Name _____ Date _____

Thirteen Colonies Review: New England, Middle and Southern Colonies

Directions: Read the passage and study the table. Then answer each question.

The Thirteen Colonies

Three Regions, Three Ways of Life

By the 1730s, the thirteen British colonies that later became the United States stretched along the Atlantic coast of North America. Historians often group them into three regions: New England, the Middle Colonies and the Southern Colonies. In each region, the land and climate shaped how people made a living.

New England, the region farthest north, had rocky soil and long, cold winters. Most families worked small farms and grew food mainly for themselves. Because farming was hard, many people turned to the sea. They caught fish, hunted whales and built ships from the region's thick forests. Boston became a busy port for trade. Towns often grew up around a church, and town meetings let men of the town vote on local matters.

The Middle Colonies had richer soil and milder winters than New England. Farmers there grew so much wheat and other grain that the region became known as the breadbasket of the colonies. Mills ground the grain into flour, and ships carried it from New York and Philadelphia to other ports. The Middle Colonies were also the most mixed region. Settlers came from the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and other places, and Pennsylvania welcomed people of many faiths.

The Southern Colonies had a warm climate and a long growing season. There, large farms called plantations raised cash crops, which are grown to be sold rather than eaten. Virginia and Maryland grew tobacco, while South Carolina and Georgia grew rice and indigo, a plant used to make blue dye. Plantation owners grew rich by forcing enslaved Africans and their descendants to do the work. Starting in the early 1700s, enslaved people made up more than half of South Carolina's population. Most white Southerners, however, worked small farms.

Slavery was legal in all thirteen colonies. Enslaved people also worked in Northern homes, shops and ports, and some Northern merchants made money from the slave trade. Still, the Southern economy depended on enslaved labor far more than the economies of the other two regions. Trade tied the regions together. Ships carried Southern crops, Middle Colonies grain and New England fish and lumber to Britain, the Caribbean and other colonies.

Comparing the three colonial regions

Region	Colonies	Land and climate	Main ways of making a living
New England	Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Rhode Island	Rocky soil, long cold winters, thick forests	Small farms, fishing, whaling, shipbuilding, trade
Middle Colonies	New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware	Rich soil, milder winters, wide rivers	Wheat and other grains, flour mills, trade
Southern Colonies	Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia	Warm climate, long growing season	Plantations growing tobacco, rice and indigo with enslaved labor; small farms

1. How does the passage organize most of its information?

A. It tells when each colony was founded, from first to last.

B. It argues that one region was a better place to live than the others.

C. It explains the causes of the American Revolution.

D. It describes one region at a time, telling about the land and then the ways people made a living.

2. Why does the passage describe each region's land and climate before the ways its people made a living?

A. Because the land and climate shaped how people made a living, so the passage shows the cause before its effects

B. Because the passage lists the regions from smallest to largest

C. Because each region's settlers cared more about weather than about work

D. Because the land and climate were the same in all three regions

3. Match each kind of land and climate to the way of life it led to, as the passage describes them.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ Rocky soil and long, cold winters
2. _____ Richer soil and milder winters
3. _____ A warm climate and a long growing season

A. Farmers grew enough grain to sell to other places

B. Large farms grew tobacco, rice and indigo to sell

C. Many people fished, hunted whales and built ships

D. Settlers built towns around gold mines

4. Use the table to match each colony to its region.

Write the letter of the matching answer on each line.

1. _____ Rhode Island
2. _____ Delaware
3. _____ Maryland

A. Southern Colonies

B. New England

C. Middle Colonies

5. The passage calls the Middle Colonies the most mixed region. Which detail best supports that description?

A. Farmers grew wheat and other grain.

B. Settlers came from the Netherlands, Germany, Sweden and other places.

C. Mills ground the grain into flour.

D. Ships carried flour from New York and Philadelphia to other ports.

6. Fill each blank with a term from the word bank.

Word bank
mills • town meetings • cash crops • harbors • breadbaskets • plantations

In New England, _____ let men of the town vote on local matters. In the South, crops grown to be sold rather than eaten were called _____, and the large farms that grew them were called _____.

7. According to the passage, how did plantation owners in the South grow rich?

A. They sold fish and whale oil to Britain.

B. They forced enslaved people to do the work of growing crops for sale.

C. They ground wheat into flour in large mills.

D. They earned money as leaders of town meetings.

8. Which sentence from the passage directly compares two regions?

A. "Mills ground the grain into flour, and ships carried it from New York and Philadelphia to other ports."

B. "The Middle Colonies had richer soil and milder winters than New England."

C. "Boston became a busy port for trade."

D. "Most white Southerners, however, worked small farms."

9. Which two statements about slavery in the colonies does the passage support?

☐ A. Slavery existed only in the Southern Colonies.

☐ B. Northern merchants had no part in the slave trade.

☐ C. Enslaved people were paid wages for their work.

☐ D. Slavery was legal in all thirteen colonies.

☐ E. The Southern economy depended on enslaved labor far more than the other regions' economies did.

10. According to the passage, what tied the three regions together?

A. A single government in Boston

B. The same crops grown in every region

C. One religion that every colony required

D. Trade carried by ships between their ports and beyond

11. How does the table present its information about the three regions?

A. It shows how the population of each colony grew.

B. It sets the regions side by side under the same headings, so they can be compared.

C. It lists events in the order they happened.

D. It tells a story about one family in each region.

12. What does the passage say about how most white Southerners made a living?

A. They owned large plantations.

B. They ran flour mills in New York.

C. They worked small farms.

D. They were whalers and shipbuilders.