

## Chapter 5 Colonial Life Varies From Region to Region (1607-1763)

### Section 1 – How did the colonists live in New England?

A). Geographic conditions made farming difficult.

- Poor soil and harsh climates made farming difficult
- Planting season was short and only a few kinds of crops could be grown
- In time, many people traded or became merchants

B). New England towns develop.

- New Englanders live close together for 2 reasons:
  - 1). Good roads did not exist yet
  - 2). Protection from Native American attacks
- New England towns were built around a common. This was an open field where cows grazed and around which they built their church, town hall and school.

C). Fishing grows in importance.

- Excellent for fishing and whaling because of its many protected natural harbors.
- Because of this geographic advantage, many New Englanders turned to fishing and whaling as their livelihoods.

D). Trade grows in New England.

- The fishing industry gave rise to other trades such as: shipbuilding, lumbering and barrel making.
- With the growing number of skilled workers and businesses, New England became a center for trade by the 1700's.

E). Women play a vital role in New England.

- Worked hard on colonial farms
- Raised the children
- Took an active role in church life
- In some cases they took jobs as servants, weavers, school teachers, and ran shops and inns.

F). Blacks in New England have limited freedom.

- Slavery was legal in New England, but not many New Englanders owned slaves.
- More free blacks lived in New England than in any of the other colonies.
- Free blacks became merchants, soldiers, printers and carpenters.

G). Puritan religion is important in colonial New England.

- The Puritan leaders wanted the colony at Massachusetts Bay to be a model for other Christians.
- Religion was the center of Puritan life. They were required by law to attend church services. Failure to follow the laws resulted in harsh punishments.
- The Puritan system of laws eventually led to a hunt for witches. In Salem, Massachusetts 1691-1692 hundreds of people were accused of witchcraft.
- Puritans taught their children to read so they could learn from the Bible. The children usually learned from a hornbook, which contained the alphabet and Christian prayers.
- Puritan influence declined by the 1700's, but experienced a Great Awakening between 1720 and 1750.

## Chapter 5 section 2: What was life like in the Southern Colonies?

### A). Social groups in the South

- Among the white colonists in the South there were three main groups: wealthy landowners, small farmers and those who did not own land.
- Planters owned large plantations and lived a wealthy lifestyle. They were also referred to as the aristocracy. Plantation life depended on slaves.
- The three main crops of the south were tobacco, rice and indigo.
- Plantations were located on a rich flat coastal plain called the Tidewater.

## Chapter 5 section 3: What was life like in the Middle Colonies?

### A). Farming thrives in the Middle Colonies

- Large farms were prominent due to large amounts of fertile land. There were long rivers to serve as highways and relations with the Indians were good.
- The cash crops were grains such as: wheat, barley and rye. As a result, they were referred to as the breadbasket colonies.
- The two centers for trade were Philadelphia, on the Delaware River, and New York, on the Hudson River.
- Exporting was very common due to poor roads.

### B). Many people make the middle colonies home.

- Known as the melting pot since people of so many different backgrounds lived there such as: Dutch, Swedes, Scotch-Irish, Scottish, Welsh, French and Jewish.
- It was also home of several religious groups such as: Quakers, Jews, Catholics and Protestants.

### C). A few colonists oppose slavery.

- Slavery was legal, but not many farmers needed slaves since grain farming required less workers than plantations in the south.
- In 1688, Quakers drew up the earliest American protest against slavery.