

Comparing the Three Colonial Regions

Grade: 5 **Subject:** Social Studies (early United States) **Time:** ~45 min core + ~15 min extension **Work mode:** Independent · pencil only Social Studies

Start Here

This is a **paper reading activity**. You will read three short summaries, look at a map and a table, and answer with a **pencil**. You do **not** need a computer or a book — **everything you need is in this packet**. Work by yourself. Write in complete sentences when a question asks you to explain. If a question is hard, skip it, keep going, and come back. You may read the passages quietly aloud to yourself.

Start Look & Notice 5 min

Warm up before you read. A **region** is a group of places that share things, like weather or land.

1 Look at the map in the Build section (Figure 1). Write **one thing you notice** about where the three regions are.

2 People long ago used the land around them to live. Name **one way** weather or land might change how people work. (Guess in your own words.)

Build Read the Region Profiles 10 min

New England Colonies (written for this packet)

The New England region was in the far north, near the cold Atlantic coast. Winters were long and cold, and the soil was rocky and hard to farm. Because big farms were difficult, most families grew just enough food for themselves on small farms. Many people turned to the sea instead. They caught fish, hunted whales, built ships, and traded goods in busy port towns. People often lived close together in small towns.

Type: original region summary · Region: New England (north)

Middle Colonies (written for this packet)

The Middle region sat between the north and the south. It had milder weather and rich, flat soil. Farmers grew so much wheat and other grain that this area was called the "breadbasket." Wide rivers helped people move crops to market. Busy port cities grew and traded many goods. People came from many different countries to live here, so the towns were mixed and lively.

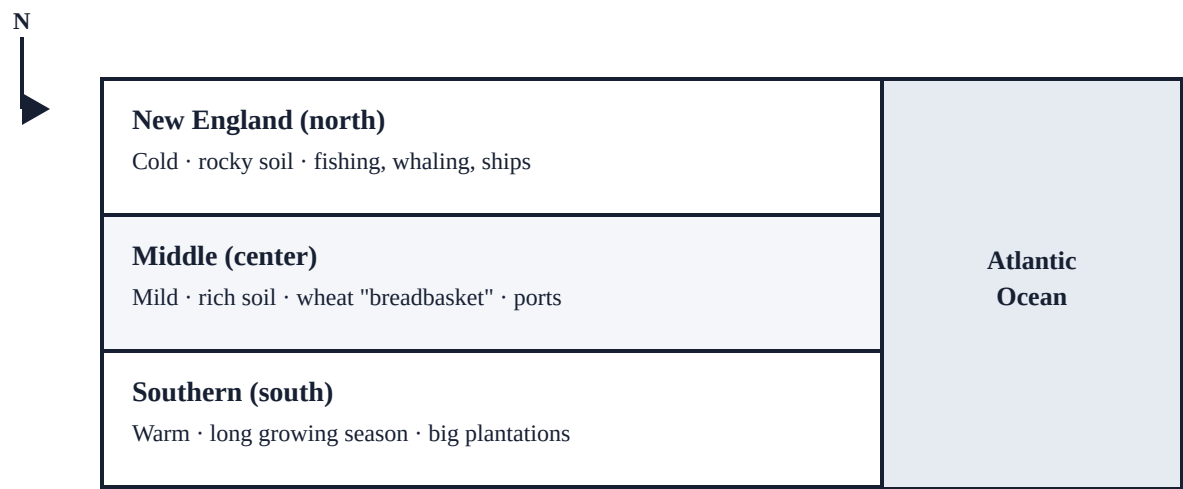
Type: original region summary · Region: Middle (center)

Southern Colonies (written for this packet)

The Southern region was in the warm south. It had hot weather, a long growing season, and rich soil. This let people grow large crops like tobacco and rice on very big farms called plantations. Much of the hard field work on these plantations was done by enslaved people, who were forced to work and were not free. Because farms were large and spread out, people lived far apart, and there were fewer big towns.

