

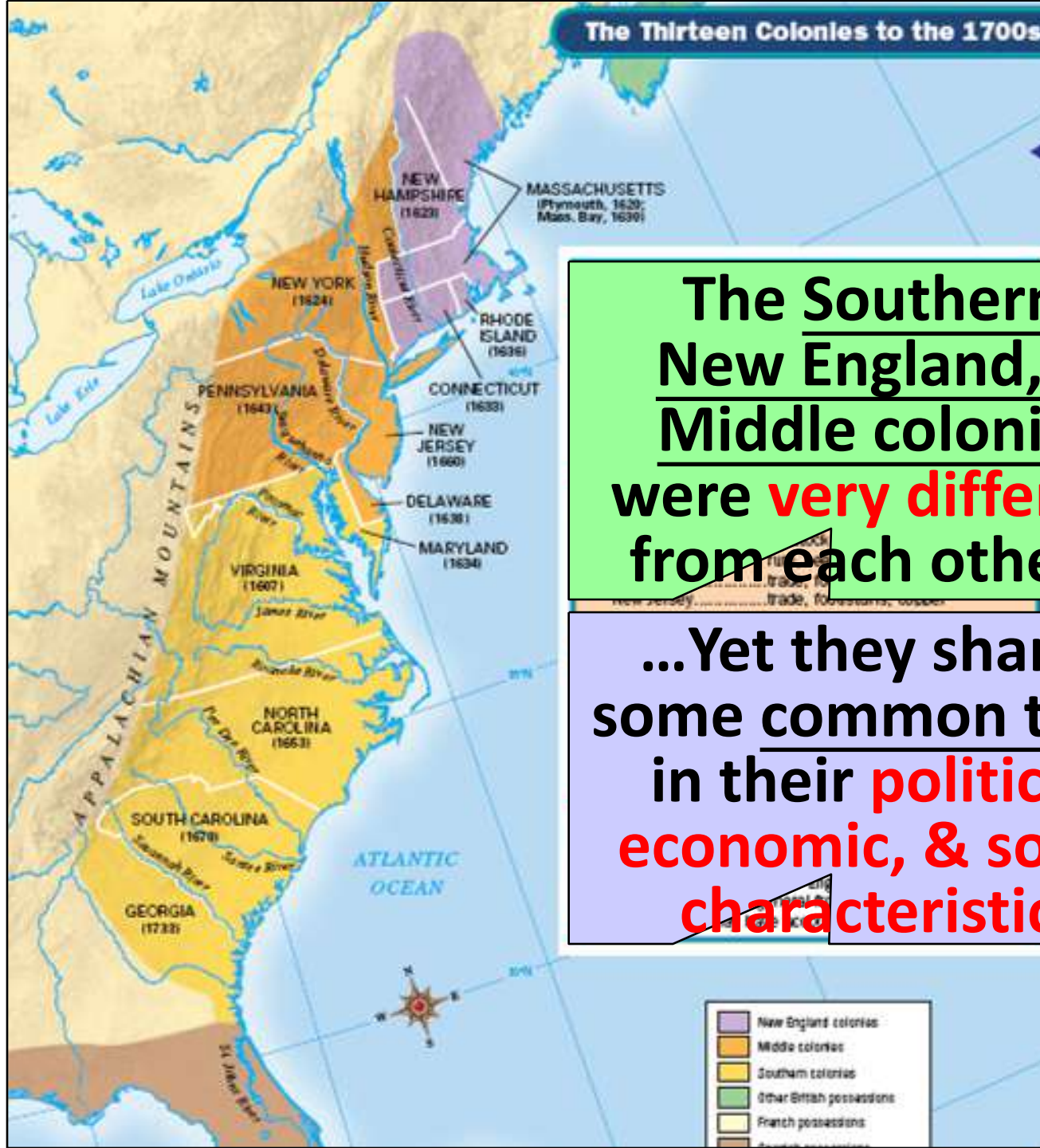
■ Essential Question:

- What were the political, economic, & social characteristics of the British colonies in North America?



■ CPUSH Agenda for Unit 1.3:

- “Life in the British Colonies” notes
- Unit 1 Test: Tuesday, August 18



The Southern, New England, & Middle colonies were **very different** from each other...

...Yet they shared some common traits in their **political, economic, & social characteristics**

- New England colonies
- Middle colonies
- Southern colonies
- Other British possessions
- French possessions
- Spanish possessions

