

## 13 Colonies Skills

**Objective:** Identify the primary industries in the 13 English Colonies and describe how Geography affected the economy.

### Vocabulary:

**Region:** an area or division.

**Geography:** the study of the physical features of the earth and its atmosphere and of human activity as it affects and is affected by these.

**Economy:** the wealth and resources of a country or region, especially in terms of the production and consumption of goods and services.

**growing season:** the time of year when it is warm enough for plants to grow

**tidewater:** the water in rivers and streams that rises and falls every day with the ocean's tides

**fall line:** the area in which rivers flowing from higher land to lower land often form waterfalls

### Skill Steps:

1. Read the Text
2. Highlight **Geography** information in **Yellow**.
3. Highlight **Economy/Industry** information in **Pink**.
4. Determine how Geography and industries are connected.
5. Write a short paragraph sharing your findings.

### Skill - I Do

1. The English colonies in North America were located between the Atlantic Ocean and the Appalachian Mountains. France had colonies to the north. Spain had colonies to the south. The thirteen colonies can be separated into three parts, or regions, by geography and climate: New England, the Middle Colonies, and the Southern Colonies. The land in New England was shaped by glaciers. During the Ice Age, thick sheets of ice cut through the mountains. Glaciers pushed rocks and rich soil south. A thin layer of rocky dirt was left. Crops did not grow well in the rocky, sandy soil. Forests and hills made it hard to farm. In New England, the summers were warm, but winters were long and cold. The growing season was only about five months long. Colonists in New England used other natural resources to make a living. They cut down trees to make buildings and boats. They caught fish and whales for food and other products.

### Connection:

### Skill - We Do

2. Glaciers pushed the soil from New England into the Middle Colonies. The soil was rich and deep. It was good for farming. The growing season was longer than in New England. There was more sun and lots of rain. Colonists used riverboats on long, wide rivers such as the Hudson and Delaware. They sent crops to sell in nearby towns. Colonists also hunted deer and beaver for food and fur.

### Connection:

## Skill - You Do

- The Southern Colonies had the best climate and land for farming. The climate was warm almost all year long. The soil was rich. The growing season lasted for seven or eight months. The many waterways along the southern coast formed the tidewater region. Ocean tides made rivers rise and fall as much as 150 miles inland. The fall line was along the Appalachian Mountain range. There, rivers flowed from higher lands to lower lands. The backcountry was the land in back of the area where most colonists settled. It was steep and covered with forests. Farms were small. Colonists hunted and fished for food.

### Connection:

### Closure:

- Complete the chart to identify the primary industries in the 3 regions of the 13 English Colonies.

New England Colonies	Middle Colonies	Southern Colonies

- Write a paragraph sharing your findings about how the Geography of the 3 regions of the 13 English colonies affected their economy and industry.