

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](#).

Southern Colonies



The Southern colonies consisted of Virginia, South Carolina, Georgia and Maryland. The very first British American colony, Jamestown, began in the south.

The geography and economy of the south will render life to be distinct from their northern neighbors. The religious makeup of the area was less diverse than the Middle Colonies but more tolerant than New England. Maryland was founded by Catholics, a denomination of Christianity that was a minority at the time.

The economy of the south will necessitate the importation of slaves from Africa. Two centuries later, as abolitionist movements grow this reliance on slave labor will cause a civil war in the young nation of the United States.

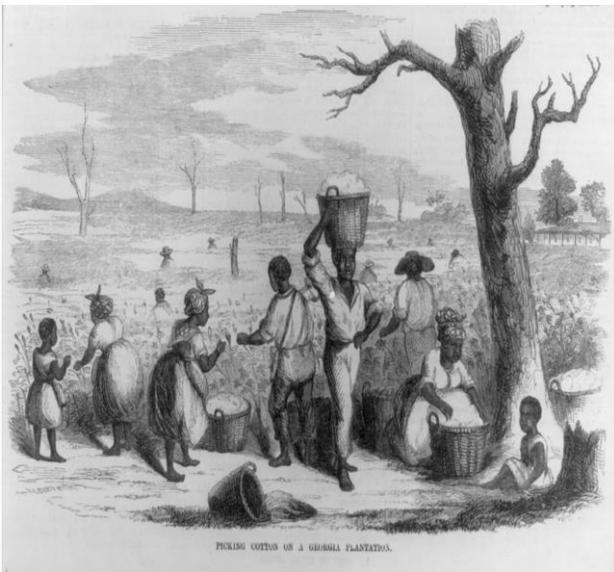
Geography

The climate in the south was more tropical than that of the middle and northern colonies. The summers were long and hot and the winters were mild.

The land consisted of coastal plains and piedmont (gentle hills). The westernmost areas were mountainous. Land in the south was fertile. Waterways included mostly swamps and rivers.

Economy

The economy of an area is dependent upon its geography. The warm climate and fertile land in Southern colonies dictated an agricultural society. Large farms, called plantations were created. The plantations grew cash crops such as tobacco, indigo (a purple dye) and cotton. Cash crops are harvested to be sold for profit, rather than food grown for the owner.



In order to be profitable the plantations needed cheap labor to work the land. The first African slaves were imported as far back as 1630 in Jamestown, Virginia. The practice grew from there. While slavery existed throughout the colonies is predominated in the south.

A triangular trade route evolved between Europe, Africa and the Americas. Europeans would sell manufactured goods, guns and iron in Africa and buy slaves. On the next leg (known as the Middle Passage) slaves were transported to the West Indies and America. Molasses and sugar would be traded. Finally would wood, whale oil and furs would be sold by the Americans to the Europeans.

Government

The southern colonies practiced a democratic form of government.. Their ultimate boss was the King of England, but many decisions were made locally. Virginia's House of Burgesses is an early example of representative government in the colonies. In 1642 this body was formed by electing representatives. In addition, the legislative branch in Virginia was the General Assembly. This meant that Virginia had a bicameral, or two-house governing body. One hundred and fifty years later the founders of the Constitution will also use this model for the United States Legislative branch.



Life in the Southern Colonies

Due to the tropical climate disease was more prevalent in the southern colonies than up north. Malaria and yellow fever, and typhoid were some of the illnesses that felled southerners.

There were large class distinctions between the wealthy and other residents of the south. Large plantation owners had vast land, buildings, slaves and workers. They lived a genteel life of luxury and leisure. Overseers managed the plantations for them. The stereotype of a southern farmer was one of visiting friends and sitting on the veranda of a large home drinking iced tea delivered by servants.

Small farmers, known as yeomen, grew crops to feed their families and existed in a life of subsistence (barely getting by). They lived in small log cabins and everyone in the family worked hard.

Slave life was the most difficult. Slaves were not citizens; they were considered chattel or property and did not have any rights. Some owners treated their slaves badly, enforcing harsh laws and using physical punishment. Many slaves adopted Christianity and blended it with their music and culture from home.

The Colony of Maryland was established by Lord Baltimore and others as a refuge for Catholics. The Church of England or Anglican Church was the official religion and other religions were not tolerated. Many Catholics flocked to Maryland - named after King Charles' wife - the only colony granted to a Catholic.

