

Name _____

Date _____

Colonial America - Answer Key

Use the text to answer each question below.

1. The Puritans were the first colonists to come to New England. Across the ocean in England, everyone had to practice the religion of the Church of England. The Puritans were unhappy with this church, and they wanted to change it and practice their religion differently. The King of England was in charge of the church and the government. If the Puritans didn't obey the church, they would have been in danger. In 1630, about 1,000 Puritans set sail for America, looking for a place where they could have religious freedom. They set up the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

Based on the passage, what does it mean if people have religious freedom?

- A. They are in charge of both the church and the government in their country.



B.

They can practice their religion the way they want without danger.

According to the passage, the Puritans were "unhappy with" the Church of England and "wanted to change it and practice their religion differently." However, "if the Puritans didn't obey the church, they would have been in danger," so they set out for America, "looking for a place where they could have religious freedom." These details from the passage show that when people have religious freedom, they can practice their religion how they want without danger.

- C. They get in trouble for practicing their religion the way they want.

- D. They set sail across the ocean and set up a colony.

2. Winters in New England were cold and harsh, and the soil was rocky. Because of the harsh climate and difficult growing conditions, farmers in New England couldn't grow enough crops to sell for money. However, the New England colonies were covered in forests, and the water off the coast was full of fish. So instead, colonists fished and hunted whales. They used the lumber from the trees to build ships. New England became a major center for trading, buying, and selling products. In the port city of Boston, ships came and left carrying goods. The New England colonies sold goods to the other colony regions and to England.

According to the passage, why didn't farming become the main way of making money in the New England colonies?

- A. Farming is not possible in port cities. B. People were too busy building ships.
C. The climate was too harsh. D. There was too much lumber.

The following sentences from the passage support this answer: "Winters in New England were cold and harsh, and the soil was rocky. Because of the harsh climate and difficult growing conditions, farmers in New England couldn't grow enough crops to sell for money."

3. While White colonists in New England came mostly from England, the Middle Colonies were more diverse. They attracted people from many different European backgrounds: Dutch, Scot-Irish, Scandinavian, German, and French. Colonists practiced many different religions. There were Quakers, Lutherans, Mennonites, Presbyterians, and Jews. Some people who came to the Middle Colonies didn't bring their families from Europe. They worked in the region's factories and shipyards. Enslaved African people also lived in the Middle colonies. They had jobs like laborer, servant, driver, and sailor but were not paid.

Based on the passage, a "diverse" country would likely contain _____.

- A. people from many different backgrounds B. people from only one background

According to the passage, "While White colonists in New England came mostly from England, the Middle Colonies were more diverse. They attracted people from many different European backgrounds...Colonists practiced many different religions." Details like "people from many different European backgrounds" and "many different religions" show that "diverse" means "made up of people or things that are different from one another."

- C. factories and shipyards D. people who practice only one religion

4. In the Middle colonies, the climate was warmer, and the soil was better for farming than it was in New England. Colonists could grow more crops and sell them. Farmers stockpiled wheat and grains like barley, oats, and rye. Because of the large supply of grains, the Middle colonies earned the nickname “the breadbasket.” In the Middle colonies, iron, paper, textiles (cloth and fabric), and glass were also produced in factories. Merchants bought and sold goods. Artisans were skilled at making things by hand. They included blacksmiths, who worked with iron, silversmiths, and shoemakers.

What is this passage mostly about?

A. Nicknames that the Middle colonies received



B.

Goods produced in the Middle colonies

The passage describes several ways that goods were grown, produced, and sold in the Middle colonies: farmers grew “wheat and grains like barley, oats, and rye...iron, paper, textiles (cloth and fabric) and glass were also produced in factories...Merchants bought and sold goods...Artisans were skilled at making things by hand.”

C. The types of textiles that the Middle colonies produced

D. The population of the Middle colonies

5. The Southern colonies’ rich soil and warm climate made them good for growing crops. As a result, the Southern economy was almost completely based on farming. An economy is a system for producing, buying, and selling goods and services. In the Southern colonies, farmers could produce many more crops than they needed for their families. They could sell these crops to make a lot of money. These cash crops were grown on large farms called plantations. They included cotton, tobacco, rice, sugar cane, and indigo.

Based on the passage, what is true about the Southern colonies?

A. Religion affected their economy.



B.

The climate affected their economy.

According to the passage, “The Southern colonies’ rich soil and warm climate made them good for growing crops. As a result, the Southern economy was almost completely based on farming.”

C. Small farms there didn’t produce any cash crops.

D. Cash crops were not a big part of their economy.

6. Southern plantations relied on the work of enslaved African and African American people. There were many more enslaved people in the Southern colonies than there were in the New England and Middle colonies. By 1750, enslaved people made up almost half of the population of the Southern colonies. Enslaved people worked long hours in the hot fields harvesting cash crops, powering the Southern economy. They were not paid for their labor. If they made a small mistake, they were often beaten and whipped by the overseer, the person watching over their work. When enslaved women had children, these children were born enslaved. It was also illegal for enslaved people to learn to read and write. The first enslaved people arrived in the colonies in 1619, and slavery didn't end until almost 250 years later.

Based on the passage, which of the following is true?

- A. Only the Southern colonies enslaved people.
- B. The population of enslaved people in the Southern colonies was quite small.
- D. Slavery ended in the Southern colonies by 1750.



- C. Enslaved people were responsible for the success of Southern economy.

According to the passage, "Enslaved people worked long hours in the hot fields harvesting cash crops, powering the Southern economy."