

## GETTING THROUGH THE DBQ!!

**Instructions:** You have already analyzed the documents for this DBQ, now you need to read this essay and do steps 1-8 at the end of the essay!

Compare and contrast the development of society within the Chesapeake and New England colonies from 1607-1700.

Prior to the 18<sup>th</sup> century, many European nations competed for a piece of the “New World”. While Spain dominated exploration at first, it was the English that made a lasting mark on North America. The English put down lasting roots beginning with the settlement of Jamestown, which led to thousands of more English settlers arriving in the century and a half afterwards. The British colonies were nestled right along the eastern coastline of North America, and they developed quite distinctly from one another. The Chesapeake, which includes Virginia and Maryland, and the New England colonies, consisting of Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island and New Hampshire, were both settled by people of English origins, yet two distinct societies developed; the settlers of these two regions differed according to their motivations for settling, the geographic regions in which they lived, and the relationship, or lack thereof, between church and state that was established in each respective location, accounting for vast differences and few similarities along the eastern seaboard.

From the first English settlement of Jamestown, to the Puritan settlements that soon followed, it was evident that these two colonial regions were settled for very different reasons. The colonists that headed to the Chesapeake region were mostly young, single men, traveling to Virginia and Maryland to turn a profit. This is evidenced by the fact that very few women traveled with them and even by the name of their ship, the Merchant’s Hope, which can be seen on the ship’s list. (C) It was gold that the people were seeking in the Chesapeake. This search for gold made the men crazed and it almost cost them their first settlement. (F) Due to their desire to search for riches, which were lacking, they nearly starved to death, and had to resort to cannibalism. It wasn’t gold that made the Chesapeake rich, it was the green leaves of tobacco, which would become the British colonies’ greatest export. Captain John Smith was very disgruntled with the initial efforts of the colonists in Jamestown and he himself had to take over control of the colony to see it survive. (F) The Puritans on the other hand sought out America as a religious refuge. The Puritans believed that England still held onto to many Catholic traditions and they wanted to escape and start their own city in America. The Puritans set sail in 1620 and arrived in Massachusetts as entire family sets. (B) The Puritans who came over during the Great

Migration weren't seeking gold, but were seeking a place for their families to live and prosper and practice their religious faith in peace and harmony. One of their ministers, John Winthrop, was very clear when he stated in his sermon to the Puritans, that he wanted his followers to ban together and help each other survive in this new world so that their colony could be an example to the world. (A) The families who settled in New England had a religious purpose in mind and the workers in the Chesapeake had profit in mind. This is one of the reasons why these two regions developed so differently.

The regions also developed differently due to the geographic differences of the regions. The Chesapeake colonies had soil rich for developing a plantation type lifestyle. Large farms sprung up, requiring a mass amount of workers, of which the colonists at first used indentured servants. Later on however, the Chesapeake colonies would begin importing African slaves to work their plantations. This region was very agricultural in nature and allowed for wide-scale agriculture. On the contrary, the New England climate did not lend for the development of plantations. In New England, their economic lifestyles were very diverse. Many Puritans worked in the fields of ship building, fishing, small farms, artisans, and ministers. There was very little need for indentured servants or slaves, and it is clear in Connecticut that people worked for wages. The people of New England had solid communities to rely on for support, while in the Chesapeake, the idea of community was very limited, as manual labor was more of a focus. While the people of Connecticut were crying out for justified wages, the indentured servants of the Chesapeake were crying out for survival. Life was very difficult in the Chesapeake and many servants died before achieving freedom. The geographical aspects alone account for the vast differences in the way the regions developed.

Another main reason each region developed so differently was their relationship between religion and government. In the Chesapeake, religion was not tied directly to government. In fact, some of the people living in the Chesapeake were largely unhappy with their ruling authorities, believing their government to be corrupt and greedy. Nathaniel Bacon was very passionate in his manifesto, even going so far as to lead a rebellion against the government, crying out for land and lower taxes. (H) Chances are, this rebellion would not have broken out in New England due to their communal living and shared responsibilities. This showed there was turmoil brewing in the Chesapeake colonies and that they might even be at risk of being attacked from a foreign nation. Governor Berkeley was very concerned for the safety and security of his colony. (G) There was little to no evidence of Christian charity like there was in New England. In Springfield, Massachusetts, the citizens were bent on giving all an equal share as much as possible; this was not the case in Virginia. The governments of the Puritan colonies were more aware of creating an environment where

every citizen could be successful; it was not this way in the aristocratic colonies of Virginia and Maryland. Massachusetts particularly was invested in ensuring all needs were met and that they acquired a minister very quickly to guide them. (D) The flipside to this Christian charity however, was the strictness of the laws in the New England colonies. Colonists could get banished from New England for disagreeing with the leadership. Anne Hutchinson and Roger Williams were both banished from Massachusetts Bay Colony for their “radical” beliefs. It is very clear that these two colonial regions were very different.

The similarities between these two colonial regions are almost too small to note. There is very little to compare in these two regions, except for the people were of the same British heritage and they both chose to come to the new world. The differences are so striking, that one might think they were settled by two different European nations. One thing that we can compare is the vast differences in how the Spanish and the French settled in the Americas. When Spain first happened upon this continent, much pillage, death, and destruction occurred. The Spanish came to Christianize the natives, but ended up depleting their population. The French on the other hand, came for commerce and to convert, of which they did in a much more civilized manner. Just like those two European nations happened upon this continent and different empires arose, so too did different colonies arise in the British colonies of the Chesapeake and New England areas. The 1700s will always be remembered as a century of colonization and immigration, and the time when England amassed a hugely diverse colonial empire while also becoming a European powerhouse.

1. Circle the thesis statement.
2. Write a H,I,P,P next to each document where you saw evidence of that skill.
3. Write a C next to contextualization.
4. Underline all examples of OUTSIDE information
5. Write Synthesis beside any synthesis in the essay.
6. How many documents were NOT used?
7. Highlight any sentence(s) that show a reference back to the thesis statement/prompt.
8. Put a T next to each topic sentence.