**The New England Colonies**

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New English is a hilly, rocky place. It is situated along the northeast coast of the US. There are many dense forests.

Towns grew up along the coast, where ships could bring more settlers, deliver supplies, and trade. Craftsman worked at trades. Shipbuilding was popular with the trees available. Others fished for a living, reeling in oysters, lobsters, crabs, and fish to eat. There were also small farms where people grew crops and raised animals.

Towns were small and self-sufficient. It was the center of government and church life. Schools and shops were located in town. The land owning men were head of the church. The idea of the separation of church and state had not taken hold yet. The idea would develop later. Everyone was required to attend Sunday worship, which could last the whole day.

Houses were small and sturdy with a large chimney. They were built to be safe from icy winter weather and safe from Indian attacks.

**Massachusetts:** The Mayflower Compact was written in 1620 for Plymouth. Colonists had representatives in the government and people could worship freely. Puritans immigrated for religious freedom. Many people migrated to the Boston area between 1629-1640. Salem executed 20 people for witchcraft.

**Connecticut:** Some left Massachusetts for Connecticut for more religious freedom. They also felt the governor and officials had too much power. All male landowners could vote and the governor’s power was limited.

**Rhode Island:** Rhode Island was established for tolerance, allowing complete religious freedom for Protestants, Jews, and Catholics.

New Hampshire: There was a successful port, Portsmouth. Many forests helped with trading wood.

Early experiences in New England established democratic ideas. New England values of self-government, individual choice, and common good helped set up democratic ideals for the future.

**The Middle Colonies**

The Middle Colonies were all about compromise. Emigrants from a variety of European countries settled the Middle Colonies of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and Delaware. People of all religions came to the Middle Colonies, too. The Middle Colonies became home to Dutch Mennonites, French Huguenots, German Baptists, Portuguese Jews, and English Anglicans. Lutherans, Quakers, Moravians, Amish, Dunkers, Presbyterians, and Catholics settle in the four Middle Colonies.

They all got along or at least tolerated each other. This had not always happened in colonial settlements. In Massachusetts, the Puritans found a place where they could settle and have freedom of religion. However, when people from other religions came to Plymouth Colony, they were not so fortunate. They found themselves unwelcome in the Puritan regions and had to move on to begin new colonies of their own.

**New York:** Dutch settlers sailed up the Hudson River and settled in the area that is now New York. They named it New Netherlands. In 1664, New Netherlands was taken by the British and became New York. Throughout the area that became the state of New York, many religions and nationalities began their own settlements. New York City, being the port of entry for many later immigrants, became a melting pot of all religions and nationalities.

**New Jersey:** Many religious groups seeking religious freedom in New Jersey. Congregations with a wide range of religious ideas settled in Jew Jersey. These New Jersey immigrants often adopted the one room log cabin style of house brought over by the Swedish. Religious services were often held in a barn where there was enough room for everyone. Since there were not many clergymen among immigrants, many of the services were conducted by members of the congregation.

**Pennsylvania:** William Penn founded the colony of Pennsylvania in the early 1680’s. He had been born into the Anglican Church, but left it to join the Quakers. In England, the Quakers were not able to practice their religion freely. When his father received the charter for Pennsylvania, as payment of a debt from the king, William Penn sailed to America,. Pen and the other Quakers, also known as the Society of Friends, founded a colony that practiced a policy of tolerance, accepting people of all religions. They oppose war and are well known pacifists.

**Delaware**: Scandinavian Lutherans and Dutch Reformed groups settled Delaware. Quakers from England and Baptists from Wales also moved to Delaware. Like all Middle Colonies, Delaware was home to many Native American tribes. The tribe in Delaware, Lenape, became known as the Delaware tribe. They had their own culture and religions too.

The Middle Colonies discovered something the other colonists had not yet discovered, to gain freedom of religion and freedom of lifestyle, it needs to be granted to all.

**The Southern Colonies**

The Southern Colonies are one of the three groups that made up the original thirteen colonies. The Southern Colonies include Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. The character of the Southern Colonies developed from its people, its geography, and its climate.

The founders of the Southern Colonies came to America seeking wealth in the form of land ownership. Some rich aristocrats from England became owners of huge tracts of land in America. Some were owners of large businesses like the Virginia Company.

These landowners recognized the Southern Colonies were rich in farmland. The coastal plains and rolling hills were perfect for raising crops. The rich soil and warm weather helped the crops thrive. Some established large farms known as plantations. Each plantation required many workers. Growing the crops was nearly a year round job in warmer colonies.

Plantation owners could not find enough workers among the European immigrants in the US. Most of these immigrants wanted to farm their own land, not work for others. The Native Americans were not interested in farm jobs on plantations. The plantation owners found the solution to their labor shortage on a Dutch slave ship. They purchased their first slaves in 1619 in Jamestown. The slaves were forced to work on plantations.

By the 1660’s, the states were passing laws that made slavery legal. These laws stated that slaves were the property of their masters, just like a house or farm animals. The slave codes stated that any children born to a slave woman were automatically slaves too and slaves would stay slaves their entire life. There was little opposition to slavery in colonial times. Rich people controlled the wealth and poor people did the work.

**Virginia:** Virginia had small farms and large plantations. Tobacco was the main crop. Virginia used slave labor on the large plantations.

**Maryland:** Lord Baltimore gave colonists a voice in government. To attract settlers, he gave land grants to people bringing others to the colony. The Act of Toleration was passed, granting religious freedom to all Christians.

**North Carolina and South Carolina:** NC had many tobacco farmers. SC farmed rice, indigo, and cotton. English, Germans, Swiss, French Protestants and Spanish Jews immigrated to the Carolinas.

**Georgia:** James Oglethorpe colonized Georgia with debtors from English prisons. Landowners were allowed to have slaves.

In the backcountry there were many small farmers. There were many rivers to use for trade in the Southern Colonies.