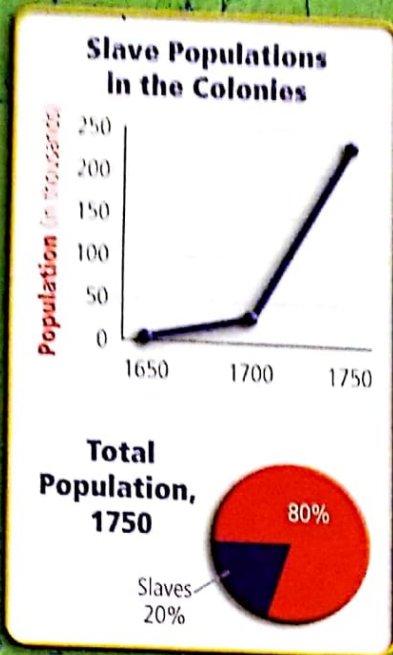


The Southern Colonies



ANALYSIS SKILL INTERPRETING CHARTS

About how many slaves lived in the English colonies in 1700 and in 1750?

The Carolinas and Georgia

Colonies were also established south of Virginia. In 1663 the English king, Charles II, gave much of the land between Virginia and Spanish Florida to eight of his supporters. At first Carolina was a single colony. However, the settlements were far apart, and it was hard to govern them. In 1712 the colony separated into North and South Carolina.

Most of the colonists in North Carolina were farmers who had moved south from Virginia. Colonists primarily from Europe settled South Carolina. Those who paid their own way received large grants of land, and some brought enslaved Africans with them. By 1730 about 20,000 enslaved Africans were living in the colony, compared to some 10,000 white settlers.

South Carolina's proprietors managed the colony poorly, and in 1719 the proprietary government was overthrown. The



Crown then purchased North and South Carolina in 1729, making them royal colonies.

In 1732 King George II granted a charter to James Oglethorpe and other trustees to found Georgia. The king hoped that Georgia would shield Britain's other colonies from Spanish Florida. Oglethorpe wanted the new colony to be a place where debtors, who had been jailed for their debts in England, could make a new start. In 1733 Oglethorpe and 120 colonists, mostly from England, founded the city of Savannah.

Oglethorpe did not want Georgia to have large plantations owned by a few wealthy individuals. He wanted many small farmers. To reach this goal, Oglethorpe outlawed slavery and limited the size of land grants. Soon, however, the settlers grew unhappy with Oglethorpe's strict rules. In 1752 the British government made Georgia a royal colony with new laws. Coastal Georgia was soon filled with large rice plantations worked by thousands of slaves.

READING CHECK Finding Main Ideas What were some of the reasons colonists came to the southern colonies?

Economies of the Southern Colonies

The economies of the southern colonies depended on agriculture. They also exported materials for building ships, such as wood and tar. Some colonies traded with local Indians for deerskins to sell.

The colonies had many small farms and some large plantations. Farms did well because the South enjoyed a warm climate and a long growing season. Many farms grew cash crops that were sold for profit. Tobacco, rice, and indigo—a plant used to make blue dye—were the most important cash crops.

The southern colonies' cash crops required a great deal of difficult work to grow and harvest. This meant a large workforce was needed. By the 1700s enslaved Africans, rather than indentured servants, had become the main source of labor. African slaves brought with them knowledge that helped turn the wild environment into profitable farms. Many had previous experience raising cattle and knew the method for clearing brush using fire.

Slavery was a viciously brutal condition for many inhabitants of the southern

colonies. One former slave named **Olaudah Equiano** recorded his experiences.

“Tortures, murder, and every other imaginable barbarity . . . are practiced upon the poor slaves with impunity [no punishment]. I hope the slave-trade will be abolished.”

—Olaudah Equiano, from *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African*

Most of the southern colonies passed **slave codes, or laws to control slaves**. Colonies with large numbers of slaves had the strictest slave codes. For example, South Carolina's slaveholders feared that slaves would revolt. As a result, South Carolina's code said slaves could not hold meetings or own weapons. Some colonies did not allow slaveholders to free their slaves.

READING CHECK Summarizing What role did slavery play in the southern plantation economy? How was it regulated?

SUMMARY AND PREVIEW In this section you read about life in the southern colonies. In the next section you will learn about the New England colonies.

FOCUS ON READING

What is the source of this quote? Is it a primary or secondary source? Do you think it is a valid source?

Section 1 Assessment

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ONLINE QUIZ

Reviewing Ideas, Terms, and People

- a. Describe** What happened in 1607 and why is it important? How did **John Smith** improve conditions in **Jamestown**?

b. Explain What events led to a conflict between the Jamestown settlers and the Powhatan Confederacy?
- a. Recall** Why were **indentured servants** necessary in Virginia? Why did the number of slaves increase?

b. Evaluate What do you think was the most serious problem faced by settlers in Virginia? Why?
- a. Describe** Why were the colonies of Maryland, Carolina, and Georgia founded? Describe their locations.

b. Analyze Why did more enslaved Africans live in South Carolina than did white settlers?

c. Predict How might the colony of Georgia have been different if Oglethorpe's plan had succeeded?
- a. Recall** What was the purpose of **slave codes**?

b. Analyze Why were slaves in high demand in the southern colonies?

Critical Thinking

- Summarizing** Review your notes on the southern colonies. Then add a new column to your chart that summarizes the successes and/or failures of each colony and the effect the environment had on colonists there.

Colony	Year	Why Founded	Successes/Failures	Effects of Environment

FOCUS ON WRITING

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- Gathering Some Ideas** Take notes on the early colonies of Virginia, Maryland, the Carolinas, and Georgia. Be sure to note what advantages they offered to settlers and what difficulties settlers faced. Start to think about the people who would be most likely to settle in the southern colonies.