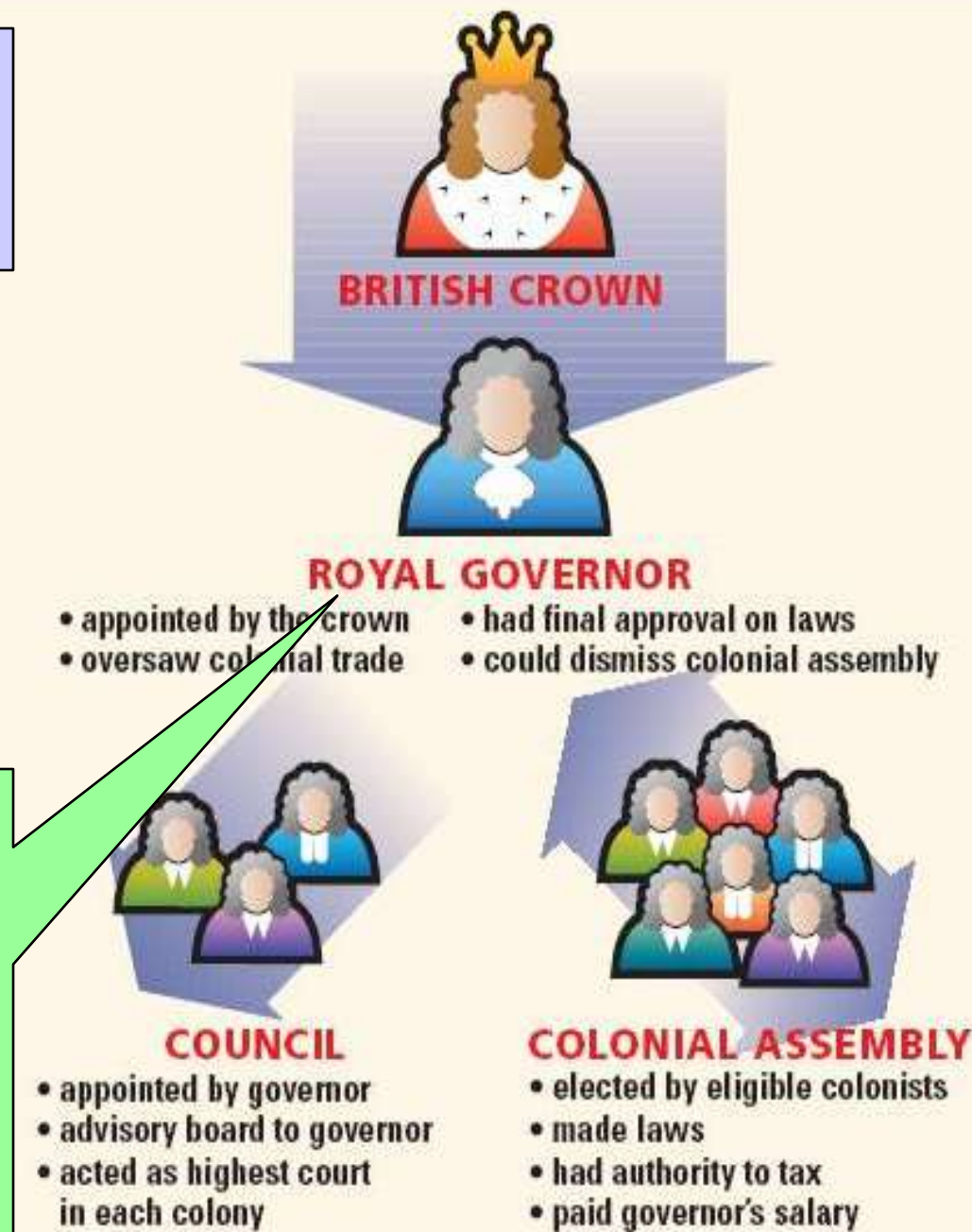
Government in the Colonies

Colonial Government

All British colonies were governed with a policy called **Salutary Neglect**

It allowed colonists to **create local laws & taxes in colonial assemblies... Self government**

Almost all the colonies had a **royal governor**, but their salaries were paid by the colonists so governors rarely overturned local laws



