

COLONIAL AMERICA STUDY GUIDE

Why did Europeans establish colonies in North America?

Colonies in North America were established for religious and economic reasons.

Colonies and the reasons they were established:

- ∴ **Roanoke Island (Lost Colony)** was established as an economic venture. The first permanent English settlement in North America (1607), Jamestown Settlement, was an economic venture by the Virginia Company.
- ∴ **Plymouth colony** was settled by separatists from the Church of England who wanted to avoid religious persecution.
- ∴ **Massachusetts Bay Colony** was settled by the Puritans who wanted to avoid religious persecution.
- ∴ **Pennsylvania** was settled by the Quakers, who wanted to have freedom to practice their faith without interference
- ∴ **Georgia** was settled by people who had been in debtor's prisons in England. They hoped to experience a new life in the colony and to experience economic freedom in the New World.

How did climate and geographic features distinguish the three regions from each other?

Life in the colonies reflected the geographical features of the settlements.

New England

- . Geography and climate
 - Appalachian Mountains, Boston harbor, hilly terrain, rocky soil, jagged coastline
 - Moderate summers, cold winters

Mid-Atlantic

- . Geography and climate
 - Appalachian Mountains, coastal lowlands (harbors and bays, wide and deep rivers), rich farmlands
 - Moderate climate

South

- . Geography and climate
 - Appalachian Mountains, Piedmont, Atlantic Coastal Plain, good harbors, rivers
 - Humid climate

How did people use the natural resources of their region to earn a living?

New England

- . Economy
 - Fishing, shipbuilding industry and naval supplies, trade and port cities
 - Skilled craftsmen, shopkeepers

Mid-Atlantic

- . Economy
 - Livestock and grain, trading
 - Unskilled and skilled workers and fishermen

South

- . Economy
 - Large farms/plantations, cash crops, wood products, small farms
 - Slavery

How did political and social life evolve in each of the three regions?

New England

- . Social life
 - Village and church as center of life
 - Religious reformers and separatists

- . Political and civic life
 - Town meetings

Mid-Atlantic

- . Social life
 - Villages and cities
 - Varied and diverse lifestyles
 - Diverse religions

- . Political and civic life
 - Market towns

South

- . Social life
 - Plantations (slavery), mansions, indentured servants, few cities, few schools
 - Church of England

- . Political and civic life
 - Counties

How did people's lives vary among different social groups in colonial America?

The colonies were made up of different groups of people whose lives varied depending on their social position.

Large landowners

- . Lived predominately in the South
- . Relied on indentured servants and/or slaves for labor
- . Were educated in some cases
- . Had rich social culture

Farmers

- . Worked the land according to the region
- . Relied on family members for labor

Artisans

- . Worked as craftsmen in towns and on the plantation
- . Lived in small villages and cities

Women

- . Worked as caretakers, house-workers, homemakers
- . Could not vote
- . Had few chances for an education

Indentured servants

- . Consisted of men and women who did not have money for passage to the colonies and who agreed to work without pay for the person who paid for their passage
- . Were free at the end of their contract

Slaves

- . Were captured in their native Africa and sold to slave traders, then were shipped to the colonies where they were sold into slavery
- . Were owned as property for life with no rights
- . Were often born into slavery (Children of slaves were born into slavery.)

How did England impose its political and economic control over the colonies?

England established and attempted to maintain control over the colonies.

Economic relationships

- ∴ England imposed strict control over trade.
- ∴ England taxed the colonies after the French and Indian War.
- ∴ Colonies traded raw materials for goods.

Political relationships

- ∴ Colonists had to obey English laws that were enforced by governors.
- ∴ Colonial governors were appointed by the king or by the proprietor.
- ∴ Colonial legislatures made laws for each colony and were monitored by colonial governors.