

Trade Across Colonies

Read how location, resources, labor, and trade shaped colonial economies.

5.9 "Economics. The student understands the basic economic patterns of early societies in the United States. The student is expected to: explain the economic patterns of early European colonies..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline each industry or crop. Circle each word or phrase that tells why a region developed that work.

Work, Resources, and Trade

- ① During the 1600s and 1700s, England's colonies in North America developed different ways to earn money. Climate, soil, forests, and waterways shaped their work. Colonists used natural resources to make goods or grow crops. They sold products to neighbors, merchants, and people across the Atlantic Ocean. Many colonies also bought manufactured goods from Britain, such as cloth, tools, and dishes.
- ② In New England, rocky soil made large farms difficult. Colonists relied on the sea and thick forests. Shipbuilders cut timber and built fishing boats and trade ships in busy ports. Fishing, whaling, lumber, and trade connected this region to other places. Ships carried colonial goods outward and returned with items that colonists could not easily produce.
- ③ The Middle Colonies had fertile soil and grew wheat, corn, and other grains. Gristmills ground grain into flour for local use and export. In the Southern Colonies, plantations grew cash crops, crops raised mainly to sell, including tobacco, rice, and indigo. Enslaved Africans did much of the forced labor on many plantations. These regional industries created trade links among the colonies and with Britain.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Why did different colonial regions develop different ways to earn money?

2 Why was shipbuilding an important industry in New England? Use two details from the passage.

3 How were the main products of the Middle Colonies different from the cash crops of the Southern Colonies?

4 How did trade ships connect a colony with other places?

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Imagine a colony with dense forests, a deep harbor, and thin, rocky soil. In 3 or 4 sentences, predict one major industry it might develop and explain what it could trade with other colonies or Britain.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline each industry or crop. Circle each word or phrase that tells why a region developed that work. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Why did different colonial regions develop different ways to earn money?	Climate, soil, forests, waterways, and other natural resources shaped the work each region could do.
2	Why was shipbuilding an important industry in New England? Use two details from the passage.	New England had thick forests for timber and access to the sea. Rocky soil also made large farms difficult.
3	How were the main products of the Middle Colonies different from the cash crops of the Southern Colonies?	The Middle Colonies grew grains such as wheat and corn, often made into flour. Southern plantations grew cash crops to sell, including tobacco, rice, and indigo.
4	How did trade ships connect a colony with other places?	Ships carried colonial goods to other places and returned with items colonists could not easily produce.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A colony with dense forests, a deep harbor, and rocky soil could build ships. Its workers could use timber to build fishing boats and trade ships. The colony could sell ships or lumber and trade with other colonies for food crops and manufactured goods.

Accept equivalent explanations that connect regional resources or conditions to an industry, crop, labor system, or trade pattern from the passage. For the open response, accept a logical prediction supported by the colony's forests, harbor, and rocky soil.