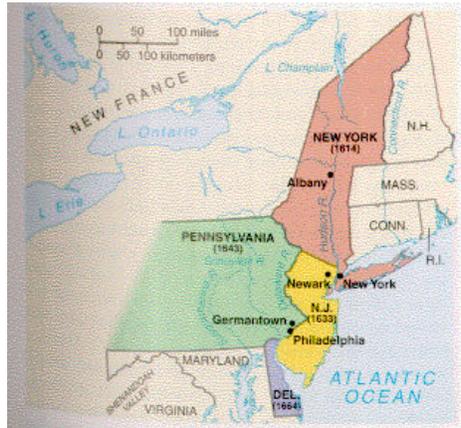


The Middle Colonies



The Mid-Atlantic Colonies are Pennsylvania, New York, New Jersey and Delaware. Just like in New England, the environment greatly impacted the way people who lived in the middle colonies made a living and went about their daily lives. There are some similarities between New England and the Mid-Atlantic such as the nearby Appalachian Mountains but there are even more differences.

The first difference between New England and Mid-Atlantic colonies was the quality of the land. The Middle colonies had rich farmland and a moderate climate which made farming much easier than it was in New England. Many people made their living raising livestock or growing grain. Due to the ease of farming these colonies were able to provide food for their own people and to send to the other colonies; the Middle colonies became known as the breadbasket colonies.

Land in the middle colonies also consisted of coastal lowlands (or the Coastal Plain) which contained harbors and bays with wide, deep rivers. Part of the area is also known as the Piedmont. The location along the Atlantic Coast also allowed people in the Mid-Atlantic colonies to make a living through fishing. Those who did not make a living by farming or fishing were able to find work as either skilled or unskilled workers.

People in the middle colonies had varied lifestyles and participated in many different religions. The reasons for the variety of cultures is due to the fact that the people of the Middle colonies came from many different countries. Despite this the variety of people's backgrounds, social life still revolved around the village or city one lived in. Market towns were extremely important in the Middle colonies because people needed to go to town to trade the products they grew or made.

1. Which colonies made up the Mid-Atlantic?

2. Describe the Mid-Atlantic. What was the land and climate like? How did people make a living?