Life in the Colonies
The three regions of the colonies had different characteristics. In New England, the ocean was an important part of the economy. Many colonists fished and built ships. Religion shaped people’s lives and the government. In the Middle Colonies, proprietors chose governors. Farming was very important, and New York City and Philadelphia were centers for shipping, trade, and culture. In the Southern Colonies, farmers grew cash crops such as tobacco. Many workers on plantations were enslaved Africans. Proprietors also controlled many Southern Colonies.

Valuable Resources
A network called the triangular trade formed among the colonies, Europe, and Africa. Each region supplied goods the others wanted. Colonists sent food and raw materials to England. English traders sent finished goods to the colonies. England wanted to grow rich from the colonies through mercantilism. The English government passed strict laws that controlled the trade of the colonies. This made many colonists angry.