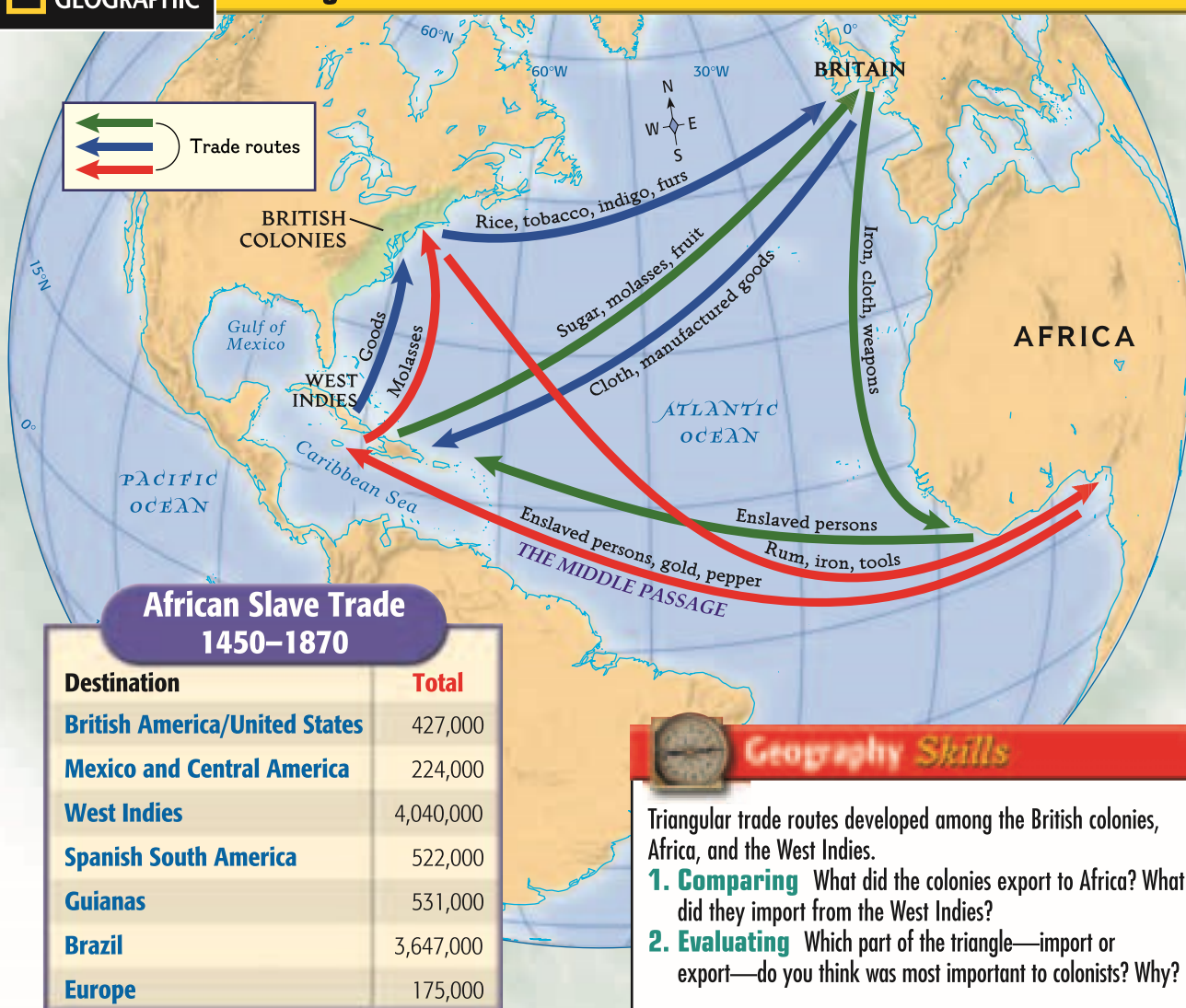


Triangular Trade Routes



Source: *Historical Atlas of the United States*; Philip D. Curtin, *Atlantic Slave Trade*.

With its trade, shipbuilding, and fishing, New England’s economy flourished. Although good farmland was lacking in much of the region, New England’s population grew and towns and cities developed.

Reading Check **Explaining** Where was the shipping hub in America?

The Middle Colonies

The Middle Colonies enjoyed fertile soil and a slightly milder climate than New England’s. Farmers in this region cultivated larger areas of

land and produced bigger harvests than did New Englanders. In New York and Pennsylvania, farmers grew large quantities of wheat and other **cash crops**, crops that could be sold easily in markets in the colonies and overseas.

Farmers sent cargoes of wheat and livestock to New York City and Philadelphia for shipment, and these cities became busy ports. By the 1760s New York, with 18,000 people, and Philadelphia, with 24,000 people, were the largest cities in the American colonies.

Industries of the Middle Colonies

Like the New England Colonies, the Middle Colonies also had industries. Some were home-based crafts such as carpentry and flour



History *Through Art*

Colonists brought traditions from their homelands. One was the display of tapestry, a heavy fabric with a woven pattern or picture. **What is happening in this tapestry?**

making. Others included larger businesses such as lumbering, mining, and small-scale manufacturing.

One iron mill in northern New Jersey employed several hundred workers, many of them from Germany. Other smaller ironworks operated in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

German Immigrants

Most of the nearly 100,000 German immigrants who came to America in the colonial era settled in Pennsylvania. Using agricultural methods developed in Europe, these immigrants became successful farmers.

The Germans belonged to a number of Protestant groups. Together with the Dutch, Swedish, and other non-English immigrants, they gave the Middle Colonies a cultural **diversity**, or variety, that was not found in New England. With the diversity came tolerance for religious and cultural differences.

