

Lesson 4: The 13 English Colonies

Vocabulary

dissenter a person whose views are different from those held by most people

proprietor an owner

debtor a person who owes money

Geography of the 13 Colonies

The 13 English colonies were in the eastern part of what is now the United States. They lay between the Atlantic Ocean and the Appalachian Mountains. The colonies can be separated into three areas. The first area was the New England Colonies. They were difficult to farm, but they had natural resources, such as trees and fish from the ocean. The second area was the Middle Colonies. These colonies grew a lot of wheat. This is why the area was called “the breadbasket of the colonies.” The Middle Colonies had rivers used for transportation. Farming was also very important in the third area, the Southern Colonies. These colonies grew crops such as tobacco. The area had many rivers.

New England Colonies

Many Puritan settlements were built in Massachusetts during the 1630s. Puritan settlers had to follow the laws of the settlement. Yet not everyone agreed with the laws. Roger Williams was a minister in Massachusetts. He believed that the government should not punish people for their beliefs. Williams was a **dissenter**, or a person with unpopular views. In 1636 Williams founded the settlement of Providence in the colony that became Rhode Island. In Providence settlers could practice any religion. Anne Hutchinson was another dissenter. Puritan leaders forced her to leave Massachusetts. Thomas Hooker was a Puritan minister. He founded the colony of Connecticut. He and his followers wanted religious freedom. They also wanted fertile land for farming.

The Middle Colonies

In 1664 England took over New Netherland. It was renamed New York. The colony of New Jersey was created out of part of New York. In 1681 William Penn began the colony of Pennsylvania. Penn was a Quaker. Quakers believed that people could worship God without going to church. In Pennsylvania many types of people lived together. Part of southern Pennsylvania became the colony of Delaware.

The Southern Colonies

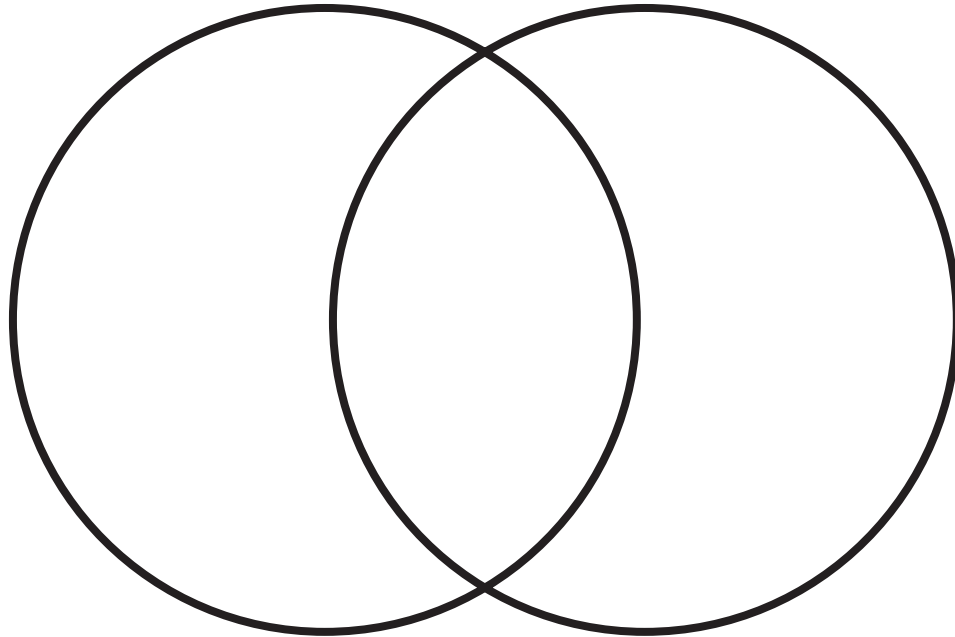
The colony of Maryland was a safe place for both Catholics and Protestants. Maryland was a proprietary colony. This means that the land was controlled by an individual or a group of **proprietors**, or owners. In 1663 proprietors set up the colony of Carolina. James Oglethorpe founded the last of the English colonies, Georgia. It was set up to help **debtors**, or people who owed money. Georgia was north of Spanish Florida. Georgia could help protect the other English colonies if the Spanish attacked them.

Growing Colonies

The English colonies grew quickly. The largest cities were Boston, Philadelphia, and New York.

Lesson 4: Review

1. **Compare and Contrast** Fill in the chart below for two of the three regions—New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies. Compare and contrast based on such topics as geography and reason for founding.



2. Why were the Middle Colonies known as “the breadbasket of the colonies”?

3. Why was Anne Hutchinson banished from Massachusetts?

4. What attracted settlers to Georgia?

5. **Critical Thinking: Decision Making** In which of the Middle Colonies would you have most liked to live? Explain your thinking. Use the decision-making steps on page H5 of your textbook.
