

Why Colonies Began

Compare the different motives that shaped English settlement.

8.2.B “compare political, economic, religious, and social reasons for the establishment of the 13 English colonies.”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB **Part 1: Read and Mark.** Underline each phrase that tells why a colony was established or promoted, then write E, P, R, or S in the margin for economic, political, religious, or social reasons. If a phrase fits more than one category, write all categories that fit.

Colony Motives

- ① English colonies in North America did not all begin for the same reason. In 1607, the Virginia Company founded Jamestown under a charter from King James I. Investors expected economic gain, especially after colonists grew tobacco for sale. The colony also strengthened England’s claim in a region contested by European rivals. Economic and political motives worked together: company leaders sought profit, while English leaders wanted land, trade, and influence overseas. A single colony could serve more than one goal.
- ② Some settlers crossed the Atlantic chiefly to practice religion more freely. Puritans established Massachusetts Bay in 1630, hoping to build a community shaped by their beliefs. Maryland’s proprietors welcomed Catholics, although religious freedom there changed over time. William Penn received Pennsylvania in 1681 and promoted it as a place where Quakers could worship without persecution. These colonies had religious reasons, but social goals appeared too. Leaders hoped to create orderly communities, and families sought safer, more stable lives.
- ③ The Carolinas and Georgia show another mix of motives. English proprietors planned the Carolinas as colonies where land could be granted and crops exported for economic gain. In 1732, James Oglethorpe helped found Georgia partly as a political buffer between Spanish Florida and the Carolinas. He also imagined a social fresh start for people burdened by debt, though not all of those plans succeeded. Comparing colonies means noticing both differences and overlaps among political, economic, religious, and social reasons.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE _____ Use the passage

1 Part 2: Compare Reasons. How were Virginia and the Carolinas alike economically? What specific economic plan was different for each?

2 How were Massachusetts Bay and Pennsylvania alike in their religious reasons for establishment?

3 How did the goals for Massachusetts Bay include both a religious reason and a social reason?

4 Compare Georgia's political reason with its social reason for establishment.

3 YOUR TURN _____ Your own words

Part 3: Your Turn. Complete the table to compare Maryland and the Carolinas. Choose one reason category for each colony, give evidence from the passage, and write one sentence below the table explaining a difference between their reasons.

COLONY	REASON CATEGORY	EVIDENCE FROM THE PASSAGE

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Part 1: Read and Mark. Underline each phrase that tells why a colony was established or promoted, then write E, P, R, or S in the margin for economic, political, religious, or social reasons. If a phrase fits more than one category, write all categories that fit. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Part 2: Compare Reasons. How were Virginia and the Carolinas alike economically? What specific economic plan was different for each?	Both were intended to bring economic gain. Virginia earned money from tobacco sales, while the Carolinas were planned for land grants and exported crops.
2	How were Massachusetts Bay and Pennsylvania alike in their religious reasons for establishment?	Both offered settlers a place to practice their beliefs more freely. Massachusetts Bay was shaped by Puritan beliefs, and Pennsylvania welcomed Quakers seeking worship without persecution.
3	How did the goals for Massachusetts Bay include both a religious reason and a social reason?	Puritans wanted a community shaped by their religious beliefs. Leaders also wanted to create an orderly community, which was a social goal.
4	Compare Georgia's political reason with its social reason for establishment.	Politically, Georgia was meant to be a buffer between Spanish Florida and the Carolinas. Socially, Oglethorpe imagined a fresh start for people burdened by debt.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Maryland | Religious | Its proprietors welcomed Catholics. Carolinas | Economic | Land could be granted and crops exported for gain. Maryland was meant to welcome Catholics, while the Carolinas were planned for land and export-crop profits.

Accept equivalent evidence-based comparisons and category labels. For the marking task, accept more than one category when a passage phrase clearly describes overlapping motives, such as religious and social goals.