

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**The Southern Colonies**

The Virginia Company of London founded the first southern colony. In 1607, it sent about 100 men and boys to Virginia. They named their new settlement Jamestown after King James. The men looked for gold instead of planting crops or building homes. And, the area they chose was swampy. Mosquitoes spread disease. By 1608, most of the men had died. Then, John Smith took charge. Under his rule, those who did not work were left to starve. Slowly, the colony grew successful. There were four other colonies in the South. In 1634, Lord Baltimore founded Maryland for religious freedom. As a Catholic, he had been mistreated in Great Britain. North and South Carolina started as one large colony in 1663. They remained that way until the early 1700s. Georgia was the last colony settled. In 1732, King George II granted the land to James Oglethorpe. He settled it and built forts. This kept the English safe from the Spanish in Florida.

**Cash Crops and Plantations**

The land in the South was fertile, and the growing season was long. Rivers kept the soil moist. Cash crops were grown on the plantations. Virginia's main cash crop was tobacco. The Carolinas and Maryland grew corn and tobacco. Rice proved profitable for South Carolina and Georgia. By the 1740s, South Carolina grew indigo. This plant is used to make a dark blue dye. Planting and tending crops took lots of work. At first the planters used indentured servants. These men and women paid for the cost of their trip to the New World by working on farms. But by the late 1600s, the plantations owners were using slaves from Africa.

**Early Southern Governments**

In 1619, the House of Burgesses became the ruling body of Virginia. The members of the government were chosen by the male landowners. Maryland had a similar elected assembly. In Georgia, Oglethorpe controlled the colonists for 20 years. He made every decision. Then, the British king made the land a royal colony. From then on, the king picked the leaders and council members.

Notes about the _____ Colonies	
What was life like here?	
What hardships did they face?	
What jobs did they have?	
Why did they travel to the New World?	

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## The Middle Colonies

### **Settling the Middle Colonies**

The Dutch and the Swedish settled in the first middle colony. The Dutch named the colony New Netherland. In the year 1664, he said that he would take the land by force. He threatened to start a war. But the settlers gave up without a fight. Then the king gave the land to his brother, James, the Duke of York. James split the land into New York and New Jersey. William started the other middle colonies, Pennsylvania and Delaware.



### **William Penn's Woods**

William Penn belonged to a group known as the Quakers. They said that all people were equal. They did not believe in fighting. The people in Great Britain did not like the Quakers. So Penn wanted to leave. King Charles II had once borrowed money from William Penn's father. Penn asked the king to repay him with land in the New World. In 1681, the king gave Penn the land. People called it Penn's Woods. Today it is called Pennsylvania. Penn let the people there have freedom. They did not have to belong to a church. Men of any religion could vote or hold office. The colony became the center of colonial America. During the late 1700s, important things happened there. Its capital city was Philadelphia.

### **Bread Basket Colonies**

The middle colonies had hills and rich soil. The colonists cleared the land for farms. They grew a lot of grain. The grain was used to make bread. So, people called them the "bread basket" colonies. The farmers sent wheat, barley, oats, and cows to southern colonies and to the British West Indies. These colonies also made iron. Iron was used for guns and tools. Many rivers flowed through this area. This made trading easy. Farmers who lived inland, sent their goods on boats. The boats sailed to the big port cities in New York and Pennsylvania. There, things could be loaded onto sea-going ships.

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