



Colonial America

A colony is a place that's settled by a group of people outside their own country, and belongs to or is ruled by that home country.

By the mid-1700s, England had set up 13 colonies along* the East Coast of America. These colonies all had some things in common but they can be divided into three groups that each* had a certain way of life.

- Now let's start in the Northeast : Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Maine

People came mainly* from England for religious freedom, to practise their religion the way they needed. But to raise a family and try to feed them could prove to be difficult and for a few* reasons: the soil was rocky, the climate cold. They could barely* grow more food than their bellies* could hold. So to make money they whaled and fished. From all the lumber* there they built ships. And since they needed to trade, Boston became a port city, that's how they got paid. In New England they had town meetings. In the meetinghouse* that's where people found seating. The men discussed the issues* of the town, and the meetinghouse is where church services went down.

Religion was a major inspiration, and it was integrated in kids' education.

Lastly*, for black people living in New England, some lived free, but they were treated different. And even worse, many were enslaved, doing skilled job*s or housework* for no pay.

**I've got something y' all will want to see, follow me through the 13 colonies
New England, the Middle and Southern, and each region shared traits you'll
discover**

**Some came to get money and make a living, others were forced here to work as
slaves**

The 13 colonies became 13 states.

- Now, in the Middle Colonies there are New York, New Jersey Pennsylvania and Delaware.

They were the most diverse, home to German, French, Irish, Dutch.

And it hurts when we mention blacks some were free, some were slave labourers breaking their backs.

And the climate was milder; it was wild, the wheat and many grains stockpiled. Plus they had factories supplying the people with paper, textiles and iron and big cities like New York and Philly (Philadelphia) had merchants and artisans of all kinds, really.

- Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia: The Southern Colonies.

That's where you'll find a climate that's much warmer than up north, and with rich soil they grew crops of all sorts.

So of course in the Southern colonies, plantations were the base of their economy. Large farms where cash crops were produced, like cotton, rice and tobacco, and they used the labor of African slaves who were taken from their home countries and forced on the plantation. They were beaten and treated as less than human, though the work slaves did kept the economy moving. See, slavery was critical to plantations, but the harm it caused wasn't part of the equation.

1. Watch the video.

2. Read the text and highlight:

- the definition of a colony
- the names of the 3 groups of colonies
- the names of the 13 colonies
- the names of the cities that are mentioned