

Economy of the South

As in all the colonies in early America, farming was the basis of the southern economy. After experimenting with grapes, olives, oranges, lemons, and even silkworms, southerners finally settled on tobacco as their primary **cash crop**, or crop raised to be sold for profit. John Rolfe introduced the first smokable tobacco in Virginia in 1612. He imported a variety from Latin America since the tobacco raised by the Indians in North America had too strong and unpleasant a taste for the Europeans.

From then on, "tobacco fever" struck not only in Jamestown and Virginia, but in the other Southern Colonies as well. Maryland was a successful colony due mainly to the settler's ability to grow tobacco and thus avoid the "starving time" of earlier colonies.

In South Carolina and Georgia, crops other than tobacco dominated. The swampy land in both colonies proved productive for growing rice and **indigo**, a plant used in making a deep blue dye. Work in the pine forests of these colonies yielded naval supplies such as lumber, tar, pitch, resin, and turpentine. From these products, wooden ships were built, sealed, and preserved.

Use the Map and Match

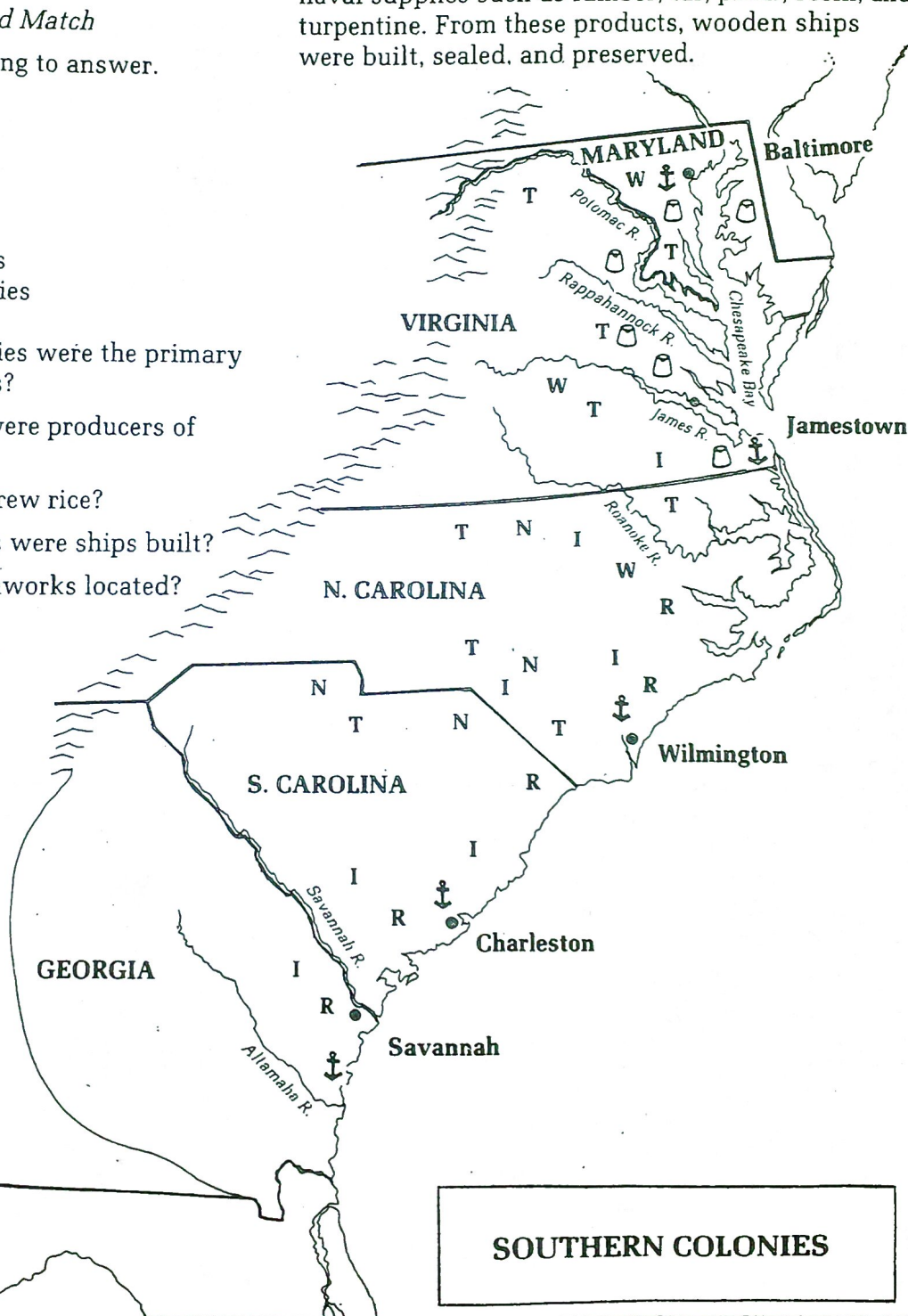
Use one or more of the following to answer.

