

# **New England Colonies**

**Mid-Atlantic  
(Middle)  
Colonies**

# **Southern Colonies**

## Relations with Native Americans

In the early years of colonization in this region, the English were greatly outnumbered. The relationship between the Puritans and the American Indians was somewhat friendly based on trade and diplomacy. Early colonists relied on the American Indians for their survival. However, the Puritans viewed the natives as heathens who needed to be saved from their sinful ways.

Conflicts increased as the English population increased. A series of violent wars occurred. King Philip's War was an early, bloody conflict between the English and local tribal groups resulting in large areas of southern New England opening to English settlement. In Connecticut, the English settlers won a decisive, but controversial, battle in the Pequot War. The war resulted in 400 Pequot men, women and children when the fort was attacked and burned by colonists.



## Relations with Native Americans

The Algonquian and Iroquois were the two major American Indian language groups that resided in this region. The American Indians were friendly and welcomed trade with the colonists in the beginning. The tribes taught the colonists about the rivers that flowed through the colonies and the trails known only to the natives. Since the colonists relied upon their American-Indian friends for trade, the natives were not a target of war, as was often the case in other English colonies. Pennsylvania, in particular, treated the American Indians with more respect than other colonies, as evidenced by Penn's insistence on compensating the natives for their lands.

Relationships did not remain good for long. With the rapidly rising population among the colonists, the land became more and more desired, settlers moved westward with little regard for the natives, encroaching on their lands – despite treaties that had been signed.



## Relations with Native Americans

Relations with American Indians in this region began peacefully. However, as more colonists arrived and encroached further into native lands, the relationships became strained and sometimes violent. Once the growing of the cash crops of tobacco, rice, and indigo proved highly profitable in the mercantilist system, more and more colonists came to the region seeking economic opportunity. As the population grew in this region, so did the need for more land. The colonists needed or perhaps more accurately wanted the American Indians' land for crop cultivation. Tensions between colonists and American Indians increased.



# GEOGRAPHY

The geography of this region consisted of mountains thick with trees, rivers and poor, rocky soil that was difficult to farm and unsuitable for crops. The geography and climate impacted the trade and economic activity for the people who settled here. Settlers turned to other ways to make a living. They used the water to power sawmills and grain mills. Excellent harbors in this region supported trade and encouraged shipbuilding. The ocean became a source of great wealth.

The close proximity of settlers to American Indians caused problems for the colonists. As the colonists continued to encroach on the lands of the native inhabitants, this was often met with resistance or revenge.



# GEOGRAPHY

The environment greatly impacted the way colonists went about their daily lives and made a living in this region. The river systems and good harbors shaped the development of the region. The Hudson and Delaware Rivers were highways to the interior of North America. Furs acquired from American Indians through trade for Europeans goods were transported to coastal towns.

Farmers used the rivers to ship agricultural goods to markets in other colonies and Europe and to access manufactured goods imported from Europe. New York and Philadelphia harbors allowed this region to become the major commercial hub for all of the American colonies. The geographic position of these colonies united the American coastline under English control.





# GEOGRAPHY

**This region enjoyed warm climate with hot summers and mild winters. The soil was perfect for farming and the growing season was longer than in any other region resulting in strong agricultural producing colonies. Deep rivers and the distance of the fall line from the coastal region allowed farmers inland to ship tobacco, indigo, corn and rice directly to Europe.**

**Subsistence farms developed north of the fall line. The backcountry further inland was where most colonists settled. These farmers grew what their families needed with any surplus used to purchase necessities. Most commercial farms developed south of the fall line and grew primarily high yield, labor intensive cash crops. Therefore, slave labor was more common south of the fall line.**



# ECONOMY

The colonies in this region were the farthest north with long winters, a much colder climate and poor, thin, rocky soil. However, this region was heavily forested and near the ocean. Colonists used these natural resources to develop a thriving shipbuilding industry. Along the coast, many colonists made their living fishing and whaling. Many merchants were established in this region. Ships from this region transported the colonial goods along the trans-Atlantic trade route.

Unlike the Southern Colonies where economic gain was the primary reason for settlement, this region developed initially to escape religious persecution. Both the Calvinists and the Puritans left England over disagreements with and increased persecution from the Anglican Church. Although the Puritans came to North America seeking religious freedom, they were not tolerant of those who did not adhere to their religious view.



# ECONOMY

The colonies in this region were initially founded as a money making venture. The Dutch settled the colony of New Netherland in 1614. The colonists made good use of the excellent harbor and river systems that allowed for transporting goods toward the coast.

Business and trade in this region were driven by agriculture. Known as the breadbasket of the colonies, this region had a good climate and excellent soil, well equipped to produce more crops than needed by the land-owning farmers. These colonies were a bridge between the large-scale farmers of their southern neighbors and the merchants of New England.

