

Coming to America

New England Colonies: Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, and Rhode Island

Farming:

Farming in the New England colonies was a challenge. Due to the cold, long, and harsh winters, the growing season was very short. The soil was also rocky, so farmers had to take all the rocks out of the ground before planting. Due to these shortcomings, the farmers in the New England colonies only farmed enough for their family, themselves, and their farm animals.

Slavery in the New England Colonies:

Due to the lack of good farming areas, slaves were not needed as much as the other colonies because there was no labor for slaves to do. They were expensive to feed because of the lack of farmland. Most of the slavery in the New England colonies was in large cities, and most people were indentured servants.

Making a Living:

New England was not a good place for farming. The farmers only farmed enough for themselves, so the people in New England had to find other ways to make money. The main ways to make money in the 1700 New England colonies was to:

- Build ships
- Whaling (catch whales for their oils, etc.)
- Fish
- Blacksmith

Whaling was a very successful way to make a living if you were able to work well together and catch whales often. If you did catch a whale, you could get a very profitable item: Whale oil. Whale oil was used to make commodities such as soap and candles.

Building ships was also a good way to make money. The reason it was a good money maker for the New England colonies is because you needed ships if you were a sailor, fisherman, whaler, or a traveling merchant. These colonies also built ships for England themselves.

Fishing was a very good way of making money in the New England colonies. Due to the lack of good farming soil, fishermen were able to get enough fish to sell and make a living. This made life easier for everybody, because if there was no food, nobody would be able to eat.

Religion in the New England Colonies:

The Anglican Church and the Puritans were starting to lose their power in the New England area in the 1700's. Because of the large groups of different backgrounds coming from many different areas from many different areas, there were many new religions mixing together in the colonies. Due to the loss of power, the church had almost no say in politics.

Blacksmithing was also a great way to make money. Blacksmithing includes making silverware, locks, and just about anything with iron or metal in the 1700's. The items blacksmiths made often had to do with houses and items to improve your life at home.

There weren't always enough people for labor forces in the colonies, so many men had to work more than one job. Often, people would have to get together to build more houses, leaving the women and children to do the chores and cook.

New England

1. Which colonies were in New England?
2. How did the people make a living?
3. Why was farming a challenge in the New England colonies?
4. Why did the New England region not have slaves?
5. Describe the land.

The Middle Colonies: New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, and New Jersey

Farming:

There was relatively good climate in the Middle colonies. Having this and good soil helped the farming greatly. They could produce more crops, causing the farmers to be able to sell their extras for money, but still not as much as the Southern colonies could. Even though the Middle colonies had decent climate and soil, farming was not the main way to make money and a living.

The "Breadbasket Colonies"

The Middle colonies were not known for their farming as well as they were known for their mills and bread. On average in the Middle colonies, people ate about 1 pound of bread per day. The mills used to produce the bread were powered by rivers to crush the grains. This was very helpful if you wanted to live in the Middle colonies. The main foods you got out of these grains were pancakes, waffles, and pretzels.

Jobs in the Middle Colonies

There were a variety of jobs in the Middle colonies. Some were different than those in the New England and Southern colonies because of the variety of climate and needs for the different areas. The main jobs for the Middle colonies were:

- Farmers
- Tailors
- Glass blowers
- Silversmiths
- And Brick makers

Just about all the colonies needed farmers. They were a very important source for food for all the colonies, even if farmers couldn't get very much crops. The main items for the farmers in this area were any type of grain, meats, and some corn. The Middle colonies had a mild climate, rich soil and a long growing season.

Mid-Atlantic (Middle)

1. Which colonies were in the Mid-Atlantic?
2. What was the land and climate like?
3. What is the Middle Colonies known as?
4. How did the people make a living?

The Southern Colonies: Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland

Farming:

The Southern colonies were the best place to farm. They had hot, humid summers, and mild winters, perfect for a year round growing season. They had an excess (a lot) of crops, leading to cash crops. Farming was the best source of food for the Southern colonies. There were 3 main cash crops:

1. Tobacco
2. Rice
3. Indigo

Indigo was probably the best money-maker for farmers in the Southern colonies. It was the main source of blue dye, and was discovered by Eliza Lucas. There was only 1 large city, because of large farms called plantations that were owned by very wealthy families. Normally, these plantations were self-sufficient, and almost ran like a small town themselves.

Slavery:

Slaves were a big part of the plantations. Since the land was in such large amounts, there needed to be more than a simple family to run it, so the colonies looked to African Americans. Since African Americans were looked down at as lesser being than the colonists, they served the purpose of a slave. They worked for about 15 hours a day, and lived in small 1 room cabins. These cabins were normally in the low-lying areas that were useless to the family because it flooded. Despite all these hardships, these people were able to maintain their culture.

Slaves on Strike

The slaves were not dumb like the colonists thought they were. Since they were treated so poorly, the slaves started to find ways of avoiding work. They would break the tools, which were necessary for the farming, worked very slowly, and messed up purposely. Some even revolted, and ran away. This caused many laws to be passed so they could not plan attacks and escapes.

South

1. Which colonies were in the South?
2. What type of farms did they have in the South and what would they grow?
3. What was a slave?
4. Describe some of the bad conditions the slaves endured.
5. How would the slaves rebel or fight back against their owners?
6. What is the difference between a slave and an indentured servant?