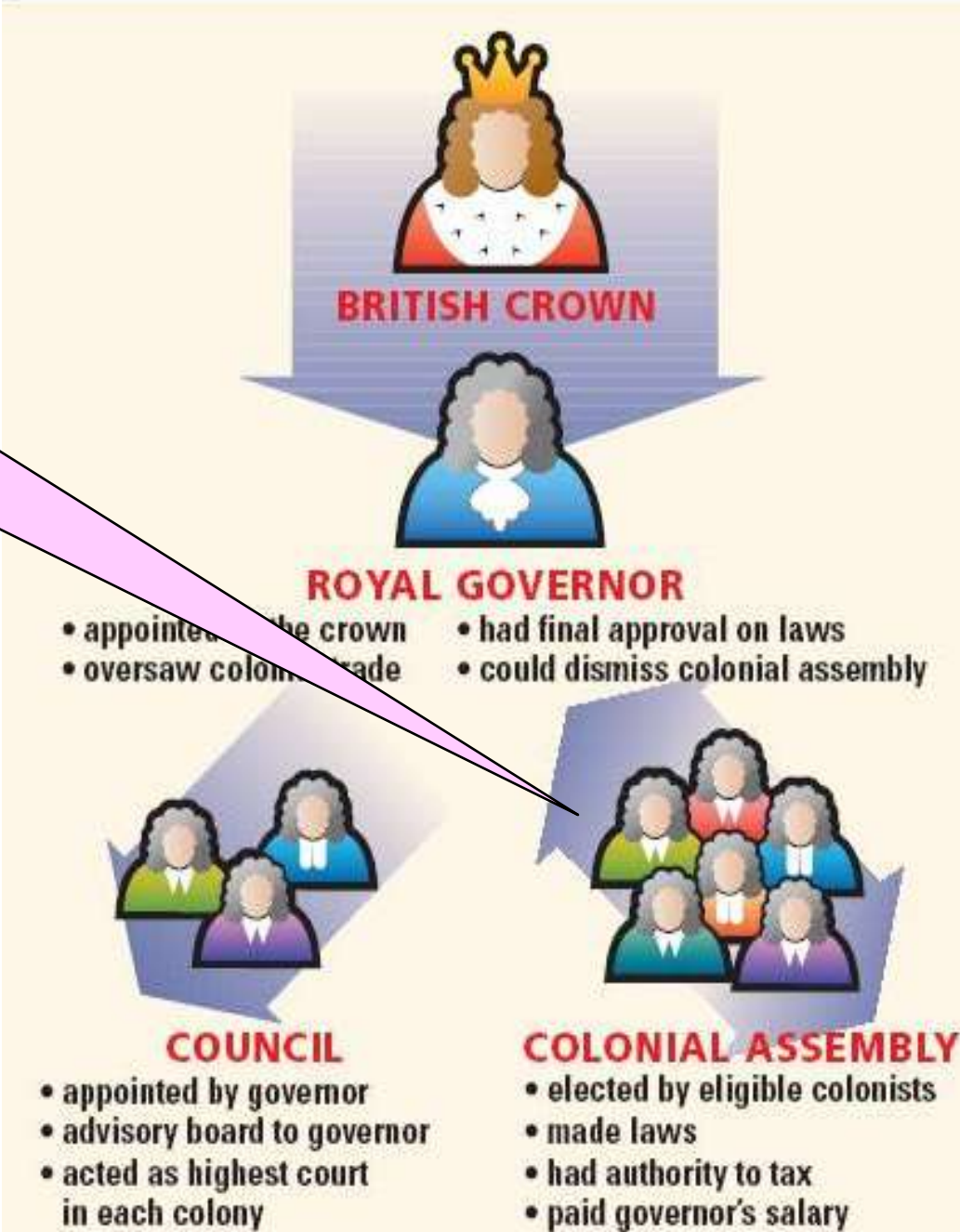
Government in the Colonies

Colonial Government

This loose control allowed the colonists to create their own **colonial assemblies**

Colonial assemblies were democratic self-governments made up of colonists who passed their own laws & taxes

