**General US History Chapter 3**

**Section 1- Economies of the Colonies**

**economy**- the way goods, wealth, and services are created and used

**export**- to send goods to another region or country

**frontier**- a newly settled or lightly settled area just outside an area of older settlements

The first explorers to reach North America came in search of gold and other riches. However, by the time the 13 colonies were formed, colonists knew that there was little gold to be found along the East coast. Fortunately, as the colonies grew, colonists learned that there was much of value in their new home.

Each region had different climates, land, and natural resources. These differences in geography affected the **economy** of each region. Settlers in New England grew or made most of the things they needed. Most of the settlers had enough food and clothing. They were able to keep their houses warm.

In New England, the soil was rocky and the growing season was short. Settlers learned to farm the land, but the farming was so difficult that most of the farms were small. Although the land was poor for farming, New England did have important **resources**, or things people use, to make what they needed. The great forests and the nearby Atlantic Ocean helped the economy. That is why the lumber, fishing, and shipbuilding industries developed there.

Shipping became important too. Boston, the largest city in Massachusetts, became a .lumber sailed from Boston to England. The ships returned to Boston with cloth, clothing, furniture, dishes, and other supplies.

The Middle colonies had some of the richest farmland of all the regions. The climate was warmer than the climate of New England. Farmers in the Middle colonies had a longer season for growing crops.

Farms in the Middle colonies were usually larger than New England farms. Landowners in the Middle colonies sometimes needed to hire workers to help with planting and harvesting crops. Some enslaved Africans worked on farms in the Middle colonies, but most farm workers were hired by landowners.

Grains such as wheat and rye were important crops. These grains were ground into the flour, and the flour was used to make bread. The Middle colonies were sometimes known as the Bread Colonies or the Breadbasket Colonies. That is because they **exported** so much flour to other colonies and to other countries. Goods from the Middle colonies were shipped from the cities of Philadelphia and New York.

The Southern colonies exported more goods to England than the other regions did. The Southern colonies had two economies. One consisted of large plantations and small farms in the west. Plantations used slaved and the small farms did not. They had the warmest weather and the longest growing season of all the regions. Farming was the most important part of the economy.

*Large Plantations*

Along the coast, white landowners used enslaved Africans to work large plantations. There, the enslaved Africans raised tobacco, rice, cotton, indigo, and other crops for use on the plantation and for sale. Indigo is a plant used to make blue dye. Plantation owners sold crops to other colonies and to England. Charleston, South Carolina, was an important southern port for shipping goods.

At first, plantation owners hired workers to farm the fields along with enslaved Africans. But as the plantations grew larger, the owners wanted more slaves. By the 1700’s, enslaved Africans were doing most of the work on the large plantations of the South.

Africans were brought to America on large ships. They were treated cruelly from the moment they boarded the ships. Africans were crammed in the below deck, as shown in the diagram below. They were so close together they could hardly breathe. Diseases spread. Many Africans died on board ship.

If the Africans tried to rebel, they would be beaten and sometimes thrown overboard. Sometimes, through great effort, the Africans won out. There were more than 100 successful revolts at sea.

The enslaved Africans had no rights. They were considered nothing more than property to be bought and sold. Many slave owners treated the enslaved workers like animals.

*Small Farms*

On the **frontier** farther west, farmers worked small pieces of land to raise food crops for their families and perhaps for sale. Frontier farmers did not use enslaved workers to plant and harvest their crops.

Europeans who arrived in the Southern colonies in the late 1600’s discovered that most of the good farmland on the coast was taken. They moved inland toward the Appalachian Mountains and started small farms there.

*Draw a picture of a large farm and the crops that you would plant there.*

*Triangular Trade*

The economy of the colonies depended on trade with other colonies, with England, and with other countries. Some trade came to be known as **triangular trade** because three separate voyages were involved.

These voyages formed three points of a great triangle on the Atlantic Ocean. One triangular route connected the colonies to West Africa and to the West Indies.

On the first part of the route, ships carried goods from the colonies to West Africa. There, the goods were traded for enslaved Africans. On the second part of the route, ships leaving West Africa carried enslaved Africans to sell in the West Indies. This part of the trip was called the Middle Passage.

On the third part of the route, the enslaved Africans who had not been sold in the West Indies were transported to the colonies in North America. They were then sold in the colonies.

*Complete the Map Study on page 46 “A Triangular Trade Route, 1700’s”*

Women were important workers in the economy of the 13 colonies. Women did all the household jobs, such as sewing, cooking, and cleaning. Some unmarried women worked as shopkeepers, printers, and even shipbuilders. In many families, women worked beside their husbands, planting and harvesting crops. On the frontier, women also had to know how to hunt.

Colonial women had few rights. Women could not vote. When a woman married, she had to give all of her property to her husband.

***Section 2- The Growth of Towns and Cities***

**barter**- to trade a product or service for another product or service

**import**- an item brought into a country or region from another country or region

**common**- an open area shared by all the villagers

Gradually, some of the settlements in the 13 colonies became towns and cities. These towns and cities developed in different ways. As people arrived in the colonies from different countries, they brought their own ways of doing things.

