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 |
| 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)   + **especially grain, known as the breadbasket – sold all over colonies and in Europe** * **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 |
| 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 |