Economy based on trade.

New England Colonies
Merchant economy and Religion

• Most of the colonists were Puritans who came as families from England seeking religious freedom.
• Large Scale Farming was difficult because of terrain and climate.
• Subsistence Farming was sustainable — small farms that grew enough food to eat, but not to sell for a large profit.

• Many towns grew near communities of small farms with church at center of community. Merchants and skilled laborers thrived in towns.

• Economy based on fishing, shipbuilding, selling timber, and trade. Coastal towns like Boston, New Haven and Newport developed.

Triangular Trade

• Settlers in Colonial America engaged in 3 types of trade.
  – Trade with other colonies.
  – Direct exchange of goods with Europe.
  – The Triangular Trade.

Navigation Acts - 1651

• The Colonies had prospered from trade.
• England wanted to ensure that it prospered as well.
• Designed to protect English system of Mercantilism.
• England had to ensure colonial trade was only with England or at least went through England.
Challenges to English Control

- England had trouble enforcing the Navigation Acts
- Merchants ignored them whenever they could
- Smuggling was very common
- England had particular difficulty preventing pirates from interfering with trade

Middle Colonies

Growth of farms and cities in a climate of tolerance

- Known as “breadbasket colonies” because their climate and terrain was ideal for farming grain
- Mills to process grain grew up along the region’s many rivers
- Natural Harbors at the mouths of rivers lead to growth of port cities that prospered through trade
  - New York City and Philadelphia

Middle Colonies

Growth of farms and cities in a climate of tolerance

- England recruited people from all over Europe to come to the middle colonies
  - Most socially and ethnically diverse region.
- Many different ethnic groups lead to a culture of religious tolerance.
- Quakers believed in equality of all men and women, as well as nonviolence.

Southern Colonies

Plantations and the growth of slavery

- Climate and terrain of the Southern Colonies was ideal for growing cash crops
- Plentiful rivers provided easy transport of cash crops for trade
- Lead to development of Plantation System and Planter class
  - Few rich elite who control Politics and Economy in the south

Southern Colonies

Plantations and the growth of slavery

- Plantation crops were labor intensive
  - Tobacco, rice, cotton, indigo
- Planters originally used indentured servants, but later turned to African slavery
- Plantations were self-sufficient and didn’t rely on stores and merchants for goods
  - Lead to development of few large cities
Commerce in the Colonies

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