**The Thirteen American Colonies**

**USI.5b**
The student will demonstrate knowledge of the factors that shaped colonial America by:

a) describing life in the New England, Mid-Atlantic, and Southern colonies, with emphasis on how people interacted with their environment to produce goods and services, including examples of specialization and interdependence.

**Essential Knowledge:**

Terms to know
- resources: natural, capital, or human
- specialization: Focusing on one or a few products
- interdependence: Two or more people depending on each other for goods and services

Specialization caused the colonies to be interdependent.

(See chart below.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colonies</th>
<th>Resources</th>
<th>Geography and Climate</th>
<th>Specialization</th>
<th>Examples of Interdependence</th>
<th>Social/Political</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>New England</td>
<td>Natural resources: e.g., timber, fish, deep harbors Human resources: e.g., skilled craftsmen, shopkeepers, shipbuilders Capital resources: e.g., tools, buildings</td>
<td>Appalachian Mountains, Boston harbor, hilly terrain, rocky soil, jagged coastline Moderate summers, cold winters</td>
<td>Fishing, shipbuilding, naval supplies, metal tools and equipment</td>
<td>The New England colonies depended on the Southern colonies for crops such as tobacco, rice, cotton, and indigo, and for forest products such as lumber, tar, and pitch. They depended on the Mid-Atlantic colonies for livestock and grains.</td>
<td>Villages and churches were centers of life. Religious reformers and separatists Civic life: town meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mid-Atlantic</td>
<td>Natural Resources: e.g., rich farmlands, rivers Human resources: e.g., unskilled and skilled workers, fishermen Capital resources: e.g., tools, buildings</td>
<td>Appalachian Mountains, coastal lowlands, harbors and bays Mild winters and moderate climate, wide and deep rivers</td>
<td>Livestock, grains, fish</td>
<td>The Mid-Atlantic colonies traded with the Southern and New England colonies to get the products they did not produce. The Mid-Atlantic colonies depended on the Southern colonies for tobacco, rice, cotton, indigo, and forest products. They traded with the New England colonies for metal tools and equipment.</td>
<td>Villages and cities, varied and diverse lifestyles, diverse religions Civic life: market towns</td>
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<tr>
<td>Southern</td>
<td>Natural resources: e.g., fertile farmlands, rivers, harbors Human resources: e.g., farmers, enslaved African Americans Capital resources: e.g., tools, buildings</td>
<td>Appalachian Mountains, Piedmont, Atlantic Coastal Plain, good harbors and rivers Humid climate with mild winters and hot summers</td>
<td>Tobacco, rice, cotton, indigo, forest products (lumber, tar, pitch)</td>
<td>The Southern colonies depended on the New England colonies for manufactured goods, including metal tools and equipment. They depended on the Mid-Atlantic colonies for grains and other agricultural products not plentiful in the South.</td>
<td>Plantations (slavery), mansions, indentured servants, fewer cities, fewer schools, Church of England Civic life: counties</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
**Essential Understandings:**
Life in the colonies was shaped by the geographical features of the settlements.

Economic specialization and interdependence existed among the colonies in the production of goods and services.

**Essential Questions:**
How did climate, geographic features, and other available resources distinguish the three regions from each other?

How did people use the natural resources of their region to earn a living?

What are the benefits of specialization and trade?

How did political and social life evolve in each of the three regions?