

Name

Date

13 Colonies

(Class Example)

After the discovery of the New World, groups of people began journeying to America and forming colonies. Many of these people left their homelands in order to find religious freedom. Some also came to the Americas for a fresh start or simply for more land. The voyage was filled with hardships such as starvation, sea sickness, drowning, and storms. However, colonization of the Americas continued. Eventually, 13 colonies were formed including the New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies.

The New England, Middle, and Southern Colonies consisted of very different climates, geography, economy, religion, and people. For example, rocky soil and a short planting season made it difficult to farm in the New England colonies. The winters in the New England Colonies were also very harsh, and the colonists who arrived there were not prepared. After many months, the colonists were able to make shipbuilding and lumber companies, as well as earn money from trading and fishing. Religious freedom was very important to those who settled in the New England Colonies, such as the Puritans. The Puritans had strict religious beliefs, and their lives revolved around work and prayer. Unlike the New England Colonies, the Middle Colonies had mild winters and warm summers. This allowed the Middle Colonies to have a longer growing season with more sun and rain. Because of the rich and fertile soil, the middle colonists farmed. They generally farmed more than they could eat. This led them to export their extra crops to other cities, giving them another way to earn money. The middle colonists were also very tolerant of one another, especially concerning religion. This was different from the New England colonies, who expected those who settled there to also be Puritans. Another group of colonies was located in the South and they were even more different than the New England and

Middle colonies. The Southern Colonies had hot summers and mild winters which contributed to a growing season longer than any other region. This allowed them to grow cash crops such as tobacco and cotton. In order for the harvesting to be efficient, the south used slaves from sunup to sundown. The use of slaves helped most plantation owners earn a lot of money.

Due to the discovery of the new world, many people traveled across the ocean looking for a fresh start to life. These colonies, the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies were eventually able to be established as a new country.