

*If you are absent on the day of a class discussion, you may still earn participation points by answering the discussion questions in written form. All questions must be answered completely. They are due the day you return to class.

Chapter 3: Discussion Questions

1. Assess the transformation the American colonies underwent between 1650 and 1720. Did all of the colonies experience the same changes? How did they differ?
2. How did the numbers and condition of women affect family life and society in New England, among southern whites, and among African-American slaves? Compare and contrast the typical family conditions and ways of life among various members of these three groups.
3. Describe the significant changes in New England society, culture, economy, and politics, as well as the influence of Puritanism in the late 1600s.
 - *How did the harsh climate and soil, stern religion, and tightly knit New England town shape the “Yankee character”?
 - *How did the Salem Witch episode reflect the tensions and changes in 17th century New England life and thought?
4. Compare and contrast social and economic life in 17th century New England with that of the Chesapeake colonies.
5. What was mercantilism and how did it shape the economic and political relationship between England and its colonies?
6. Discuss the origin and key characteristics of slavery in British North America during the 17th century.
 - *How did African-Americans develop a culture that combined African and American elements? What were some of the features of that culture?
7. What efforts were made to strengthen English control over the colonies in the 17th century, and why did they generally fail?

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