

Hello, fellow teacher!

Below is your reading passage; I hope it serves you well. Print it out and it's ready to use. Or, if you want to differentiate for struggling students, use the highlight feature on the PDF to annotate what you want the kiddos to focus on.

I named my website and Teachers Pay Teachers store "Teach 'n Thrive" because I truly want to help teachers enjoy their jobs and still have time, energy and brain bandwidth for the other things in life. Hope this helps. Don't forget to check back to the site regularly and see what has been added!

Warmest Wishes,
Joan

If you're interested in an entire done-for-you lesson check out my 3 Day Unit for the American Revolution [here](#)

The American Revolution In 3 Days



Modified Reading Passages
& Activities

If you haven't discovered my word puzzles on the site, there are dozens of them ready for download. See your choices [here](#).

Middle Colonies



The Middle colonies consisted of New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware. As clearly stated in the name, these colonies were located between the southern colonies and the New England colonies in America.

The Middle colonies attracted a diverse group of immigrants from all over Europe. Previously known as New Amsterdam and controlled by the Dutch New York was a major trading port and thus brought merchants from many walks of life. The English, Dutch, Swedes, French, Germans and Irish flocked to the New World. Unlike the Puritan majority in New England, the middle colonies included a variety of religions.

Geography

The temperate climate of the area experiences 4 seasons, but the winters are less harsh than New England's.

There are several large, navigable rivers. The most famous are the Hudson and Delaware Rivers. The rivers created fertile soil that, along with relatively milder winters, is good for farming.



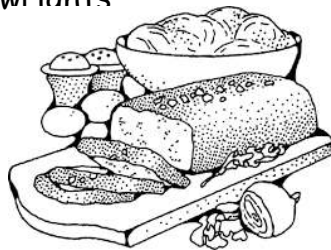
Economy

The Middle colonies had an advantage in their location. Located between the south and New England they were the natural middlemen for trading. Crops and tobacco grown down south would be sold to exporters in New York and Philadelphia.

The natural harbors made trade with Europe a large industry in the middle colonies. All of this trade spawned huge growth in the major cities.

The fertile soil offered profitable opportunities to grow corn, wheat and other grains in abundance. The middle colonies were able to feed all 13 colonies and as a result acquired the nickname of the "breadbasket" of the colonies.

The prosperous and densely populated cities encouraged artisans, tradesmen such as silversmiths, cobblers and wheelwrights



Government

Many of the middle colonies had elected colonial assemblies who made local decisions and laws. They guaranteed freedom of religion and did not allow taxation without representation. These ideals would later fuel the American Revolution.

The Middle Colonies would become the center of the revolution. The Declaration of Independence will be written in Philadelphia, which is also the birthplace of the Constitution.



Life in the Middle Colonies

The teeming economy of the middle colonies created a shortage of workers. This problem was addressed by importing indentured servants. Europeans who could not afford the passage to America would borrow the money in exchange for the promise of free work, normally for several years.

Most people lived on small farms and grew grains such as wheat and oats. Women and girls took care of the house. They were kept busy with tasks such as making butter and soap, quilting and sewing. The men and boys did the planting, harvesting and maintenance of the farm.

Throughout the Middle colonies many ethnic and religious groups could be found. There were Quakers, Huguenots, Lutherans, Catholics, Jews and Presbyterians.

Pennsylvania colony was established by William Penn, a Quaker. Quakers had been persecuted both in England and by the Puritans in the New England colonies. They were a religious group that preferred to segregate themselves and be left in peace with their beliefs and lifestyles. Quakers believed that a person would feel God from within and during prayer would shake and tremble, hence their name.

Life in the Middle Colonies offered many opportunities.

Write a paragraph defending this statement using evidence from the reading passage.

New England had strict Puritan laws with harsh punishments. The Middle Colonies had a much more diverse population and religious tolerance. Who do you think needed a larger police force and why?

Statement of the residents of Flushing, New York, in response to Governor Stuyvesant's order to refuse entry to Quakers. (Excerpt)

Right Honorable [Gov. Stuyvesant],

You have been pleased to send up unto us a certain prohibition or command that we should not receive or entertain any of those people called Quakers because they are supposed to be by some, seducers of the people. ... We desire therefore in this case not to judge least we be judged, neither to condemn least we be condemned, but rather let every man stand and fall to his own Master. Wee are bounde by the Law to Doe good unto all men, especially to those of the household of faith. ...

What is the opinion of the New York residents to Governor Stuyvesant?