In the fast growing cities of New York, Philadelphia, and Baltimore, shipbuilding, lumber production, and other crafts soon emerged to become major industries. Workshops were common in the towns, and many people built shops and stores onto their homes. A variety of goods were available. This region was known for its cultural and religious diversity.



# ECONOMY

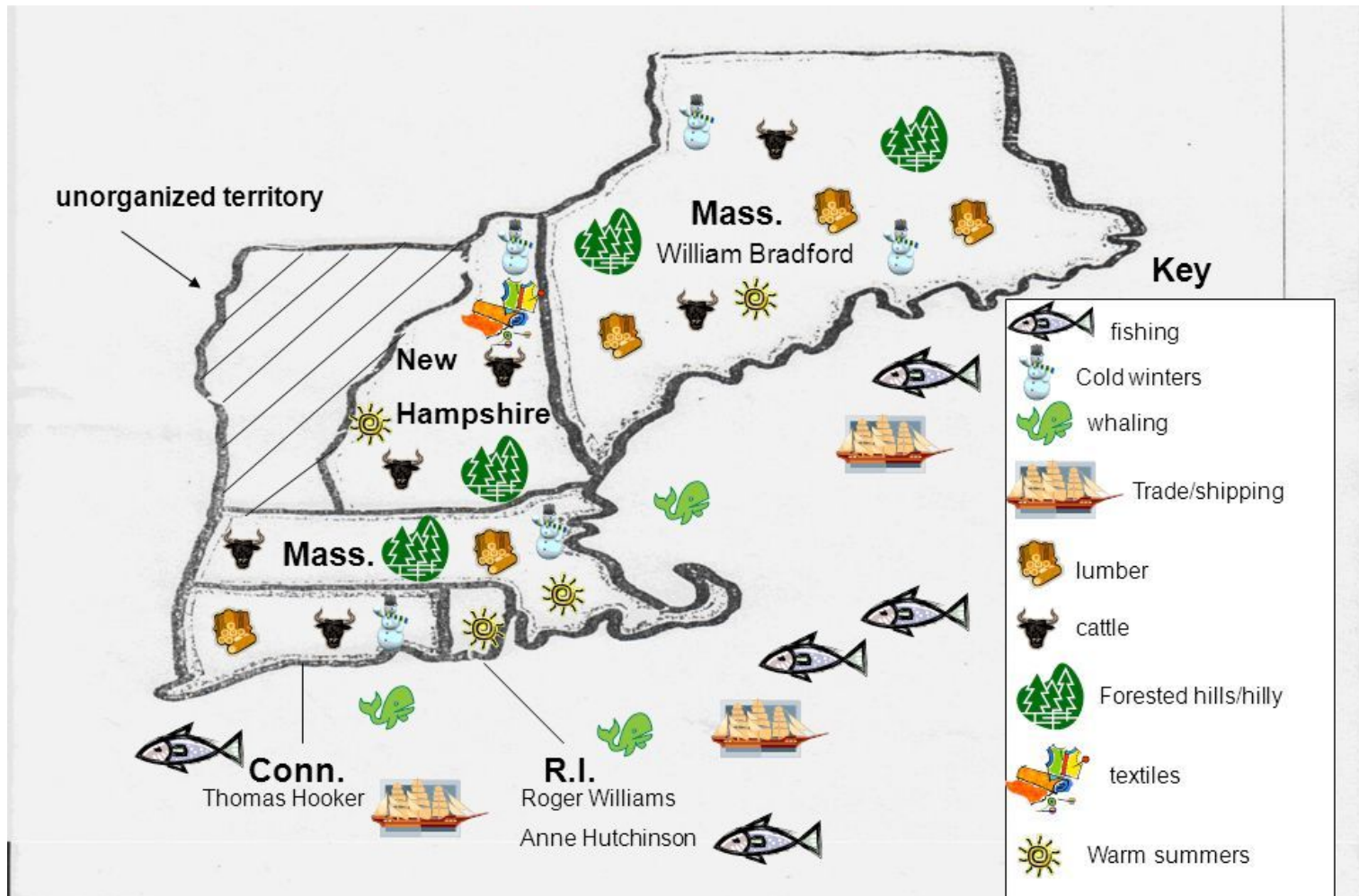
In this region, life was all about business. Large plantation owners used slave labor to grow profitable crops like tobacco, rice, and indigo. Production on this large scale made many plantation owners wealthy.

Slave trade brought slaves over through the Middle Passage of the Triangular Trade from Africa to America. Most were kidnapped from their homes and stripped of their families and identities. Conditions aboard the packed ships were horrific with around twenty percent of the enslaved Africans not surviving the journey.

As plantations prospered, the demand for workers increased. When the Virginia Company founded Jamestown in 1607, there were no African slaves. By 1700, there were thousands of slaves supporting the region's agriculturally based economy.



# Map of the Region





# Map of the Region



## Key

	cold winters
	ship building & shipping slaves
	lumber
	cattle
	iron
	warm summers
	Forested hills/hilly
	fishing
	large farms

# Map of the Region

