

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

# Colonial America

Learn more about this topic! Each section gives more detail on one of the lyrics from the song. Read each section, and then respond by answering the question or taking notes on key ideas.

1. b'

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.

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Notes

2. b'

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.

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Notes

3. b'

Notes

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.

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4. b'

Notes

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.

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5. b'

Notes

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.

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6. b'

Notes

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.

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