

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s
Topic 3 Content: Economy of the Middle Colonies Notes

Introduction



Economy of the Middle Colonies

Click on each icon to learn more about the economy of the Middle colonies.

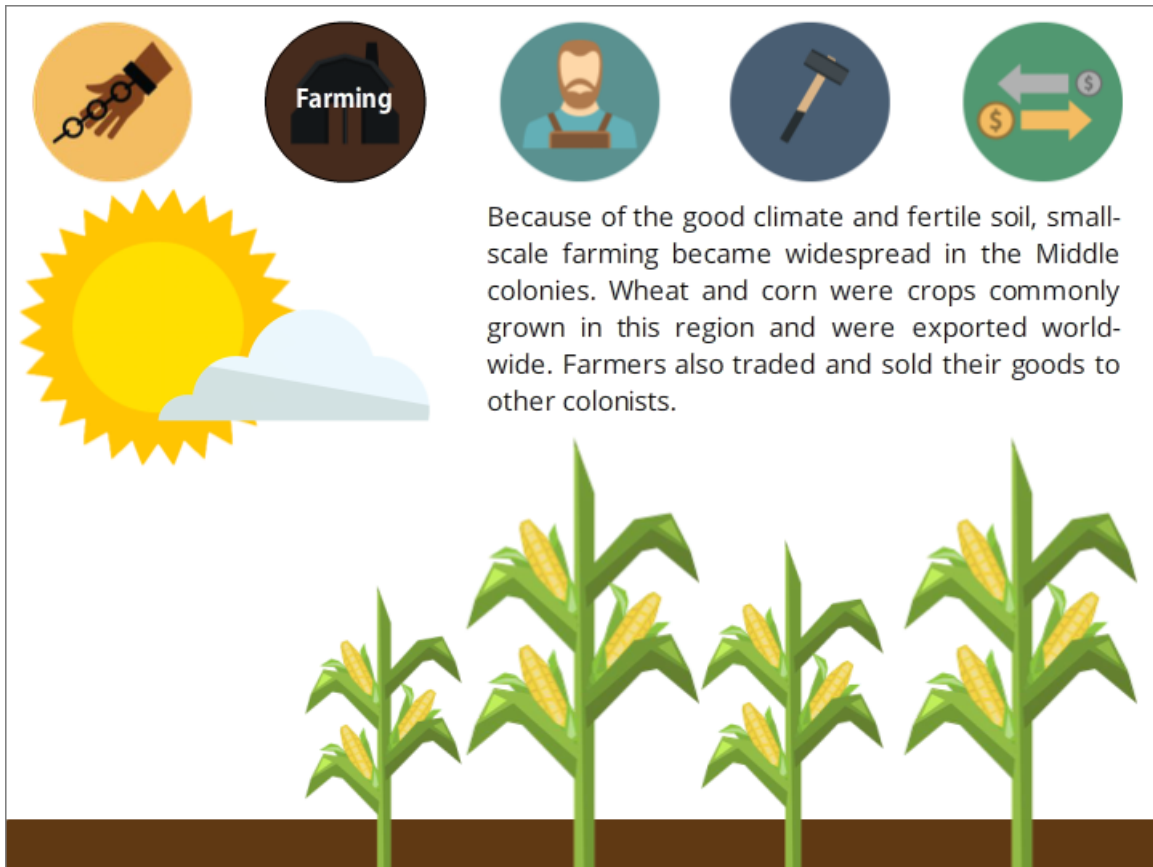


The economy of the Middle colonies was based on small-scale farming, shipbuilding, and trading. This diverse economy led to the development of a middle class. Click on each icon to learn more about the economy of the Middle colonies.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s

Topic 3 Content: Economy of the Middle Colonies Notes

Farming



Because of the good climate and fertile soil, small-scale farming became widespread in the Middle colonies. Wheat and corn were crops commonly grown in this region and were exported world-wide. Farmers also traded and sold their goods to other colonists.

Because of the good climate and fertile soil, small-scale farming became widespread in the Middle colonies. Wheat and corn were crops commonly grown in this region and were exported world-wide. Farmers also traded and sold their goods to other colonists.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s

Topic 3 Content: Economy of the Middle Colonies Notes

Shipbuilding



The infographic features five circular icons at the top: a pair of glasses, a factory, a craftsman, a hammer and the word 'Shipbuilding', and a trade icon with arrows and coins. Below these is a large sun and cloud illustration. The central text block discusses the shipbuilding industry's boom. At the bottom, there is an illustration of a three-masted sailing ship on the water, two green pine trees on land, and a stack of logs.

