

England's 13 Colonies



Growth of the Colonies

In time, England had 13 colonies along the Atlantic Coast. They developed into 3 different groups: the New England Colonies, the Middle Colonies, and the Southern Colonies.

NEW ENGLAND COLONIES

The Puritans **created** New England. Other religious groups found freedom in these colonies too. For example, the first Jewish settlement in America was in Rhode Island.

The New England colonists lived on small farms. Towns were run by town meetings. The largest city was Boston in the Massachusetts Bay Colony.

MIDDLE COLONIES

Here the Dutch started a colony in New York. In 1664, the English took it. In Pennsylvania, a Quaker leader named William Penn started another colony. The Quakers also had come seeking freedom of religion. Over time, New York City and Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, grew into large cities. Jobs in the cities **attracted** many young people from the farms.

SOUTHERN COLONIES

Many farms in the Southern Colonies were huge. The owners of these **plantations** were rich. Their plantations were like small villages. Most of the things people needed were made there. The workers were African **slaves**. Tobacco was the most important crop in Virginia and Maryland. Plantations farther south grew rice.

TALK AND SHARE With your partner, make 3 lists. Label them with the 3 groups of colonies. In each list, put details about life in those colonies. Talk about your lists.

VOCABULARY

created—built or made

attracted—drew or brought people in

plantations—large farms

slaves—people who are owned and forced to work by someone else

Slavery in America

In the 1500s and later, European merchants entered the **slave trade**. They bought **kidnapped** men, women, and children from merchants in Africa. They sold the Africans in the Americas. Thousands of Africans died during the awful voyage on the slave ships.

The first African slaves to arrive in the English colonies were brought to Jamestown in 1619. In time, slaves worked in all 13 colonies. Most slaves lived in the Southern Colonies, where they worked on the plantations.

Slaves had no rights. By law, they were **property**, not people. Children could be sold away from parents. Slaves could not marry without **permission**. **Cruel** punishments, such as whippings, kept slaves obeying their masters.

Slavery was a terrible evil. It left a permanent mark on American life. Even today, the harm done by slavery is felt in the way people think about each other.

TALK AND SHARE To your partner, explain what the life of a slave was like.

VOCABULARY

slave trade—the business of buying and selling slaves

kidnapped—taken away by force

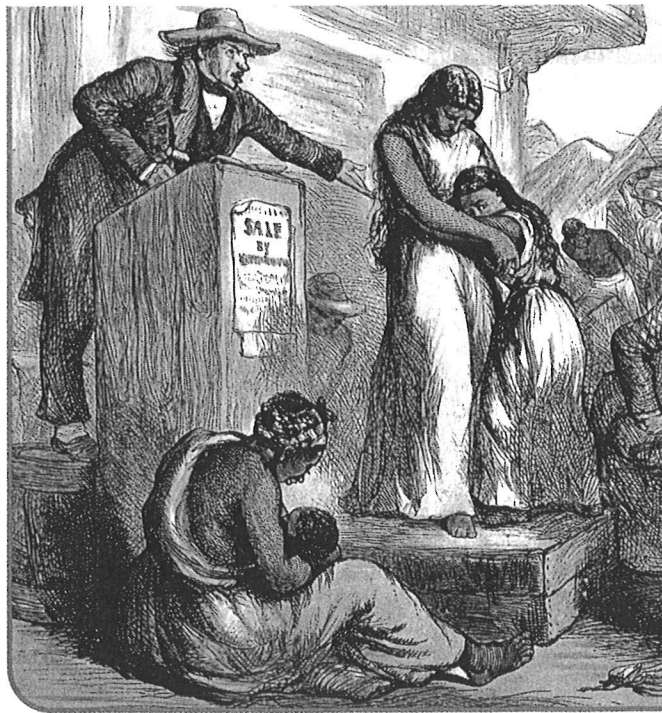
property—something that is owned

permission—an agreement from someone with power

cruel—causing pain and suffering. *Cruelty* refers to the act of hurting others.

Summary

To grow rich, England set up 13 colonies in North America. English people came for wealth, religious freedom, and a better life. Africans were brought as slaves. The United States today is shaped by the ideas the colonists had about freedom and self-government and by slavery.



▲ Slaves for sale



▲ Chains for holding slaves