

CHAPTER 3 Section 3 (pages 79-84)

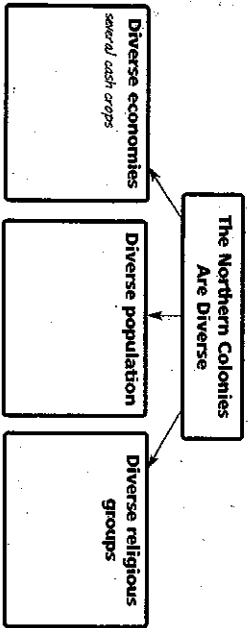
The Commercial North

BEFORE YOU READ

In the last section, you learned about the growth of the Southern colonies. In this section, you will learn about the development of the Northern colonies.

AS YOU READ

Use this diagram to take notes. List the ways that the Northern colonies were diverse.

**Commerce Grows in the North**

(pages 79-80)

How did people earn a living in the North?

The economies of the New England and the Middle colonies were more diverse than that of the Southern colonies. While farmers in the South produced mainly one cash crop, Northern farmers normally grew several. Like the South, however, farming was important in the North, especially in Pennsylvania and New York.

However, the North's economy existed of more than just agriculture. Other industries, such as grinding wheat, fishing and lumbering, were also important in the North. Shipbuilding became a major industry. By the 1770s, the Northern colonies built one third of all British ships. They also made more iron than England did.

Bustling port cities grew in the North. Boston and New York became important urban centers.

TERMS AND NAMES

Enlightenment Intellectual movement that started in Europe

Benjamin Franklin Philadelphia inventor, writer, and political leader

Jonathan Edwards forceful preacher in the Great Awakening

Great Awakening Religious revival movement in the colonies

Philadelphia became the largest port in the British Empire. The growing cities resulted in some problems. Cities became overcrowded, and clean water was difficult to get. Fire and diseases spread rapidly. Also, many people living in cities faced poverty.

1. Name three types of industry in the North.

Northern Society Is Diverse

(pages 81-82)

What groups of people lived in the Northern colonies?

The Northern colonies were made up of diverse groups of people. Many immigrants from Europe settled in New England and the Middle colonies. Germans came to Pennsylvania in search of jobs and religious freedom. Another large immigrant

group was the Scots-Irish. Other immigrant groups included the Dutch, Scandinavians, and Jews.

Africans, both enslaved and free, lived in the North. Unlike the South, the Northern economy did not depend on slave labor. However, slavery did exist in the Northern colonies. Most slaves in the North had greater legal standing than slaves elsewhere in the colonies. They could sue and be sued. They had the right to appeal to the highest colonial courts. They could also testify against white persons in cases not involving Africans.

Enslaved Africans in the North, however, were treated harshly, just as in the South. Furthermore, free Africans faced much racial prejudice in the North.

As in the South, women in the Northern colonies enjoyed few rights. They could not vote or buy or sell property. Women in the North handled many jobs in the home and in the fields.

The limited rights of women in the Northern colonies contributed to an outbreak of witch-hunting in the late 1600s. During the 1690s, in Salem, Massachusetts, many women were falsely accused of being witches—those who possess evil powers. Many of the accused women were considered too independent and rebellious. Several women were tried and executed. The courts finally put an end to the witch hunts.

2. What five groups of people immigrated from Europe to the Northern colonies?

New Ideas Influence the Colonists

(pages 82-82)

What new ideas and beliefs spread in the colonies?

Americans participated in several new intellectual movements during the 1700s that helped change the way of thinking throughout the colonies.

One such movement was known as the Enlightenment. This was a philosophical move-

ment that called for using reason and science to find truth. The Enlightenment began in Europe and spread to the colonies through books and pamphlets. Benjamin Franklin, a prominent colonist, was one of the movement's leaders. He conducted scientific experiments and made several practical inventions.

The Enlightenment also affected political thought. Colonial leaders used reason to conclude that individuals have natural rights which governments must respect.

The Enlightenment had two important effects: (1) the idea that people have natural rights that governments must respect challenged the authority of the British rulers; (2) the movement's emphasis on science as a source of truth weakened the authority of the church.

By the 1700s, the Puritan church had lost its grip on society. Jonathan Edwards was a Massachusetts preacher who sought to revive the intensity and commitment of the Puritan vision. Edwards preached that people must acknowledge their sinfulness and feel God's love for them. He started a religious revival that became known as the Great Awakening.

The Great Awakening brought many colonists, Native Americans, and African Americans into organized Christian churches for the first time. The movement challenged the authority of established churches. Some colonists abandoned their old Puritan or Anglican churches. At the same time, independent denominations such as Baptist and Methodist gained new members.

The Great Awakening and the Enlightenment emphasized some opposing ideas. The Great Awakening stressed emotion. The Enlightenment stressed reason. However, both also stressed the importance of the individual. In addition, both caused people to question authority.

3. How did the Enlightenment and the Great Awakening help change people's beliefs?