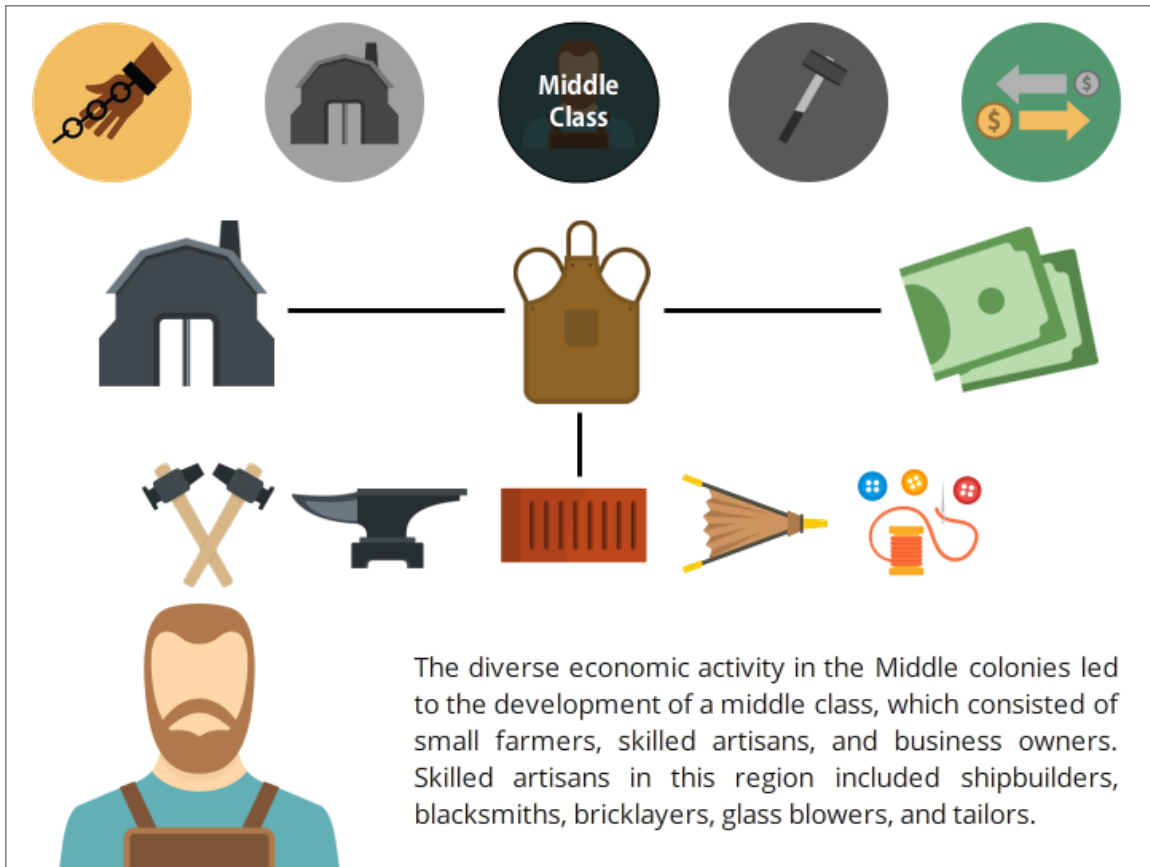
The use of ships for traveling, fishing, and trading remained constant throughout the colonial period. This demand for ships created a boom in the shipbuilding industry. Shipbuilding was very profitable in the Middle colonies because of the abundant forests and access to water in this region. The weather was less harsh than in the New England colonies, attracting European craftsmen who wanted to settle in the New World.

The use of ships for traveling, fishing, and trading remained constant throughout the colonial period. This demand for ships created a boom in the shipbuilding industry. Shipbuilding was very profitable in the Middle colonies because of the abundant forests and access to water in this region. The weather was less harsh than in the New England colonies, attracting European craftsmen who wanted to settle in the New World.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s

Topic 3 Content: Economy of the Middle Colonies Notes

Middle Class




The diverse economic activity in the Middle colonies led to the development of a middle class, which consisted of small farmers, skilled artisans, and business owners. Skilled artisans in this region included shipbuilders, blacksmiths, bricklayers, glass blowers, and tailors.


Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s

Topic 3 Content: Economy of the Middle Colonies Notes

Trade



As settlers in the Middle colonies prospered through their hard work, as had the Puritans in the New England colonies, strong beliefs in private ownership of property and free enterprise flourished. Trade was strongly encouraged, causing port cities like Philadelphia and New York to grow rapidly and become two of the largest cities in North America during the colonial period. Port cities in both the New England and Southern colonies also experienced growth.



As settlers in the Middle colonies prospered through their hard work, as had the Puritans in the New England colonies, strong beliefs in private ownership of property and free enterprise flourished. Trade was strongly encouraged, causing port cities like Philadelphia and New York to grow rapidly and become two of the largest cities in North America during the colonial period. Port cities in both the New England and Southern colonies also experienced growth.

Module 1: American Beginnings - 1607 to the 1750s

Topic 3 Content: Economy of the Middle Colonies Notes

Slavery

The infographic is contained within a rectangular border. At the top, there are five circular icons: a dark brown circle with a white 'S' and the word 'Slavery', a grey circle with a barn, a grey circle with a bearded man's face, a grey circle with a hammer, and a grey circle with two arrows and dollar signs. Below the icons is a paragraph of text. The main body of the infographic is split vertically by a black line. The left side is titled 'Middle colonies' and features three large '\$' symbols, the text 'Less economic need for slave labor', and three corn plants. The right side is titled 'Southern colonies' and features six large '\$' symbols, the text 'More economic need for slave labor', and two cotton plants.

Slavery existed in the Middle colonies, but on a smaller scale than in the Southern colonies. The Dutch used slave labor in New Netherland to expand the colony. Slave labor was also used by farmers and artisans in the Middle colonies; however, there was not as strong an economic need for slaves in this region compared to the Southern colonies.

Middle colonies
\$\$\$
Less economic need for slave labor

Southern colonies
\$\$\$\$\$\$
More economic need for slave labor

Slavery existed in the Middle colonies, but on a smaller scale than in the Southern colonies. The Dutch used slave labor in New Netherland to expand the colony. Slave labor was also used by farmers and artisans in the Middle colonies; however, there was not as strong an economic need for slaves in this region compared to the Southern colonies.