

Colonial Road Trip 1750

Mission: It is 1750. Ride from Boston to Charleston, stopping in each region. Enter each town, examine the evidence, and figure out how GEOGRAPHY shaped the way people lived and worked.

Big question: How did geography shape life and work in the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies?

★ Warm-up: Geography detective

Guess the job from the land.

Rocky soil, tall forests, a big harbor ✓ **Fishing, shipbuilding, trade.**

Flat land, rich soil, mild weather ✓ **Farming grain.**

Key vocabulary

Colony	A settlement ruled by a faraway country.
Cash crop	A crop grown to sell, like tobacco or rice.
Economy	How people make, sell, and buy goods.
Growing season	The months warm enough for crops to grow.
Primary source	Something made by a person who was there at the time.

1 Box 1

Start in Boston

In the simulator: Enter Boston and examine all 3 objects.

Why didn't most New Englanders farm for money?

☐ Rocky soil and long, cold winters ☐ There was no ocean ☐ The law did not allow farming

✓ **Rocky soil and long, cold winters**

Travel the colonies

In the simulator: Visit and enter every stop on the trip (7 places).

What did you notice?

2 Box 2

Collect the evidence

In the simulator: Find at least 14 pieces of evidence for your field journal.

Fill in the chart from your journal.

Region	Main way to make money
New England	
Middle	
Southern	

3 Box 3

Sort the clues

Which region does each clue describe?

Sort: Town meetings · "Breadbasket" wheat farms · Rice and indigo plantations · Cod fishing and whaling · Many languages and religions · Longest growing season · Rocky soil and shipyards

New England	Middle	Southern
Town meetings Cod fishing and whaling Rocky soil and shipyards	"Breadbasket" wheat farms Many languages and religions	Rice and indigo plantations Longest growing season

4 Box 4

Distance

Check your distance readout. About how many miles did you travel in all? (Round to the nearest 100.)

Answer: _____ miles ✓ **varies: check the student's simulator readout**

Show your thinking:

5 Box 5

Geography shapes life (CER)

How did geography shape the way people lived in ONE colonial region? Use evidence from the places you entered.

Claim

Look for: Names a region; at least 10 words

Evidence

Look for: Names a geography feature; Names a job or crop; at least 14 words

Reasoning

Look for: Connects cause and effect; at least 14 words

6 Box 6

Legend: whose story? Legend only

Use a quote from Charleston or the Haudenosaunee town to explain whose perspective is often left out of colonial history, and why it matters.

Look for: Names a group; an exact quote from the text; at least 25 words



Exit ticket: answer the big question in your own words

How did geography shape life and work in the New England, Middle, and Southern colonies?

Look for: Geography shaped each region's economy: rocky soil and cold winters pushed New England toward fishing, shipbuilding, and trade; rich soil made the Middle colonies the "breadbasket"; a long, warm growing season led to Southern plantations of cash crops built on the forced labor of enslaved Africans. Native nations like the Haudenosaunee had adapted to these lands long before.



Completion codes

Students see a code like **ABC-I3** when they finish. The first part must match below. The letter is the level (E = Explorer, I = Investigator, L = Legend), and the number at the end is how many stars they earned.

Level	Code starts with
 Explorer	A56-E
 Investigator	1F8-I
 Legend	ETX-L



Watch for these misconceptions

- "All Native Americans lived the same way." Hundreds of nations had different languages, homes, and economies.
- "The land was empty when colonists arrived." Native nations had lived there for thousands of years.
- "All colonists came for religious freedom." Many came for land, money, or were forced (enslaved Africans).