

Colonial Connections

Trace how regions, people, and power shaped colonial life.

USI.5 “The student will apply history and social science skills to explain the social, political, religious, economic, and geographic factors that shaped colonial America by describing the characteristics and differences among the New England...”

NAME _____

DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK _____ Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one detail in each paragraph that explains how geography, work, rights, or British rule shaped colonial life. Number your underlined details 1, 2, and 3 in paragraph order.

Three Regions, Connected Colonies

- ① Colonial America had three main regions. In New England, rocky soil and cold winters led many people to farm small plots, fish, build ships, and trade. Towns often grew around churches and meetings. The Mid-Atlantic colonies had fertile soil, rivers, and busy ports. Farmers raised grain, while merchants bought and sold goods from many places. People from different backgrounds practiced several religions there.
- ② Southern colonies had long growing seasons and rich soil suited to tobacco, rice, and indigo. Large plantations depended on the forced labor of enslaved Africans, though smaller farmers also lived there. Virginia grew tobacco and became one of the most populous and wealthiest colonies. Its wealth came partly from tobacco sales and enslaved labor. These regional specialties created trade: New England ships and merchants carried goods, and Mid-Atlantic grain fed other places.
- ③ Life differed by work, wealth, gender, and freedom. Landowners, farmers, artisans, clergy, merchants, women, indentured servants, and free or enslaved Black people had unequal choices and rights. Many white men elected representatives to colonial assemblies, including Virginia's House of Burgesses, but women, enslaved people, and most free Black people could not vote. At first, Britain often allowed colonies to manage local affairs. Over time, Britain enforced trade rules and royal authority more closely.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE Use the passage

- 1 How did regional specialization make the colonies interdependent? Use one example involving New England and the Mid-Atlantic.

- 2 Why was Virginia one of the most populous and wealthiest colonies?

- 3 How did voting rights show that colonial groups had unequal political power?

- 4 How did the relationship between the colonies and Britain change over time?

3 YOUR TURN Your own words

Write exactly four sentences comparing a New England merchant and a Southern tobacco farmer. Include a geographic or economic difference, a trade connection, and a contrast in political rights between a person who could vote and a person who could not.

PART 1 • READ AND MARK

Underline one detail in each paragraph that explains how geography, work, rights, or British rule shaped colonial life. Number your underlined details 1, 2, and 3 in paragraph order. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 • ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did regional specialization make the colonies interdependent? Use one example involving New England and the Mid-Atlantic.	New England ships and merchants carried goods, while Mid-Atlantic farmers raised grain that fed other places. The regions depended on trade because they produced different goods.
2	Why was Virginia one of the most populous and wealthiest colonies?	Virginia grew tobacco. Its tobacco sales and enslaved labor helped create wealth.
3	How did voting rights show that colonial groups had unequal political power?	Many white men could elect representatives, but women, enslaved people, and most free Black people could not vote. This gave these groups unequal political rights.
4	How did the relationship between the colonies and Britain change over time?	At first, Britain often allowed colonies to manage local affairs. Over time, Britain enforced trade rules and royal authority more closely.

PART 3 • YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

A New England merchant sold goods carried by ships, while a Southern farmer grew tobacco in a long growing season. Their regions depended on trade because each region produced different goods. Many white men could elect representatives, so the merchant might have had that political right. An enslaved worker on the farm could not vote and had far fewer choices.

Accept equivalent explanations that use passage evidence about regional products, trade, voting rights, and British authority. For the open response, check for exactly four sentences and all three required ideas.