

# Introduction to the New England, Middle, and Southern Colonial Regions

People came to each of the colonial regions for different reasons. Each region had its own geography. Each region offered settlers special choices and ways of life.

The New England region included the colonies of Massachusetts Bay, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Connecticut. It had rocky soil, dense forests, and natural harbors that gave easy access to the sea. New England's economy was built on small farms, lumbering, fishing, shipbuilding, and trade. A region's economy is how the people use their resources to sustain themselves. Most New England colonists were originally Puritans. They wanted to change the practices of the Church of England, or the Anglican Church. Religion was an important part of their lives.



The Middle Colonies included New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. This region had rich soil. Farmers raised livestock and grew crops. They sold pork, beef, wheat, and barley (a type of grain) to other colonies. The Middle Colonies had a diverse population. The region's strong economy attracted people from other European countries besides Great Britain, such as Germany and Ireland. These people held many different religious beliefs.

The Southern Colonies included Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. This region's geography favored cash crops. Rich men came to this region from Great Britain. They grew cash crops such as tobacco and rice on their plantations. Plantations needed many workers. At first, landowners used American Indians and indentured servants to plant and harvest plantation crops. Indentured servants also worked in other places in the colonies. Soon, Southern landowners began to replace these workers with enslaved Africans.