Typically, colonial assemblies were **controlled by the wealthy landowners**



Two Examples of Colonial Government



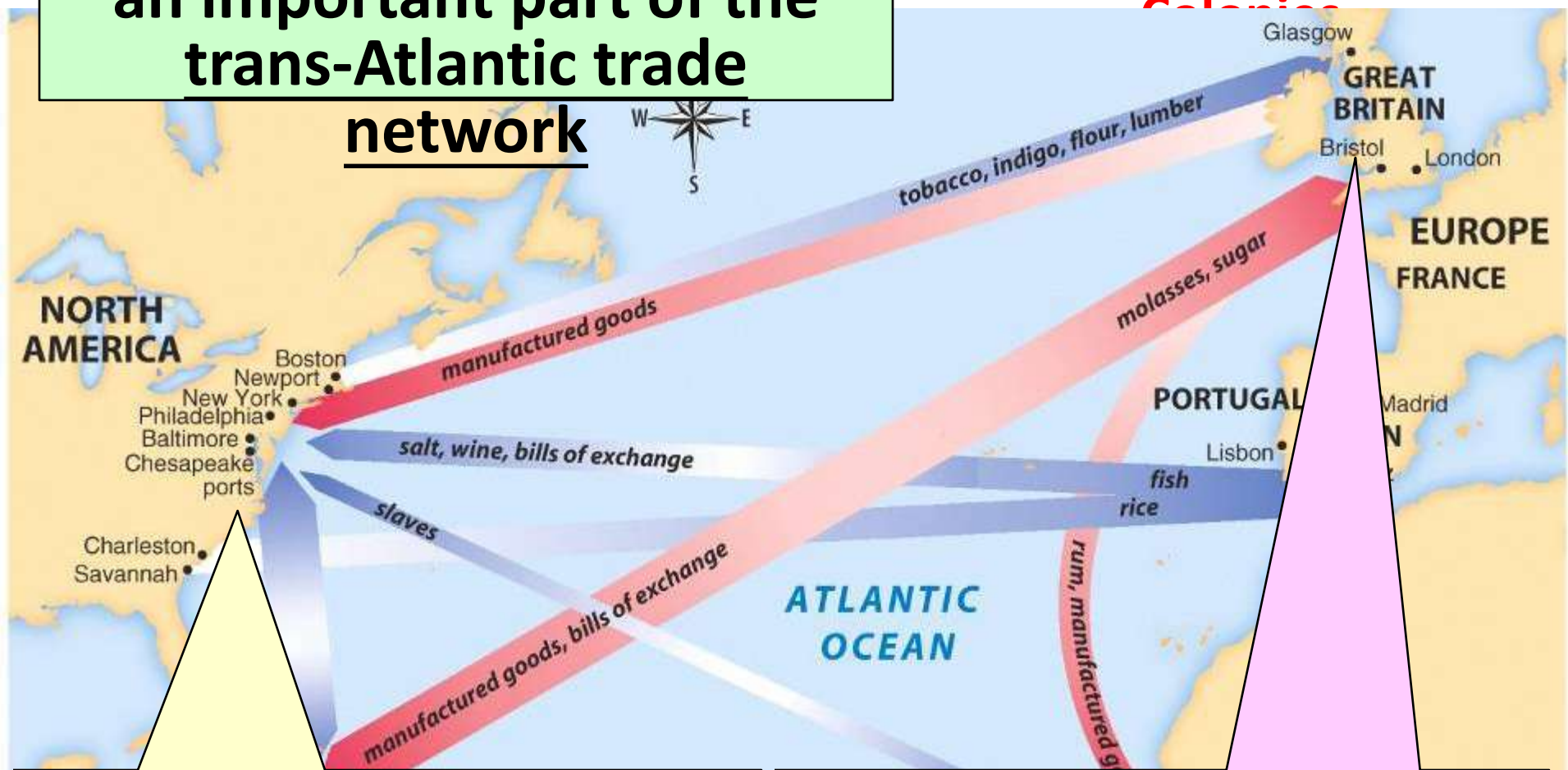
**The Virginia
House of Burgesses**



**Massachusetts
Town Meetings**

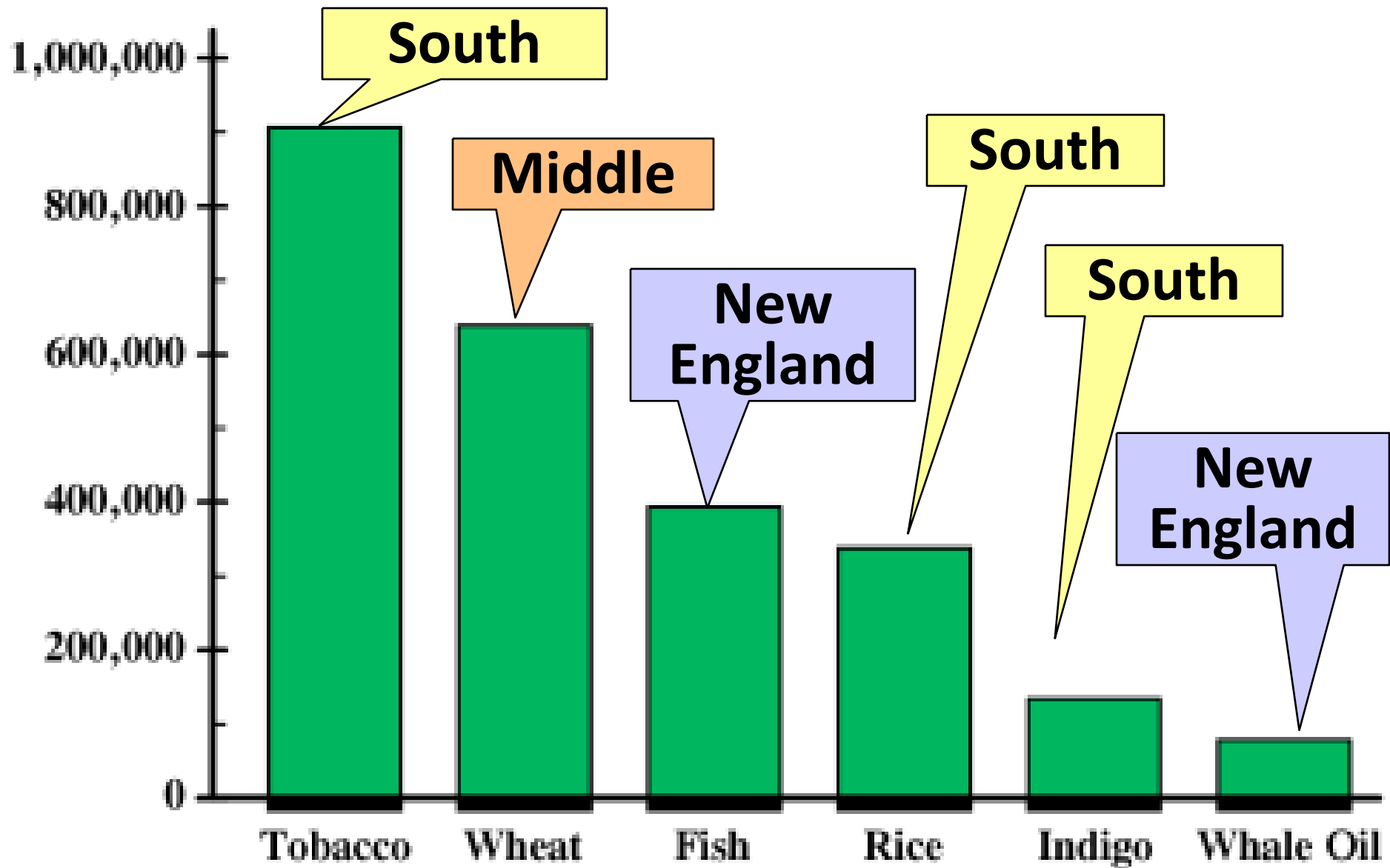
The American colonies were an important part of the trans-Atlantic trade network

