and growing of cash crops.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Circle each major industry or cash crop named in the passage. Underline the words that tell which resource, place, or weather condition helped that work succeed.

Work Across the Colonies

- ① Colonial America did not have one main industry. People used the land, forests, rivers, and coastline near their homes to make goods or grow crops to sell. In New England, thick forests supplied tall, straight trees. Busy ports on the Atlantic Ocean gave workers places to load cargo. These resources helped people choose work that could earn money.
- ② Shipbuilding was an important New England industry. Carpenters cut and shaped timber for hulls, while other workers made sails, ropes, and barrels. A finished ship could carry fish, lumber, and other goods across the ocean. Shipyards provided jobs for many kinds of workers. They also connected coastal towns to trade with other colonies and countries.
- ③ In the Southern Colonies, warm weather and long growing seasons supported cash crops. A cash crop was grown mainly to be sold, rather than used by the grower's family. Tobacco, rice, and indigo were important cash crops in different places. Planters sent these crops to ports, where merchants shipped them to buyers. This trade brought money into the colonies, but it depended heavily on enslaved labor.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 What major industry was important in New England? Name one resource that helped this industry grow.

2 Name two kinds of workers or materials needed to build a ship.

3 What were the three cash crops named in the passage?

4 How did the climate of the Southern Colonies support the growing of cash crops?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine you live in either New England or the Southern Colonies. Write exactly three sentences that name your region, identify one major industry or cash crop there, and explain what resource or condition helps it and what you could trade.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Circle each major industry or cash crop named in the passage. Underline the words that tell which resource, place, or weather condition helped that work succeed. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What major industry was important in New England? Name one resource that helped this industry grow.	Shipbuilding was important. Thick forests supplied timber, and coastal ports helped load cargo.
2	Name two kinds of workers or materials needed to build a ship.	Answers may include carpenters, workers who made sails, workers who made ropes, workers who made barrels, or timber.
3	What were the three cash crops named in the passage?	Tobacco, rice, and indigo.
4	How did the climate of the Southern Colonies support the growing of cash crops?	Warm weather and long growing seasons supported cash crops.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

I live in New England and work in a shipyard. Forests provide timber, and the Atlantic coast lets our finished ships carry cargo. I would trade a ship's load of lumber for rice from the Southern Colonies.

Accept accurate industries and cash crops from the passage, along with matching resources or conditions. For the open response, accept any historically accurate three-sentence trade idea that connects a region, an industry or cash crop, and a resource or condition.