- a. Maryland
- b. Virginia
- c. North Carolina
- d. South Carolina
- e. Georgia
- f. All of the Southern Colonies
- g. None of the Southern Colonies

- _____ 1. What two colonies were the primary tobacco growers?
- _____ 2. What colonies were producers of naval supplies?
- _____ 3. What colonies grew rice?
- _____ 4. In what colonies were ships built?
- _____ 5. Where were ironworks located?

Key:

- T tobacco
- W wheat
- I indigo
- R rice
- N naval supplies
- ☉ ironworks
- ⚓ shipbuilding



Middle Colonies: Population and Economy

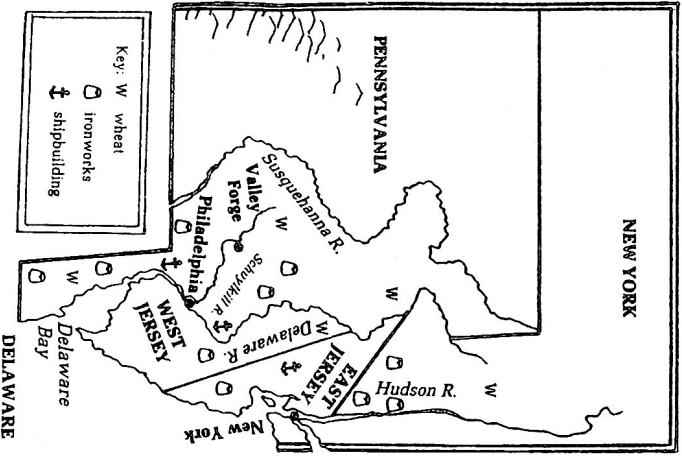
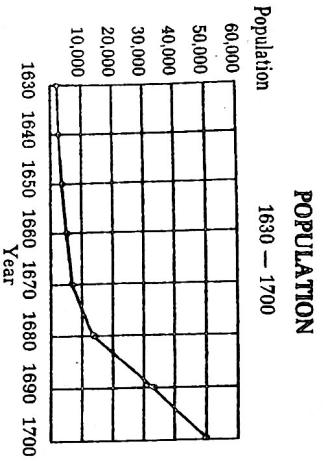
The Middle Colonies — New York, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware — attracted settlers from many different countries in Europe and from neighboring colonies. Yet the region did not grow overnight. Settlements were scattered and slow-starting.

Use the Graph

1. Beginning in 1630, how many years passed before the population in the Middle Colonies reached 10,000?

2. During which two decades did the colonies see the greatest growth?

3. From what you know, why did such an increase in growth occur in the Middle Colonies?



ECONOMY

Unlike the New England colonies but similar to those of the South, the economy of the Middle Colonies was based on farming. Farms were large and although the main crop was wheat, other grains such as barley were harvested. Hunting, trapping, shipbuilding, and fishing were also among the tasks of the settlers in the Middle Colonies. Ironworks were important to the economy in and around Valley Forge.

- a. New York
- b. New Jersey
- c. Pennsylvania
- d. Delaware

Use the Map and Match

- e. All of the above
 - f. Most of the above
 - g. Two of the above
 - h. None of the above
1. Produced ironworks.
 2. Grew wheat.
 3. Built ships.
 4. Did not have ironworks.
 5. Did not grow wheat.
 6. Did not build ships.
 7. Most industries were along coast.

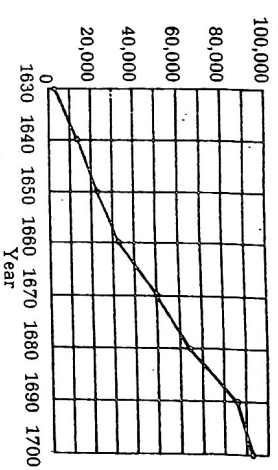
New England Colonies: Population and Economy

In 1630, a little over 1,000 Puritans had come to settle in what would be known as New England. By 1700, the New England colonies had a total population of 92,763. Over three-fourths of the colonists lived in Massachusetts and Connecticut.

POPULATION

Population

1630 — 1700



Use the Map and Match

Which New England colony or colonies had the most:

1. ironworks?
2. towns?
3. indigo?
4. fishing ports?
5. shipbuilding?

Refer to the map on this page and on page 6 to answer which group of colonies:

- a. Massachusetts
 - b. New Hampshire
 - c. Rhode Island
 - d. Connecticut
 - e. None of the colonies
- a. Southern Colonies
 - b. New England Colonies
 - c. Both colonies
 - d. Neither colony
6. grew tobacco?
 7. built ships?
 8. hunted whales?
 9. produced indigo?
 10. smelted iron?
 11. grew rice?
 12. produced naval stores?

Use the Graph

- Approximately what was the population of New England twenty-five years after the 1630 "Great Migration"?
- Fifty years after the "Great Migration"?

