

U.S. History

Vocabulary

Charter
Region
Cash Crop
Plantation

Reading Skill

Understand
Main
Idea
Paragraph.

British Colonial Regions

climate. This meant that they could farm. They also raised livestock.

Some farmers grew **cash crops** which they sold to earn a living. Cash crops in the Middle colonies expanded as the colonies grew in population and economy. The region was given the nickname “breadbasket” because they provided a lot of food for other colonies. The Middle colonies also traded with other colonies. There were large ports located in this region and they became a center for the fur trade. The Middle colonies believed in religious freedom. There was a blend of many different religions and cultures including a group called the Quakers. Quakers believed that war was wrong, and they strived to have good relationships with Native Americans.

The Southern colonies included Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Virginia was the first English colony and Georgia was the last. The flat land and fertile soil made farming successful. The Southern colonies grew many different types of crops including tobacco, indigo, rice, and cotton. These larger farms were called **plantations**. The plantations produced a lot of money for the Southern colonies. Some farms were smaller and just for families. The plantations relied on slavery. The enslaved people had few rights. There was also a large amount of religious freedom in the southern colonies. Most of the colonists to settle in the Southern colonies were men. There were limited schools in the Southern colonies and any children living on plantations were usually home schooled.

The colonial regions each had different cultures. There were differences in the social life in each of the regions. The south was rural and undeveloped. The economy was primarily based on farming. Large plantations meant people lived far apart from one another. The north was heavily centered around the church and community. Farming was difficult up north so the New England colonies relied on industries like fishing, whaling, and shipbuilding. The Middle colonies were a mix of the northern and southern colonies.

British Colonial Regions

Directions: Match the vocabulary term to its definition.

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|---|---------------|
| 1. _____ crops grown to sell for profit | a. Charter |
| 2. _____ a specific area that has common features | b. Region |
| 3. _____ a document from the king that provided land for a colony | c. Cash crop |
| 4. _____ large farms that mass produced crops to sell | d. Plantation |

Directions: Circle the best answer choice based on the passage.

- Why was farming not a large industry in the New England colonies?
 - The Puritan people did not know how to farm
 - The New England colonies preferred to ship in crops instead of grow their own
 - Farming was a major industry in the New England colonies
 - The climate was cold and the soil was too rocky
- Which region is best known for a warm climate and large plantations?
 - New England
 - Middle
 - Southern
 - Eastern
- Which region was given the nickname "breadbasket?"
 - New England
 - Middle
 - Southern
 - None of the above
- Which of the following statements is true of the Southern colonies?
 - There were few schools
 - There were many large ports in the area and it was a center for trade
 - Religion and education were the center of life
 - All of the above
- Plantations in the south relied on _____.
 - Trade with Native Americans
 - Slave labor
 - The Puritans
 - All of the above

[illegible]