The New England Colonies

| | Massachusetts | New Hampshire | Rhode Island | Connecticut |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|--|
| Founders/Leaders | William Bradford (1620 Pilgrims) John Winthrop (1630 Puritans) | • John Wheelright (1638) | Roger WilliamsAnne Hutchinson (1644) | • Thomas Hooker (1636) |
| Reasons Founded | Escape religious persecution in England (Religious) | Escape religious persecution in Massachusetts (Religious) | Escape religious persecution in Massachusetts (Religious) | Escape religious persecution in Massachusetts (Religious) |
| People | Separatists known as Pilgrims and Puritans | British, Scottish, IrishNative Americans | Europeans Native Americans | Dutch and Swedish Native Americans |
| Climate and Geography | Harbors Rocky soil, heavy forest, fertile land Bitter cold winters, warm and humid summers | Heavily forested Bitter cold winters with mild summers Rocky, fertile soil | Rocky SoilColder Winters, short but humid summers | Hilly and Forested Colder Winters, short but humid summers |
| Economy | Shipping & Ship buildingFurLumberFishing | Fishing, whaling Shipping & Ship building Fur Lumber Rum-making | ShippingSubsistence FarmingLivestock and dairy farms | Fishing, whaling Shipping & Ship building Subsistence Farming Livestock and dairy farms |
| Religious Views | Lives centered around religious worship and the church | Religious freedom | Religious freedom | Religious freedom |
| Government | Town meetings (self-government) Laws based on religious beliefs Only white men in good standing with the church could vote | Representative Assembly | Town Meeting Governor and General Assembly | Town Meeting Fundamental Orders of Connecticut (first written constitution) |

The Middle Colonies

(The Breadbasket Colonies)

| | New York | New Jersey | Pennsylvania | Delaware |
|--------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Founders/Leaders | Dutch Settlers (1624)English (after military take-over) | • Lord Berkley (1664) | • William Penn (1681) | Dutch SettlersEnglish(after military take-over) |
| Reasons Founded | Profit (Economic) | Profit and Trade (Economic) | Escape from religious persecution in England (Religious) | Profit and Trade (Economic) Religious Freedom (Religious) |
| People | Mixed Europeans (ethnic diversity/melting pot) | Mixed Europeans (ethnic diversity/melting pot) | Quakers and other religious groups | Dutch Swedish English |
| Climate and Geography | Harbors Fertile soil but had trees and rocks Hot humid summers, bitter cold winters Moderate growing season | Cold winters and hot, humid summers Longer growing season that New York | Fertile land with heavy forests Hot, humid summers, cold winters Land contains iron ore | Cool winters and mild/warm summers forests |
| Economy | Farmers ("Breadbasket Colonies") • Merchants and tradesmen • Fur • Lumber • Shipping | Fishing No natural harbor so not as much trade as NY Small farms | Farms that produced grains ("Breadbasket Colonies") Dairy cattle Merchants and tradesmen lumber | • lumber • Fishing |
| Religious Views | Religious toleration | Religious toleration | Religious toleration | Religious toleration |
| Government | Governor appointed by the King of England | A royal colony where colonists made their own local laws (self-government) | Political freedom and self-governmentRepresentative assembly | Separate colony supervised by Pennsylvania's governor |

The Southern Colonies

| | Maryland | Virginia | North & South Carolina | Georgia |
|--------------------------|--|---|---|---|
| Founders/Leaders | • Lord Baltimore (1632) | John Smith (Virginia Company 1607) | Eight Lords who were friends with King Charles II (1663) | • James Oglethorpe (1732) |
| Reasons Founded | Religious Freedom for Catholics | Investment to make money | Given as a political gift | New start for debtors who were in prison |
| People | • Catholics | Europeans seeking cheap landAfrican slaves | Europeans Indentured servants African slaves | DebtorsEuropeansAfrican slaves |
| Climate and Geography | Chesapeake Bay was surrounded by fertile land Cold winters, hot and humid summers | Mild winters, hot summers Flat, fertile land Swampy in the east; wooded mountains in the west | Mild winters, hot summers Flat, fertile land Swampy in the east; wooded mountains in the west | Mild winters, hot summers Flat, fertile land Swampy in the east; wooded mountains in the west |
| Economy | Farms that raised grains, tobacco, flaxfishing | crops such as tobacco, cotton, indigo and rice | crops such as tobacco, cotton, indigo and rice | crops such as tobacco, cotton, indigo and rice |
| Religious Views | • tolerant | Church of England | • tolerant | • tolerant |
| Government | • elected representatives | House of Burgesses | • ruled by the King | elected representatives to Common House of Assembly |