Chapter 5 – Colonial Life Varies from Region to Region (1607-1763)

Section 1: How did the colonists live in New England?

A). Geographic conditions made farming difficult

* Poor soil and harsh climates made farming difficult.
* Planting season was short and only a few kinds of crops could be grown.
* In time they became trades people or merchants.

B). New England towns develop

* New Englanders lived close together for 2 reasons:

1). Good roads did not exist yet

2). Protection from Native American attacks

* New England towns were built around a common; an open field where cows grazed, and around which they built their church, town hall and school.

C). Fishing grows in importance

* Although New England was geographically not good for farming, it was excellent for fishing and whaling because of its many protected natural harbors.
* Therefore, many turned to fishing and whaling as their livelihoods.

D). Trade grows in New England

* The fishing industry gave rise to other trades such as: shipbuilding, lumbering and barrel making.
* With the growing number of skilled workers and businesses, New England became a center for trade by the 1700’s.

 E). Women play a vital role in New England

* worked on colonial farms
* raised children
* active role in church life
* In some cases, they took jobs as servants, weavers, school teachers and ran shops and inns.

 F). Blacks in New England have limited freedom

* Slavery was legal in New England, but not many New Englanders owned slaves.
* More free blacks lived in New England than in any of the other colonies.
* Free blacks became merchants, soldiers, sailors, printers and carpenters.

 G). Puritan religion is important in colonial New England

* The Puritan leaders wanted the colony at Massachusetts Bay to be a model for other Christians.
* Religion was the center of Puritan life. They were required by law to attend church services. Failure to follow the laws resulted in harsh punishments.
* The Puritan system of laws eventually led to a hunt for witches. In Salem, Massachusetts 1691-1692 hundreds of people were accused of witchcraft.
* Puritans taught their children to read so they could learn from the Bible. The children usually leaned from a hornbook, which contained the alphabet and Christian prayers.
* Puritan influence declined by the 1700’s but experienced a Great Awakening between 1720 and 1750.

Chapter 5 section 2: What was life like in the Southern Colonies?

A). Social groups in the South

* Among the white colonists in the South there were three main groups:

wealthy landowners, small farmers and those who did not own land.

* Planters owned large plantations and lived a wealthy lifestyle. They were also referred to as the aristocracy. Plantation life depended on slaves.
* The three main crops of the south were tobacco, rice and indigo.
* Plantations were located on a rich flat coastal plain called the Tidewater.

Chapter 5 section 3: What was life like in the Middle Colonies?

A). Farming thrives in the Middle Colonies

* Large farms were prominent due to large amounts of fertile land. There were long rivers to serve as highways and relations with the Indians were good.
* The cash crops were grains such as: wheat, barley and rye. As a result, they were referred to as the breadbasket colonies.
* The two centers for trade were Philadelphia, on the Delaware River, and New York, on the Hudson River.
* Exporting was very common due to poor roads.

 B). Many people make the middle colonies home.

* Known as the melting pot since people of so many different backgrounds lived there such as: Dutch, Swedes, Scotch-Irish, Scottish, Welsh, French and Jewish.
* It was also home of several religious groups such as: Quakers, Jews, Catholics and Protestants.

 C). A few colonists oppose slavery.

* Slavery was legal, but not many farmers needed slaves since grain farming required less workers than plantations in the south.
* In 1688, Quakers drew up the earliest American protest against slavery.

Chapter 5 Section 4: How did Great Britain drive France from North America?

A). English-French Rivalry

* The English and French fought a series of wars for dominance in Europe and control of North America.
* Three wars named for the monarch who ruled at the time were:

King Williams War, Queen Anne’s War and King George’s War.

* Very little was gained by these wars.

 B). British and French claim the Ohio River Valley

* The French claim was made by LaSalle during his exploration along the Mississippi River. They built a series of forts to protect their claims.
* The English claim was made by the Ohio Company which was formed by a group of Virginia colonists.
* The British sent George Washington to warn the French to abandon their forts. The French forced the Virginians and Washington to surrender. This marked the start of the French and Indian War 1754.
* Great Britain’s Prime Minister, William Pitt, played an important role in this war. He decided to pour large amounts of money into the conflict. He convinced colonists to supply more troops and he also sent young and vigorous generals to America.
* The Battle of Quebec was the deciding battle of the war. The British captured Quebec and Montreal, which ended the fighting in North America.
* The Treaty of Paris 1763 ended the French and Indian War. It stated:

1). France would give up all its land east of the Mississippi except New Orleans

2). Spain gave Florida to Great Britain

3). France gave lands west of the Mississippi River to Spain