Chart of Characteristics of Colonial Regions

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|  | Physical Geography | Farming | Economic Activity | People | Where People Live |
| New England | * **Short growing season** * **Thin, rocky soil** * **Low mountains and hills** * **Narrow coastal plain** * **Harbors** * **Best fishing ground in the world** * **Forests with trees for ship building** | * **Subsistence farming – enough for family and a bit left to trade** | * **Fishing** * **Whaling** * **Lumbering** * **Ship Building** * **Trade** - merchants buy and ship goods to other colonies and England to sell for a profit | * Pilgrims – small group there by mistake * **Puritans** –   + **professionals (merchants, lawyers, and land owners)**   + **want to purify the Church of England - ex. all read Bible in English**   + Have **joint stock company** and a **charter**   + Come with 11 ships that travel constantly back and forth   + **Plan to self-govern** – **town meeting, town chooses a representative to the legislature, legislature choose the governor**   + **Want to be a model – a “City upon a Hill”** | **Towns**   * **Each church given town** * **Church is also meeting house** * **Town Square - Church/Meeting house and shops along square** * **small farms circle town** * Self-governed, send rep to legislature through town meeting * New town forced to form when one church/town gets to large |
| Middle | * **Longer growing** * **Fertile soil** – great for growing **grain** * **Plains in the east** | * **Commercial, cash-crop farms** * **especially grain**, known as the breadbasket – sold all over colonies and in Europe * **farm also raised all the food the family needed** | * **Farming - cash crops** (raised and sold for money, not personal use)   + **especially grain, known as the breadbasket – sold all over colonies and in Europe** * **Milling**   + Water-powered mill that ground grain into **flour**   + **average colonist ate 1 loaf of bread/day** * **Trade - Merchants export cash crops and import manufactured goods** | Great **Diversity** - made its people tolerant   * **English - largest, 30%** * **Germans - next largest** * Also **Dutch, Scots-Irish, Irish, Scottish, Welsh, Swiss, Swedish, French and African**, * Diversity caused by Quakers, who believe all people are equal, and the Dutch seeking settlers from all over Europe | * **Large farms with villages nearby** where there was a church, a general store, a black smith, a mill * **Cities fed by cash crops – Philadelphia and New York** |
| South | * **Good soil** * **Year-round growing season** * **Tidewater region - an area of plains in the east** * **Piedmont region - an area of hills (foothills) in the west** | **Plantation Farming – in Tidewater**   * **Huge farms** * **Commercial, cash-crop farms**   + Grow **crops that require a lot of labor -Turn to slave labor**     - the crops are so unpleasant to work that free labor is difficult to get and unreliable, as workers often quit   **Subsistence Farming –** where soil/land is not good enough for plantations, often in Piedmont | **Cash-crops –**   * **rice, indigo, tobacco** (in Virginia only) * Later (1790s) cotton * **Exported to England by New England merchants**, who are also bringing the slaves | * **Planter Class -**    + **Very small part of population**   + Think one white family on huge plantation   + **Very powerful – control all of the wealth of the South** * **Subsistence farmers** * **Slaves** | * **On Farms - plantations and subsistence farms mostly self-sufficient**   + For example - Slaves will make clothes, do carpentry, make barrels, etc. * **Big cities and towns rare** * **few villages** |