Economics in the Colonies



The colonies produced profitable raw materials, such as tobacco, wheat, fish,

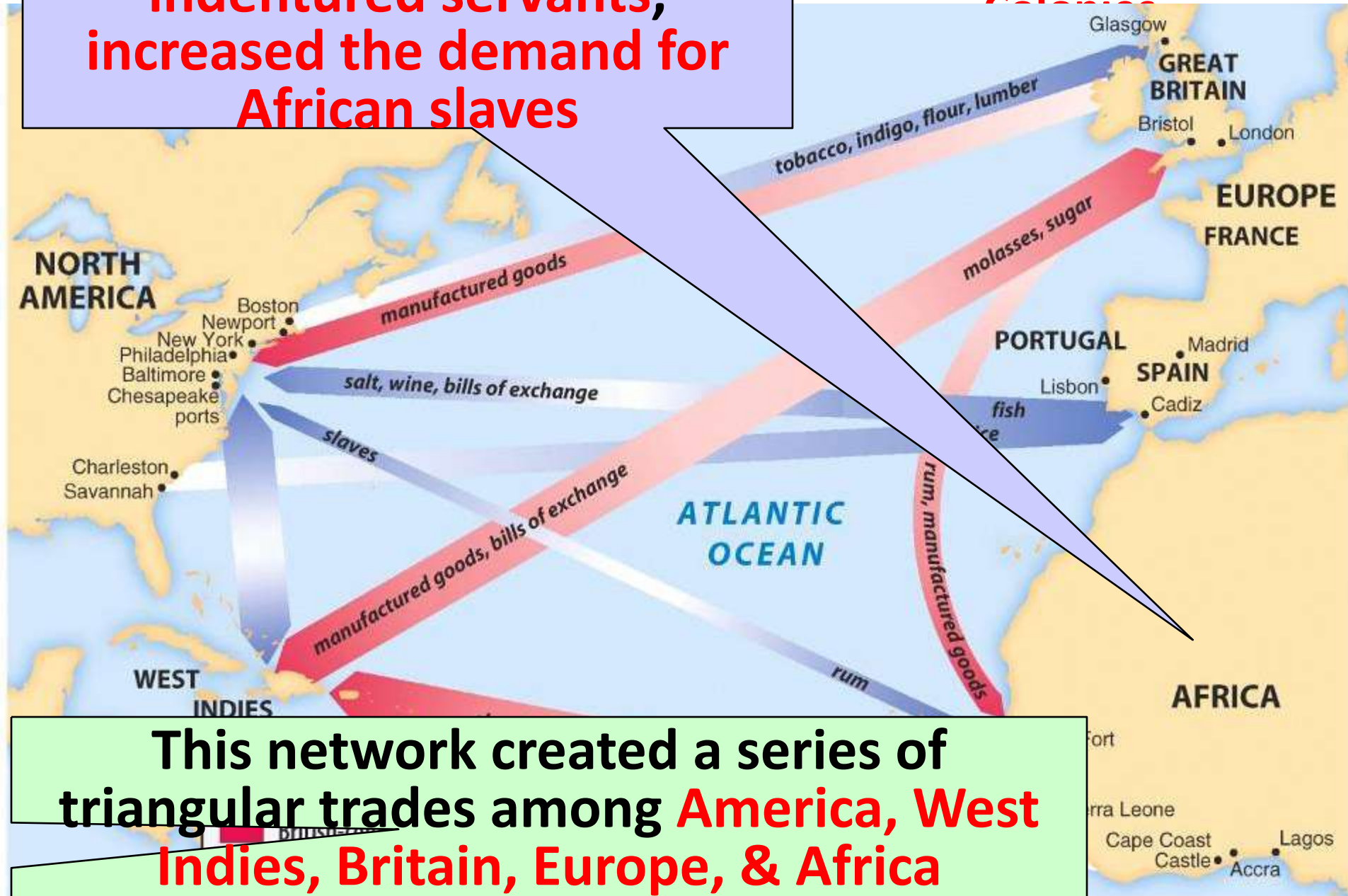
Britain sold manufactured goods back to the colonists, like clothing, tea, guns, &



Leading Colonial Exports - 1770
(Value in British Pounds Sterling)

Economics in the Colonies

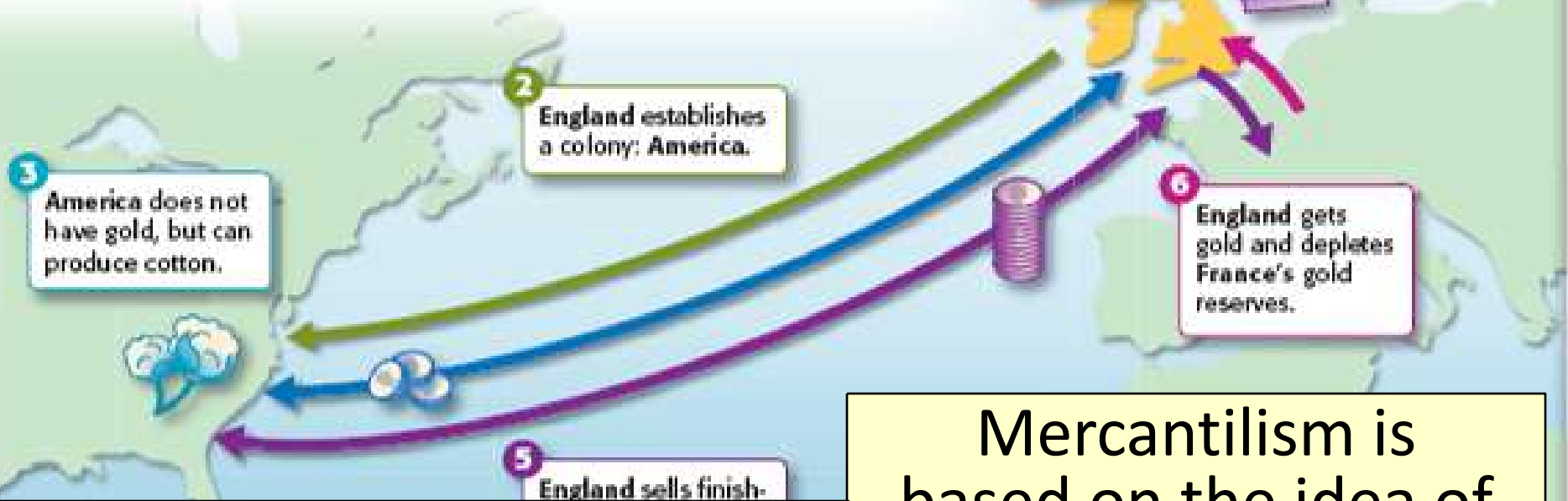
Decline in the amount of indentured servants, increased the demand for African slaves



This network created a series of triangular trades among **America, West Indies, Britain, Europe, & Africa**

By the 1650s, Britain began to embrace the economic policy of **mercantilism** based on the idea that the **colonies exist to generate wealth for the mother country**

two ways: establish
favorable



Adam Smith author of ***“Wealth of Nations”***, supported mercantilism

Mercantilism is based on the idea of a **balance of trade** in which a nation exports more than it imports

The Navigation Acts

Mercantilism meant that Britain began to control & regulate colonial trade

In 1660, Britain began the first of a series of Navigation Acts designed to restrict colonial trade & increase British wealth

The Navigation Acts required the colonists to trade only with Britain


- No country could trade with the colonies unless the goods were shipped in either colonial or English ships.
- All vessels had to be operated by crews that were at least three-quarters English or colonial.
- The colonies could export certain products only to England.
- Almost all goods traded between the colonies and Europe first had to pass through an English port.

