**Three Geographic Regions:**

* The New England Colonies
* The Middle Colonies
* The Southern Colonies

**The New England Colonies:**

* **Colonies:** The four original New England Colonies were:
New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Connecticut, and Rhode Island.
* **People:** The people who settled and lived in the New England Colonies were from England.
* **Economies:** Farming in the New England Colonies was difficult due to the poor soil, cold climate and short growing season. Families in New England grew enough food to feed their families but had to rely on manufacturing and trade to earn livings.
* **Climate:** The Climate in the New England colonies was colder than the other two regions due to the northern location.
* **Geography:** The geography of New England was mostly hills and rocky soil.
* **Natural Resources:** The natural resources of New England were fish, whales, trees, and furs.
* **Religion:** The established religion of the New England Colonies was Puritan. Religious freedom did not exist in New England.

**Economies of the Colonies:**

* New England’s economy centered on manufacturing. Agriculture was difficult and unprofitable in the north due to poor soils, cold temperatures, and the short growing season. Manufacturing in New England focused on shipbuilding due to the abundance of lumber. Trade in New England was mainly exporting the goods that they produced.
* Agriculture had a large role in the economies of the Middle Colonies. The middle region had better soils, warmer temperatures, and a longer growing season. The Middle Colonies agriculture produced corn, vegetables, grain, fruit, and livestock. Manufacturing in the middle region was focused on iron ore products. The Middle Colonies both exported agricultural products and natural resources and imported manufactured goods.
* The Southern Colony’s economy was based solely on agriculture. The south has exceptional farming soil, warm climates and a long growing season. The agriculture practiced in the region was Plantation Agriculture, focusing on one or two cash crops. The southern region had no manufacturing so all goods needed were imported or bought from traders.

**Climate in the Colonies:**

* In the thirteen colonies the climate changed on a north to south direction.
* The coldest temperatures and shortest growing seasons were in the north and temperatures and growing seasons both increased as one traveled down the coastline.

**Natural Resources:**

* The natural resources found in the New England Colonies included: fish, whales, trees, and furs.
* The natural resources found in the Middle Colonies included: iron ore and good soil.
* The natural resources found in the Southern Colonies included: rich farmlands, forests, and fish.

**Population demographics of the Colonies:**

* The population in the New England Colonies was primarily English.
* In both the Middle and the Southern Colonies the population was more diverse. In both the southern regions there were colonists and settlers that came from Holland, France, Sweden, and elsewhere.

**Religion in the Colonies:**

* In New England Territories there was no religious freedom. The Puritans were very strict moralists and did not tolerate others who believed differently.
* In the Middle Colonies there was more religious freedom and tolerance. Many who had established colonies in the middle region were fleeing persecution in Europe or the strict New England Colonies.
* Religion had a very insignificant role in the Southern Colonies. Colonies in the south were established for profit rather than for religious freedom, therefore religion played a small role in the lives and policies of the Southern Colonies.