Fitzgerald

Characteristics of Middle Colonies

Characteristics of the Middle Colonies

* Physical Geography
  + Longer growing season
  + Fertile soil – suited to grain
* Economic Activity – Commercial farming
  + Farmer and his family work the land,

sometimes with hired hand

* grow large fields of one crop to sell for a profit
* also feed self from farm
  + Main crop - grains - mostly wheat
    - called “breadbasket”
    - Mills grind grain into flour
      * export flour to other regions
      * colonists eat a loaf of bread a day
* Where People Live
  + Large farms with villages
  + Cities – Philadelphia, New York
* People – great diversity
  + English - largest group
  + Germans – next largest
  + Also Dutch, Scots-Irish, Scandinavian
  + Africans -
    - Some enslaved,
    - Some free - worked to pay for freedom

Characteristics of New England

Physical Geography

* Rocky coastline – natural harbors
* Some of world’s richest fishing and whaling grounds
* Forests
* Soil – thin and rocky
* Long winter
* Hills and low mountains with narrow plains along Atlantic coast

Farming

* Subsistence farming

Where people live

* Towns

Economic Activity - Tied to sea

* Merchants – involved in shipping and trade
* Lumbering
* Shipbuilding
* Whaling
* Fishing

People

* Founded by Puritans
* Mostly English

Characteristics of the Southern Colonies

Physical Geography

* Warm and humid
* year-round growing season
* Tidewater - coastal lowland with swampy areas
* Piedmont - area of rolling foothills in between coast and mountains

Economic Activity/Farming –

* Tidewater - plantations–
  + Crops – tobacco, rice, sugar cane, indigo, later cotton
  + Crops required much labor - Slaves used as profit-producing labor
  + Work not done by owner
* Piedmont and Backcountry – small, subsistence farms
  + People must also hunt and gather to feed family

Where People Live -

* Plantations and subsistence -
  + self-sufficient - produce everything themselves
  + so few villages or towns develop
* Only city – Charleston - small

People

* Almost no middle class
* Planter Class -
  + small part of population
  + holds all political and economic power
* Most Southerners are subsistence farmers
* Africans are enslaved