Development of Colonial Regions

Climate, soil conditions, and other natural resources shaped regional economic development.
As you view this slide show, keep these questions in mind:

- How did the economic activity of the three colonial regions reflect their geography and the European origins of their settlers?
- Why was slavery introduced into the colonies?
- How did the institution of slavery influence European and African life in the colonies?
Land Claims in North America

- Green represents British holdings
- Purple represents French holdings
- Orange represents Spanish holdings
- Yellow is the disputed territory

NORTH AMERICA: 1750
British settlement patterns:
- New England: Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island
- Middle Colonies: Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey, Delaware
- The South: Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia
Economic and political institutions in the colonies developed in ways that were either typically European or were distinctively American, as climate, soil conditions, and other natural resources shaped regional economic development.
New England Colonies:

Puritans Praying
New England’s Economy:

- The New England colonies developed an economy based on shipbuilding, fishing, lumbering, small-scale subsistence farming, and eventually, manufacturing.
- The colonies prospered, reflecting the Puritans’ strong belief in the values of hard work and thrift.
- Poor soil, fast rivers, short growing seasons, natural harbors, and a long coast dictated this economy.
New England’s society was based on religious standing.

The Puritans grew increasingly intolerant of dissenters who challenged the Puritans’ belief in the connection between religion and government.

The Salem Witch Trials in 1692 were an example of the intolerance of the Puritans.
New England Dissenters:

- Rhode Island was founded by dissenters fleeing persecution by Puritans in Massachusetts.
- Many dissenters opposed the combining of Church and State.

Anne Hutchinson was one of the Puritan dissenters.
New England’s Political Life

- New England used a form of direct democracy.
- In the town meetings, all members could voice his opinion.
- This was modeled after the Athenian model of direct democracy.
The Middle Colonies:

William Penn; Founder of Pennsylvania as a safe place for Quakers
The Middle Colonies’ Economy

- Developed economies based on shipbuilding, small-scale farming, and trading.
- Cities such as New York, and Philadelphia began to grow as seaports and commercial centers.

Independence Hall, in Philadelphia, became a focal point for American political history!
Middle Colonies’ Society:

- Home to multiple religious groups, including Quakers in Pennsylvania and Huguenots and Jews in New York and Presbyterians in New Jersey
- They generally believed in religious tolerance
- These colonies had more flexible social structures and began to develop a middle class of skilled artisans, entrepreneurs (business owners), and small farmers
Political Life in the Middle Colonies

- The middle colonies incorporated a number of democratic principles - including representative democracy and the rights of Englishmen
Virginia and the South:

Jamestown; founded in 1607-
The first permanent English Settlement
Southern Economy:

- In the eastern coastal lowlands based on large plantations that grew "cash crops" such as tobacco, rice, and indigo for export to Europe.
- Farther inland, however, in the mountains and valleys of the Appalachian foothills, the economy was based on small-scale subsistence farming, hunting, and trading.

A tobacco plant; this export allowed Jamestown to become profitable!
Southern Society:

- The social structure was based on family status and the ownership of land.
- Large landowners in the eastern lowlands dominated colonial government and society and maintained an allegiance to the Church of England and closer social ties to England than in the other colonies.
- In the mountains and valleys further inland, however, society was characterized by small subsistence farmers, hunters and traders of Scots-Irish and English descent.
Indentured Servants:

- The growth of a plantation-based agricultural economy in the hot, humid coastal lowlands of the Southern colonies required cheap labor on a large scale.

- Some of the labor needs, especially in Virginia, were met by indentured servants, who were often poor persons from England, Scotland, or Ireland who agreed to work on plantations for a period of time in return for their passage from Europe or relief from debts.
Rise of Slavery:

- Most plantation labor needs eventually came to be filled by the forcible importation of Africans.
- Some Africans worked as indentured servants, earned their freedom, and lived as free citizens during the Colonial Era, but most remained slaves.
Rise of Slavery:

- Over time larger and larger numbers of enslaved Africans were forcibly brought to the Southern colonies (the “Middle Passage”).

- The development of a slavery-based agricultural economy in the Southern colonies would lead to eventual conflict between the North and South and the American Civil War.

The Middle Passage was the long and deadly journey to plantations.
The African slave trade and the development of a slave labor system in many of the colonies resulted from plantation economies and labor shortages.
The development of a slavery-based agricultural economy in the Southern colonies would lead to eventual conflict between the North and South and the American Civil War.
Political Life in the South

- The large planter class dominated the governing process.
- The ideas of representative democracy were utilized through the House of Burgesses.
- Maintained stronger ties with Britain.
The Great Awakening:

- A religious movement that swept both Europe and the colonies during the mid-1700s.
- It led to the rapid growth of evangelical religions such as the Methodists and Baptists and challenged the established religious and governmental order.
- It laid one of the social foundations for the American Revolution.

Jonathan Edwards (1703-1758) was one of the Great Awakening Preachers.
Common Themes in all colonies:

- The notion of **private property** and free enterprise
- Each colony had some form of **self-government**
- A general dislike for the Mercantile System: that the colonies were to trade **ONLY** with England (outlined in the Navigation Acts)
- A belief in **individual rights** as English citizens