Word Bank

- region
 - a group of places that share things, like weather or land.
- geography
 - the land, water, and weather of a place.
- climate
 - the usual weather of a place over time.
- soil
 - the top layer of ground that plants grow in.
- colony
 - a place ruled by a faraway country.
- plantation
 - a very large farm that grows one main crop.
- port
 - a town by the water where ships load and unload goods.
- fact
 - something you can check and show is true.
- opinion
 - what a person feels or likes; not proven true.



Not to scale — a simple drawing to show north-to-south order

Figure 1. A simple map of the three colonial regions along the Atlantic coast, from north (New England) to south (Southern). The map is black on white so it reads clearly in grayscale. It is not to scale.

Table 1 — Comparing the regions (written for this packet)

Region	Climate & land	Main way people made a living	Towns
New England	Cold; rocky soil	Fishing, whaling, shipbuilding, trade; small farms	Small towns close together
Middle	Mild; rich, flat soil	Growing wheat and grain ("breadbasket"); trade at ports	Busy port cities
Southern	Warm; long growing season	Large plantation farms growing tobacco and rice	Few towns; people spread out

Type: original comparison table · Use it with the map to answer the questions.

Apply Read the Map & Table 20 min

3Map reading. Using Figure 1, which region is **farthest north**? Which region is **farthest south**?

Farthest north: _____

Farthest south: _____

4Table reading. Use Table 1 to fill in the blanks.

- a) The region known as the "breadbasket" is the _____ region.
- b) The region with big plantation farms is the _____ region.
- c) The region where many people fished and built ships is _____.

5Compare. Use the profiles and Table 1.

One way all three regions were alike:

Two ways the regions were different from each other:

6Cause and effect. Pick **one** region. Explain how its **geography** (its land, weather, or water) affected **how people made a living** there. Write 2–3 sentences.

Sentence starter: "In the _____ region, the _____ meant that people _____."

7Fact or opinion? Write **F** for a fact you can check in the packet, or **O** for an opinion (what someone feels or likes).

- _____ a) The New England region had cold weather and rocky soil.
- _____ b) The Middle region was the best region to live in.
- _____ c) Southern plantations grew crops like tobacco and rice.
- _____ d) Ships are more exciting than farms.

8Check the claim. A student says: *"The land and weather were the same in all three regions."* Does the packet support this?

- Yes — the packet says all three had the same land and weather.
- No — the packet shows cold rocky land in the north, mild rich soil in the middle, and warm land in the south.
- The packet does not talk about land or weather at all.

Explain your choice using one detail from a profile or Table 1:

Explain Claim–Evidence–Reasoning 10 min

Question 9. Pick two regions. How was the way people made a living different in those two regions, and why? Write a **claim** naming your two regions and how they were different, give **two pieces of evidence** from the profiles, map, or Table 1, then explain your **reasoning** (how geography helped cause the difference).

Sentence stems you may use: "In _____ people mostly _____, but in _____ people mostly _____." · "One piece of evidence is... (from a profile / the map / Table 1)." · "A second piece of evidence is..." · "This happened because the land and weather were..."

Claim
Evidence (two pieces)
Reasoning

Close ACE Wrap-Up 5 min

Articulate

In your own words, tell a friend what a **region** is.

Connect

Name one place in this packet (the map, a profile, or Table 1) that shows geography changing how people lived.

Extend

Think about where **you** live. Name one way the land or weather changes how people work or play here.

Continue Early Finisher optional • ~15 min

If you finish early (no new materials needed):

Which region fits the job? On the back of this page, match each worker to the region that fits best, and tell **why** using the packet: (1) a **fisher** who catches fish and helps build ships, (2) a **wheat farmer** who ships grain from a busy port, (3) a farmer who grows **tobacco** on a very large warm farm. For each one, name the region and give one reason from a profile, the map, or Table 1.

Turn in: Hand in this whole packet with your name, class, and date filled in. Make sure questions 1–9 and the ACE box are answered. The early-finisher matching is optional, but turn it in too if you did it.

G05_SOC_ColonialRegions_01 — Comparing the Three Colonial Regions Student Packet