All 13 of the British colonies participated in the trans-Atlantic trade...


“Northern” Colonies

New England colonies
Massachusetts.....shipbuilding, shipping, fishing,

North



South



South Carolina.....rice, indigo, silk
Georgia.....indigo, rice

“Southern” Colonies



...But regional differences led to a long-term division between the “Southern” & “Northern”

Soil

NEW ENGLAND
COLONIES

MIDDLE
COLONIES

SOUTHERN
COLONIES

- Least fertile
- Moderately fertile
- Most fertile

Southern economies were dominated by cash-crop agriculture, plantations rather than cities, large gaps between rich & poor, and slaves & indentured servants





English colonists typically made up the plantation owners in the nutrient-rich lands in the east

Former English indentured servants, Irish, & German immigrants moved to the “backcountry” with poor soil, near Indians, & lived in poverty

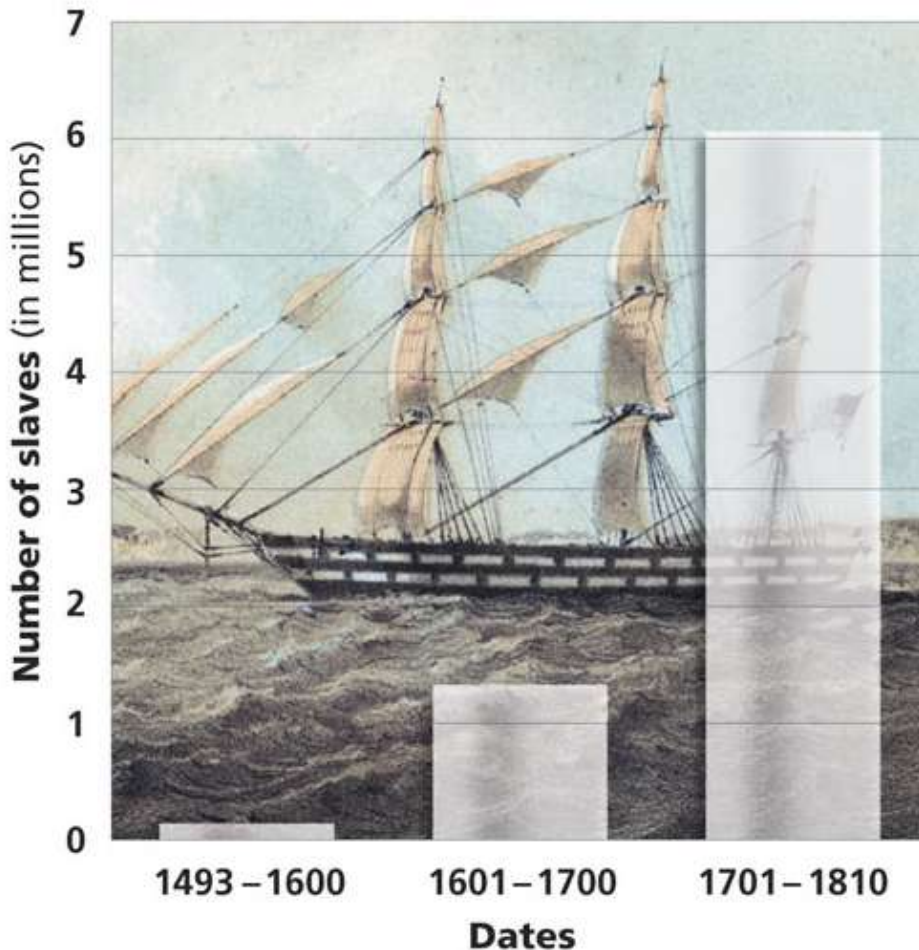


Slavery in the South was far more common than

80-90% of Southern slaves were field workers, most on plantations

in the
c

Slaves Imported to the Americas, 1493-1810



86 %

750

6

60 %

Slaves came from a variety of places in West Africa & had a variety of languages &

