

Religion in the 13 Colonies – Compare and Contrast Reading Comprehension

Name _____

New England Colonies – The New England colonies were dominated by the Puritans, reformers seeking to “purify” Christianity, who came over from England to practice religion without persecution. Puritans followed strict rules and were intolerant of other religions, eventually absorbing the separatist Pilgrims in Massachusetts by 1629. Life in New England was dominated by church, and there were severe consequences for those who failed to attend, or, those who spoke out against the Puritan ways. Singing and celebrating holidays were among things prohibited in Puritan New England.

Middle Colonies – Religion in the Middle Colonies was varied as no single religion seemed to dominate the entire region. Religious tolerance attracted immigrants from a wide-range of foreign countries who practiced many different religions. Quakers, Catholics, Jews, Lutherans and Presbyterians were among those religious groups that had significant numbers in the middle colonies.

Southern Colonies – Most people in the Southern Colonies were Anglican (Baptist or Presbyterian), though most of the original settlers from the Maryland colony were Catholic, as Lord Baltimore founded it as a refuge for English Catholics. Religion did not have the same impact on communities as in the New England colonies or the Mid-Atlantic colonies because people lived on plantations that were often distant and spread out from one another.

- 1. Which of the following was intolerant of other religions?**
- A. Middle
 - B. Southern
 - C. New England
 - D. None of the above

2. Which of the following regions attracted people from many different religions?

- A. Southern
- B. Middle
- C. New England
- D. None of the above

3. Which was NOT true about the Southern Colonies?

- A. Lord Baltimore founded Maryland as a Catholic colony
- B. People lived on large plantations
- C. Most people in the Southern Colonies were Catholics
- D. Religion had less of an impact on people from the Southern Colonies

4. Read the passage below. What region is most likely described?

Today, I spent all day at church. Our pastor preached that those who failed to attend church would face severe consequences. He also said that poor Amos would receive 20 lashes for singing hymns in public.

- A. New England
- B. Middle
- C. Southern Colonies
- D. None of the above

5. What was the major religious group in the Middle Colonies?

- A. Catholics
- B. Quakers
- C. Jews
- D. None of the above