Chart of Characteristics of Colonial Regions

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|  | Physical Geography | Farming  | Economic Activity | People | Where People Live |
| New England | * Long, snowy winter - **Short growing season**
* **Thin, rocky soil**
* **Low mountains and hills**
* **Narrow coastal plain**
* Jagged coastline – **harbors**
* **Best fishing ground in the world**
* **Forests with trees for ship building** – oak and white pine
 | * **Subsistence farming – enough for family and a bit left to trade**
	+ Non-commercial, not cash crop farming
* Small farms around town
 | * **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 –
	+ influential professions (merchants, lawyers, and land owners)
	+ want to purify the Church of England - ex. all read Bible in English
	+ Create a joint stock company and obtain 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 season** than New England
* **Fertile soil** – great for growing **grain** – wheat, oats, barley, rye – will be the “bread basket” of the colonies
* Large areas of **plains in the east**
 | * **Commercial, cash crops farms** (raised and sold for money, not personal use)
* **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)
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* **Milling**
	+ Water-powered mill that crushed grain between heavy stones to **produce flour**
	+ Flour an important product - average colonist ate 1 lb. grain/day
* 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,
* Quakers – A religious group who believed all people (both sexes, all races) were equal in God’s eyes
 | * 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** – needs to be cared for to maintain quality
* Almost **year-round growing season** – sometimes able to get three full crop cycles in a year
* Land divided into two main regions – **the Tidewater region is an area of plains in the east, and the Piedmont region is an area of hills (foothills) in the west**, leading to the Appalachian mountains
* Many smaller rivers - used transport of crops out on barges, most plantations seek a dock on a river
 | **Plantation Farming – in Tidewater*** **Huge farms**
* Grow very labor-intensive crops – **crops that require a lot of labor**
	+ For instance a wheat farm in Pennsylvania can be worked by the family and one hired hand, but a plantation has from 20 to 100 slaves
* **Commercial, cash-crop farms**
	+ But the crops are so unpleasant to work that free labor is difficult to get and unreliable, as workers often quit
		- **Turn to slave labor**
	+ Labor costs are so huge, farms must be huge to show a substantial profit

**Subsistence Farming – where soil/land is not good enough for plantations, often in Piedmont** | Cash-crops –* rice, indigo, tobacco (in Virginia only)
	+ Indigo - good crop for the high ground, deep blue dye
* 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
	+ But very powerful – control all of the wealth of the South
	+ Like a nobility
* 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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