Slaves used music & dance to maintain their African culture



Slave families were common, but marriages were not

Slave religion often blended African rituals with Christianity

Slaves resisted by running away, slowing down work, or sabotaging equipment

In the Stono Rebellion **150 slaves attacked & killed over 20 whites**



Led to harsher restrictions on slaves in the colony

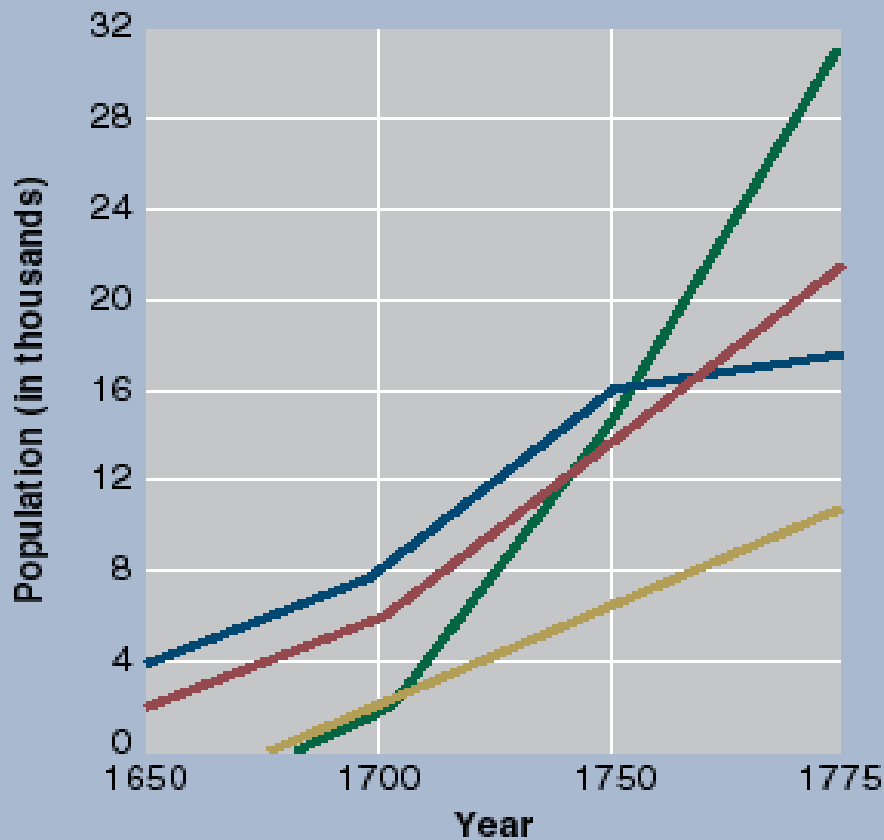
The Northern economy was more diverse than the South

Northern farms typically were small & grew multiple crops like wheat, corn, &

In addition to farms, the Northern economy focused on lumber, shipbuilding, fishing,

Northern cities like Boston, Philadelphia, & New York were important ports for

Northern cities gave people more professional & trade opportunities than anywhere in the colonies

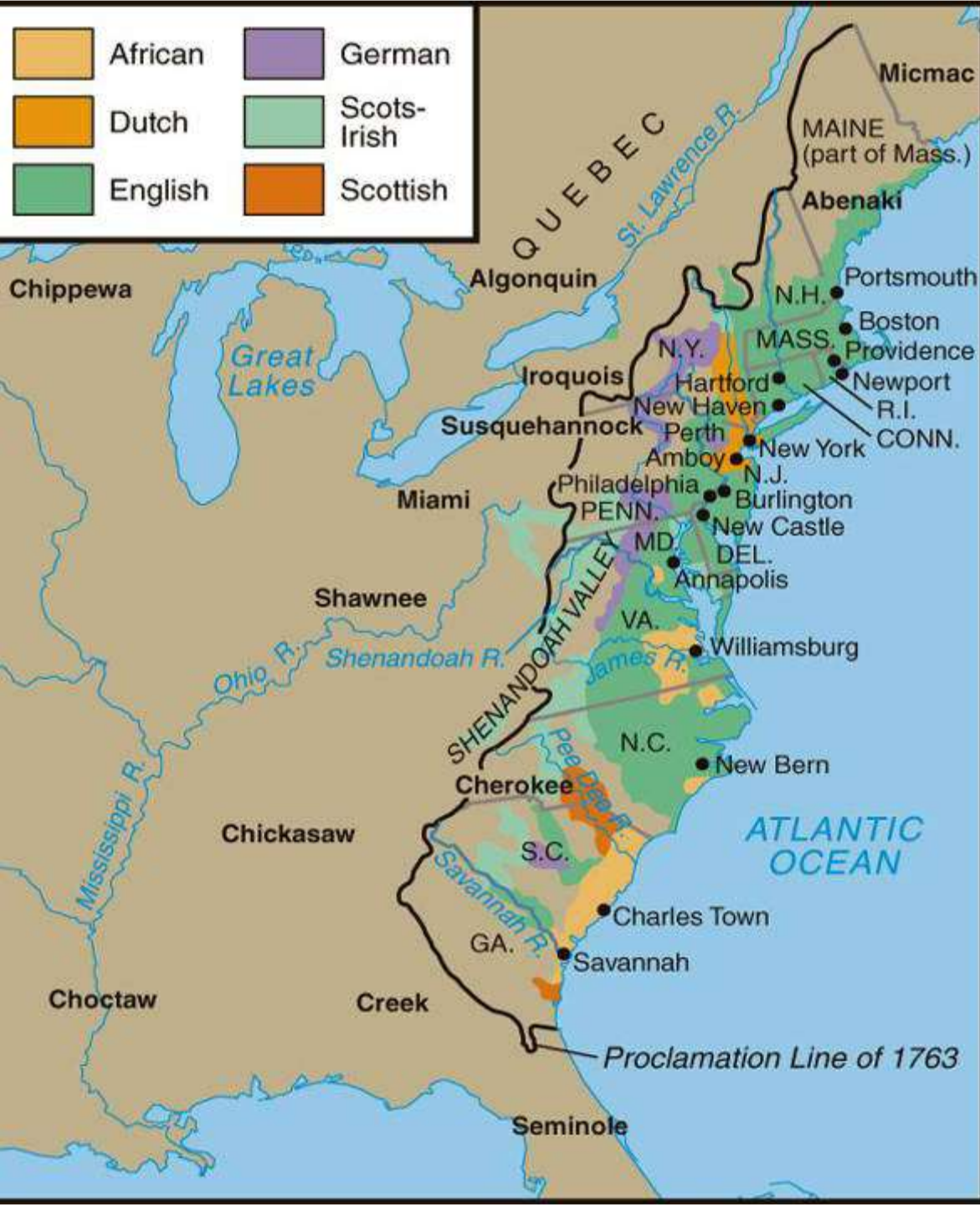


— Boston — New York — Philadelphia — Charleston

Benjamin Franklin represented social mobility in America by rising to fame through his printing business, scientific inventions, & political writings