 **Reading Check** **Explaining** What are cash crops?

The Southern Colonies

With their rich soil and warm climate, the Southern Colonies were well suited to certain kinds of farming. Southern farmers could cultivate large areas of land and produce harvests of cash crops. Because most settlers in the Southern Colonies made their living from farming the land, they did not have the need to develop commerce or industry. For the most part, London merchants rather than local merchants managed Southern trade.

Economics

Tobacco and Rice

Tobacco was the principal cash crop of Maryland and Virginia. Most tobacco was sold in Europe, where the demand for it was strong. Growing tobacco and preparing it for sale required a good deal of labor. At first planters used indentured servants to work in the fields. When indentured servants became scarce and expensive, Southern planters used enslaved Africans instead.

When the **demand** for tobacco was greater than the **supply**, the price remained high. Sometimes, however, a surplus, or extra amounts, of tobacco on the market caused prices to fall and then the growers' profits also fell. In time, some tobacco planters switched to growing other crops such as corn and wheat.

The main cash crop in South Carolina and Georgia was rice. In low-lying areas along the coast, planters built dams to create rice fields, called paddies. These fields were flooded when the rice was young and drained when the rice was ready to harvest. Work in the rice paddies involved standing knee-deep in the mud all day with no protection from the blazing sun or the biting insects.

Because rice harvesting required so much strenuous work, rice growers relied on slave labor. Rice proved to be even more profitable than tobacco. As it became popular in southern Europe, the price of rice rose steadily. By the 1750s South Carolina and Georgia had the fastest-growing economies in the colonies.

Tidewater and Backcountry

Most of the large Southern plantations were located in the **Tidewater**, a region of flat, low-lying plains along the seacoast. Plantations, or large farms, were often located on rivers so crops could be shipped to market by boat.

Each plantation was a self-contained community with fields stretching out around a cluster of buildings. The planter's wife supervised the main house and the household servants. A plantation also included slave cabins, barns and stables, and outbuildings such as carpenter and blacksmith shops and storerooms. Even kitchens were in separate buildings. A large plantation might also have its own chapel and school.

West of the Tidewater lay a region of hills and forests climbing up toward the **Appalachian Mountains**. This region was known as the **backcountry** and was settled in part by hardy newcomers to the colonies. The backcountry settlers grew corn and tobacco on small farms. They usually worked alone or with their families, although some had one or two enslaved Africans to help.

In the Southern Colonies, the independent small farmers of the backcountry outnumbered the large plantation owners. The plantation owners, however, had greater wealth and more influence. They controlled the economic and political life of the region.

✓ Reading Check **Comparing** How were the settlers of the Tidewater different from those of the backcountry?

History Through Art

The Old Plantation by an unknown artist

This watercolor from the 1700s shows a traditional African celebration on a Southern plantation. **Where would you be more likely to find enslaved African laborers—in the Tidewater or backcountry? Why?**



Slavery

Most enslaved Africans lived on plantations. Some did housework, but most worked in the fields and often suffered great cruelty. The large plantation owners hired **overseers**, or bosses, to keep the slaves working hard.

By the early 1700s, many of the colonies had issued **slave codes**, strict rules governing the behavior and punishment of enslaved Africans. Some codes did not allow slaves to leave the plantation without written permission from the master. Some made it illegal to teach enslaved people to read or write. They usually allowed slaves to be whipped for minor offenses and hanged or burned to death for serious crimes. Those who ran away were often caught and punished severely.

African Traditions

Although the enslaved Africans had strong family ties, their families were often torn apart. Slaveholders could sell a family member to another slaveholder. Slaves found a source of strength in their African roots. They developed a culture that drew on the languages and customs of their West African homelands.

Some enslaved Africans learned trades such as carpentry, blacksmithing, or weaving. Skilled workers could sometimes set up shops, sharing



Banning Slavery

Slavery was first outlawed in the northern colonies.

This is not true. Slavery was first outlawed in the colony of Georgia in 1735. Georgia eventually made slavery legal again.

their profits with the slaveholders. Those lucky enough to be able to buy their freedom joined the small population of free African Americans.

Criticism of Slavery

Although the majority of white Southerners were not slaveholders, slavery played an important role in the economic success of the Southern Colonies. That success, however, was built on the idea that one human being could own another. Some colonists did not believe in slavery. Many Puritans refused to hold enslaved people. In Pennsylvania, Quakers and Mennonites condemned slavery. Eventually the debate over slavery would erupt in a bloody war, pitting North against South.

 **Reading Check** **Describing** What did slave codes do?

SECTION 1 ASSESSMENT



Study Central™ To review this section, go to tarvol1.glencoe.com and click on **Study Central™**.

Checking for Understanding

- Key Terms** Use each of these terms in a sentence that will help explain its meaning: **subsistence farming, triangular trade, cash crop.**
- Reviewing Facts** Identify the various economic activities carried on in the Middle Colonies.

Reviewing Themes

- Economic Factors** How did New England's natural resources help its commerce?



Critical Thinking

- Comparing** How did farming in New England compare with farming in the Southern Colonies? Use a chart like the one below to answer the question.

	Similarities	Differences
New England		
Southern Colonies		

- Making Inferences** How do you think plantation owners in the Southern Colonies justified their use of enslaved Africans?

Analyzing Visuals

- Geography Skills** Study the map on page 103. What goods were traded from the British Colonies to Great Britain? From the West Indies to the British Colonies?

Interdisciplinary Activity

Informative Writing Imagine you live in New England in the 1750s and are visiting cousins on a farm in the Carolinas. Write a letter to a friend at home describing your visit to the farm.