*What are some things that you do different from other people that works for you?*

From town to town, people talked differently, dressed differently, and acted differently. In many larger towns and in cities, people of different backgrounds borrowed from one another.

There were many kinds of towns in colonial America. In New England, each town was a community of people who knew each other well. In the Middle colonies, some towns grew to be large trade towns, where people came to trade goods from miles away. In all the regions, there were port towns. Goods were shipped to and from port towns.

In all the 13 colonies, farmers brought items to town to trade. Some of these items were fruits, vegetables, meat, eggs, quilts, baskets, and other things they had grown or made. People wanted to **barter** products or services.

*Do you think bartering could ever replace money in a society? How about a town? A neighborhood? A family?*

There was not much money in the colonies. England did not allow the colonies to make their own money. Do you think this is fair? Explain and defend your answer.

England also did not allow the colonists to bring English money to America.

As towns grew, people set up shops, sometimes on the ground floor of their homes. Some of these people were barrel makers and shoemakers. A **general store** sold a variety of items, including some **imports**.

Many towns had a gristmill, a place where grain was ground into flour and meal, Some towns also had a sawmill, where logs were cut into lumber.

Most towns had at least one church. In the Middle colonies, towns often had people of many backgrounds. In those towns, there might have been several churches of different faiths.

People in New England built their towns in a special way. The church, the meetinghouse, and the school were built around a **common**. A volunteer army trained at least once a year in the common. Houses were built around the common too. Fields lay just outside the town. There, people raised crops.

Town meetings were held at the meetinghouse. During town meetings, colonists elected town leaders and voted on laws for the town. New Englanders felt they had the right to make their own decisions about government.

As more colonists arrived in the 13 colonies, some port towns became cities. These cities grew quickly. Colonial economy depended on the shipping and trade that took place in cities such as Boston and New York. Philadelphia also grew from a colonial town to a well-organized city. One of the most famous colonists, Benjamin Franklin, had many ideas for making Philadelphia a better city in which to live. Some of this plans included adding street lights, a fire company, and a library.

Colonial cities became centers of learning. The first universities in North America began there. In 1636, Harvard College was established in the city of Cambridge in Massachusetts. In 1693, the College of William and Mary was established in Williamsburg, Virginia, not far from the Jamestown colony. Only young men were allowed to attend college.

*Read “Voices from the Past about Anna Green Winslow on page 51 and answer the questions at the end.*

**Section 3- New Ideas in the Colonies**

**political rights**- rights given to people by the government

**jury**- a group of people who decide whether a person ion trial is guilty or innocent

**mercantilism**- the idea that a nation becomes stronger by building up its gold supply and increasing its trade

**regulate**- to control

**tax**- money that must be paid to a government

As the colonies grew, colonists began to move away from English ways of life. America was far away, separated by an ocean from England. The population in the colonies was made up of people from many different countries, as well as Native Americans. By the middle of the 1700’s, people in the colonies began to think of themselves as different from other English people. Some colonists began to be attracted to new ideas, especially ideas about freedom and equality.

The first settlers came to the colonies for religious freedom. However, by the early 1700’s, religion was not so important to many colonists. Fewer people were members of a church. Religious faith was no longer so important in daily life.

In the 1730’s, some ministers, especially in New England, tried to get colonists to believe again in the importance of religion. These ministers spoke in an exciting way. They said that a person’s belief was more important than following a certain religion.

The ministers tried to awaken a feeling of religion in colonists. This time period became known as the Great Awakening. Many new religious groups formed during this period.

Colonists were also interested in other new ideas. The Enlightenment was a new way of thinking that came from people in Europe. These people believed that knowledge was power. They said that if people used reason, the government and society would improve. They encouraged people to question others and to believe that government should protect “lives and liberty and property.”

What things in your life are worth protecting?

Many colonists began to feel they had the right to govern themselves. They believed they had the same **political rights** as any English person. In England, voters elected people to represent them in making laws. In the colonies, voters also had that right. However, eight of the 13 colonies were ruled by governors who were chosen by the king of England. These men could throw out lawmakers who did not follow English laws. Many colonists believed this was unfair.

People in England had a right to trial by **jury**. Colonists felt they should have that right. Do you feel that this is deserved? Explain and defend your answer.

The colonists wanted to be allowed to sell their products whenever they wished and for the most money. They wanted to make finished goods that they could sell. But English rulers believed in **mercantilism**.

England had established the colonies in North America to make England rich. English rulers passed laws to **regulate** trade in colonies. The English told colonists what goods they could export and import. In most cases, the colonies exported raw materials, such as fur, lumber, and cotton, to England. The English used the raw materials to make finished products which they sold for high prices.

The British also passed laws called the Navigation Acts to regulate trade. These laws said that only English ships or ships made in the colonies could carry goods to and from the colonies. Ships from other countries had to stop in England before going to the colonies. Those ships had to pay **taxes** to England on their cargo. The tax meant that colonists had to pay more money for goods that came from other countries.

In 1760, King George III became king of Great Britain. England was part of Great Britain. Many colonists had been thinking about new ideas of freedom and equality. Some of the colonists began to think about what true independence from Great Britain might mean.