Franklin was an Enlightenment thinker who used scientific reason in many of his writings & experiments



Slavery existed in Northern colonies where most slaves worked on small-scale farms or as domestic servants

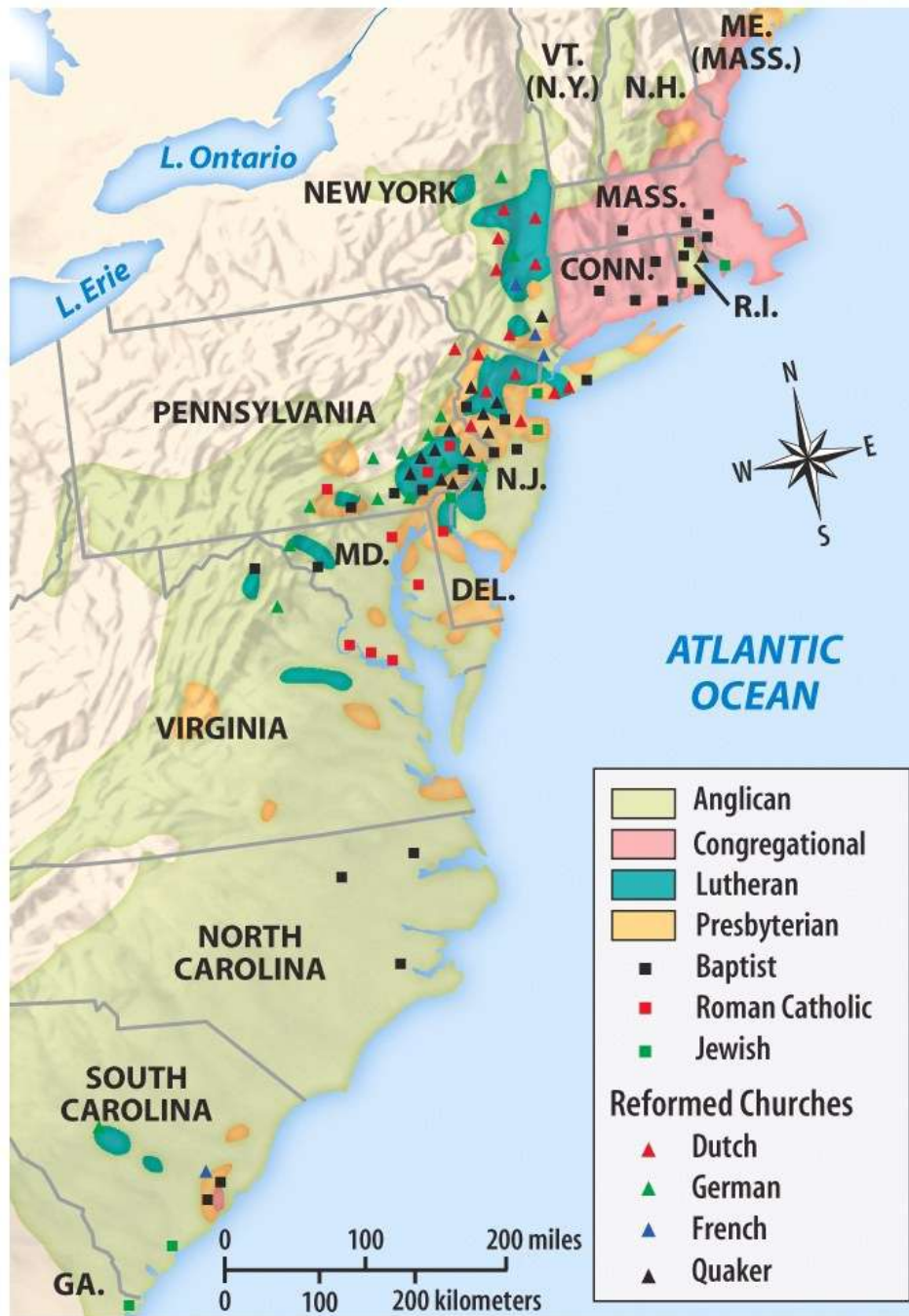
Like in the South, English, Germans, & Irish immigrants lived in the backcountry as small-scale

farmers

By the 1700s,
church attendance
in the colonies
had declined

In the 1730s & 1740s,
the Great Awakening began
as preachers used revivals to
encourage religious





Preachers like **Jonathan Edwards & George Whitefield** were popular **evangelists**

Preachers used “**fire & passion & camp revivals**” to encourage people to examine their faith

The Great Awakening led to a **rise of new religious denominations like Methodists & Baptists**

The Great Awakening **took place in all colonies & became the first national American event**

Closure Activity: Examine the primary source below & explain how it relates to the American colonies

A PERSONAL VOICE ELIZA LUCAS PINCKNEY

“We please ourselves with the prospect of exporting in a few years a good quantity from hence, and supplying our mother country [Great Britain] with a manufacture for which she has so great a demand, and which she is now supplied with from the French colonies, and many thousand pounds per annum [year] thereby lost to the nation, when she might as well be supplied here, if the matter were applied to in earnest.”

—quoted in *South Carolina: A Documentary Profile of the Palmetto State*

Closure Activity: Examine the primary source below & explain how it relates to the American colonies

A PERSONAL VOICE NEHEMIAH GREW

“The time may come . . . when the colonies may become populous and with the increase of arts and sciences strong and politic, forgetting their relation to the mother countries, will then confederate and consider nothing further than the means to support their ambition of standing on their [own] legs.”

—quoted in *The Colonial Period of American History*