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
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| 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**
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| 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**
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