

The Southern Colonies



In 1607, King James granted the Virginia Company a charter establishing the first English settlement Virginia giving art to the Southern Colonies. In addition to Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina, and South Carolina all make up the southern region of the English colonies. The Southern Colonies are located east of the Appalachian Mountains including the Piedmont region. It makes up part of the Atlantic Coastal plains landform which consists of good

harbors and many rivers. The climate of the Southern region is very much different than that of the New England and Mid- Atlantic region in that it is very humid. This humidity allows for great farming

Because farming in the Southern region is so wide- spread, many large plantations blanket the entire area. The plantation owners, also known as planters, were able to grow large amounts of cash crops such as tobacco, indigo, and rice. The plantations included many buildings such as the mansion or the house in which the planter's family lived in as well as the slave's cabins, cattle pen, overseer's house, stable, tobacco barn, kitchen, office, and smokehouse to start. If a family could not afford a plantation, then that family would make a living by operating a small farm. In addition to farming, the Southern Colonies economy depended on the buying and selling of the wood products used from the vast amounts of trees as well as through slavery. Because each plantation was overwhelmed with a huge amount of work to keep the fields going, the planters had to depend on slaves and indentured servants to ensure his success. The overseer's would often times watch the slaves to see if they were doing their work. Slaves were treated well or cruelly depending on their owners. Because life centered on farming, there was little time for education. Also, due to the fact that the plantations were very apart, there were hardly any formal schools. Children were often tutored at home. Very wealthy plantation owners might even pay to have a personal teacher or they might even send their children to England to receive formal training.

There were also very minimal towns and cities located in the South. Most life centered on the plantation life. Instead of using the land for building cities, they decided to use it for farming. As more and more people moved in-land to find more farmland, small towns did start to develop. Most of the towns were county seats which was a main town for a county. A county is a large part of a colony. As time went on, planters started to depend on their county seats as a place to trade their crops. Many times during a year, a family would pack their bags and travel to the county seat. People went to church, held dances, and traded for crops for goods there. Slaves were oftentimes bought and sold at the county seats as well. Most Southerners belonged to the Church of England.