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Review Packet #4 – Unit 2.2: The 13 British Colonies

UNIT RECAP

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| The development of the **13 British colonies** along the eastern seaboard was strongly influenced by the geography of the regions settled and the ethnic makeup of the colonists. Generally, the colonies may be best understood as being divided in the following way: **New England Colonies** (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island), **Middle Colonies** (New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware), and **Southern Colonies** (The Carolinas, Georgia, Maryland, Virginia). While these colony groups had many things in common, they also had their own distinctive features. Colonists brought traditions from their home countries and developed new ways of life in North America as they responded to the unique demands of climate, economics, and belief systems. The following is an overview of the unique characteristics of the 3 different colony groups.  **New England**   * The first colonists were **Separatist Puritans (Pilgrims)**. * They settled in New England to gain religious freedom. * The religious freedom they sought was not readily granted to others outside their faith. * Most colonists grew their own food. * The soil was too thin and rocky and the climate too harsh for the colonists to grow **cash crops**. * They turned to fishing, lumbering, fur trading, and metal working to nourish their economy. * These items were sold to other colonies and to England. * New England colonies also participated in the selling of slaves to the southern colonies. * Most luxury goods had to be bought from England.   **Middle**   * The first colonists were Dutch and settled at the mouth of the Hudson River. * Their goal was to farm in order to make money. * When the English took "New Amsterdam" from the Dutch, they called it New York. * **Quakers** seeking religious freedom settled Pennsylvania. * Land was more fertile than in New England and promoted farming of **cash crops**: corn/wheat/fruit. * An abundance of rivers allowed for transportation of goods between the colonies. * Mills to grind grains developed and supported local economies. * Relationships with Native Americans were better in these colonies than in the others. * This area was also the most ethnically diverse.   **Southern**   * The first colonists were English and settled in **Jamestown, Virginia** in 1607. * Their goal was to find gold in order to obtain wealth as rapidly as possible. * John Rolfe discovered that **tobacco** grew well in the southern climate. * Tobacco and rice became the major cash crops of the southern colonies. * These cash crops were grown on large **plantations** of land that needed large numbers of workers. * Indentured servants were first used. As their numbers dwindled, slaves were used. * A small number of people owned large amounts of land. * Religion and religious freedom were not large concerns for most southern colonists. * In 1619 the House of Burgesses was formed (It was the first example of representative government in America.) |

UNIT RECAP QUESTIONS

1. How are the 13 British colonies categorized?
2. What colonies make up the Southern Colonies?
3. Why did many colonists come to North America?
4. Who originally colonized New York? What did they call it before selling it to England?
5. What were cash crops? Why didn’t the New England Colonies have many cash crops?
6. Which colonies were the most diverse? Why?
7. What is a plantation? What is typically grown there?

PRACTICE ESSAY PROMPT

Compare and contrast the **New England** and **Southern** Colonies. How did they develop differently? Give examples of each difference.

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