

**CHAPTER 3** Section 2 (pages 72-78)

# The Agricultural South

**BEFORE YOU READ**

In the last section, you learned about the ways in which England tried to control its colonies.

In this section, you will learn about the characteristics of the Southern colonies.

**AS YOU READ**

Use this chart to take notes on Southern society. List and describe the different classes of people that made up Southern society. Start with the most powerful group on top and the least powerful at the bottom.

| SOCIAL CLASS | DESCRIPTION  |
|--------------|--|
| 1. planters  | Controlled the South's economic, social and political life |
| 2.           |  |
| 3.           |  |
| 4.           |  |
| 5.           |  |

**A Plantation Economy Arises**

(pages 72-73)

**What kind of economy developed in the South?**

Throughout the 1600s and 1700s, the American colonies grew and prospered. They also grew into two distinct regions: North and South. Colonists in the South created a society based on farming. A typical large southern farm, or plantation, grew a single **cash crop**—a crop grown for sale rather

than for the farmer's use. Cash crops included tobacco, rice, and *indigo*.

Few major cities developed in the South. One reason was that plantations usually were located along the rivers. This meant that farmers could transport their goods to the northern colonies and Europe without a need for city docks. Another reason for the absence of large towns in the South was that farmers could store their goods on their plantations. Thus, they did not need city warehouses. Furthermore, plantation owners produced much

**TERMS AND NAMES**

**cash crop** A crop grown for sale rather than for the farmer's use

**slave** Person who is considered the property of another

**triangular trade** The pattern of shipping trade across the Atlantic

**middle passage** The voyage that brought slaves to America

**Stono Rebellion** A 1739 slave rebellion in Charleston, South Carolina

of what they needed, so there was no reason for shops or bakeries. There were a few major cities in the South, such as Charles Town (later called Charleston), in South Carolina. However, southern society was mostly *rural*.

**1. Why were there so few cities in the South?****Life in Southern Society** (pages 73-75)**What was Southern life like?**

Most Southerners worked small farms. The few wealthy plantation owners, or planters, controlled the economy. They also controlled much of the South's social and political life.

Southern women could not vote, attend school, or own property. They worked long hours on farms and in the house.

The South's many indentured servants also had few rights. Indentured servants were mainly white European males who exchanged a trip to North America for several years of farm labor. Many indentured servants hoped to start a new life once their servitude was over. However, once they completed their terms of labor, most indentured servants had a difficult time trying to survive.

**2. Which group controlled most aspects of life in the South?****Slavery Becomes Entrenched**

(pages 75-77)

**What was the triangular trade?**

Throughout the late 1600s, the number of indentured servants in the South decreased. As a result, planters faced a labor shortage on their plantations. They soon turned to the use of African slaves.

Enslaved Africans had been working for years in the English colonies of the *West Indies*. During the 1600s, Africans had become part of a trade network called the **triangular trade**. This network had three main parts: (1) merchants carried rum and other goods from New England to Africa; (2) the merchants brought slaves from Africa to the West Indies, where they sold them for sugar and molasses; (3) the merchants then sold these goods

in New England to be distilled into rum. The network also included many minor routes that crisscrossed the Northern and Southern colonies, the West Indies, Europe, and Africa.

The part of the triangular trade that brought Africans to the West Indies and later to North America was called the **middle passage**. Africans made this trip on crowded, dirty ships. Nearly 20 percent of the Africans aboard each ship died from either cruel treatment or disease.

Those who survived the trip entered a hard life of labor in North America. About 90 percent of enslaved Africans worked in the fields. The rest worked in planters' houses. Some learned skills such as carpentry. Children began working at age 12.

Slaves were treated harshly. Slave owners whipped and beat slaves they considered disobedient or disrespectful.

**3. What was life like for enslaved Africans in North America?****Africans Cope in Their****New World** (pages 77-78)**How did slaves cope in the American colonies?**

Once in America, slaves tried to hold onto their African culture. They wove baskets and created pottery as they had done in their homeland. Slaves also played African music and told traditional stories.

Many slaves resisted their position of *subservience*. Some slaves faked illness to get out of working. Others broke tools or worked slow on purpose. Some slaves pushed their resistance into open revolt. In the **Stono Rebellion** of 1739, a group of slaves killed several plantation owners. These slaves eventually were captured and executed. Many other slaves ran away. Some found a new home in Native American tribes.

**4. How did enslaved Africans resist slavery?**